

Benjamin Sparks

University of Memphis
Department of World Languages and Literatures
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Education:

Ph.D., French Studies, Louisiana State University, 2015

Dissertation: *The Plagues of Colonialism: Representations of Suffering in the Colonial and Postcolonial Algerian Francophone Novel from 1950-1966*

Dissertation Director: Dr. Pius Ngandu Nkashama

Abstract: A study of the trauma of suffering in the colonial and postcolonial novel and its effects on the narration and character development in the Francophone Algerian novels of Mohammed Dib, Mouloud Mammeri, Mouloud Feraoun and Kateb Yacine.

M.A., French Studies, Brigham Young University, 2011

Thesis: *A War Without a Name: The Use of Propaganda in the Decolonization War of Algeria*

Thesis Director: Dr. Yvon Lebras

Abstract: A study of propaganda in the decolonization of Algeria demonstrating that although the French won the war militarily they lost the war of ideas through the art of persuasion.

B.A., French Studies and Economics, Brigham Young University, 2008

Refereed Publications:

Sparks, Benjamin J. (2016) "The Economics of Colonialism: Hunger, Expropriation and Mendicancy in Mohammed Dib's Algerian Trilogy," *Studies in 20th & 21st Century Literature*, vol. 40, no. 1, Article 5. Doi:10.4148/2334-4415.1875

Sparks, Benjamin. (2016) "Mouloud Mammeri". *The Literary Encyclopedia*. First published 22 September 2016. <http://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=13724>.
Literary Encyclopedia Featured Article for 2016.

Sparks, Benjamin. (2016) "Mouloud Feraoun". *The Literary Encyclopedia*. First published 10 November 2016. <http://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=13726>

Published Conference Presentations:

Sparks, Benjamin. (2020) "Expropriation and Forced Migrations: The Displacement of Colonial Agricultural Laborers in Mohammed Dib's Algerian Trilogy." The 20th & 21st Century French & Francophone Studies International Colloquium. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/ffsc2020/>

Book Reviews:

Leonard, Douglas W. *Anthropology, Colonial Policy, and the Decline of French Empire in Africa*. *The French Review*. Vol. 94.3. pp. 266-67. (March 2021)

Wallenbrock, Nicole Beth. *The Franco-Algerian War Through a Twenty-First Century Lens: Film and History*. *The French Review*. Vol. 94.3. p. 331. (March 2021)

Cole, Joshua. *Lethal Provocation: The Constantine Murders and the Politics of French Algeria*. *The French Review*. Vol 94.1. pp. 233-34. (October 2020)

Dalisson, Rémi. *Guerre d'Algérie: L'impossible commémoration*. *The French Review*. Vol 93.4. pp. 217-18 (May 2020)

Debourou, Djibril M. *La formation des cadres sous le régime colonial au Dahomey 1932-1972*. *The French Review*. vol 93.1. pp. 210-11 (October 2019)

Keller, Kathleen. *Colonial Suspects: Suspicion, Imperial Rule, and Colonial Society in Interwar French West Africa*. *The French Review*. vol 92.3. pp. 233-34. (March 2019)

Murphy, John P. *Yearning to Labor: Youth, Unemployment, and Social Destiny in Urban France*. *The French Review*. vol. 92.2, p. 250. (December 2018)

Gamble, Harry. *Contesting French West Africa: Battles over Schools and the Colonial Order, 1900-1950*. *The French Review*. vol. 92.1, pp. 275-76. (October 2018)

Presentations:

"Expropriation and Forced Migrations: The Displacement of Colonial Agricultural Laborers in Mohammed Dib's Algerian Trilogy." The 20th & 21st Century French & Francophone Studies International Colloquium, Lincoln, NE, March 26-28, 2020.

"*Meursault contre-enquête*: Haroun and Meursault as Mirror Images." The 61st Annual convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, November 14-17, 2019.

"Suffering and Memory in the Francophone Algerian Novels of Mohammed Dib and Mouloud Mammeri." 76th Annual Conference of the South-Central Modern Language Association, Little Rock, AR, October 24-26, 2019.

“Photography, Propaganda, and the Algerian War.” Contemporary French Civilization Conference, Tucson, AZ, August 29-31, 2019.

“Hunger and Starvation in the Francophone Algerian Colonial Novel.” The 60th Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Kansas City, MO, November 15-18, 2018.

“Minotaurs, Myths, and L’indicible in *Qui se souvient de la mer*.” Mississippi State University Classical & Modern Languages and Literatures Symposium, Starkville, MS, September 21-22, 2018.

“Colonial Education: The Politics of Education in Colonial Algeria” 59th Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Cincinnati, OH, November 9-12, 2017.

“Historical Representations in Literature: The Displacement of Colonial Agricultural Laborers in Mohammed Dib’s Algerian Trilogy” 45th Annual Conference of the Western Society for French History: Diasporas, Displacements, and Migrations, Reno, NV, November 2-4, 2017.

“*L.A. Trip*: An Exile between Languages and Continents” Winthrop-King Institute International Conference: Stars and Strife: Writing America in Recent French and Francophone Literature, Florida State University, FL, October 24-25, 2017.

“Resistance!” Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities’ Humanities on Campus, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, April 12, 2017.

“The War of Words: Propaganda in the Colonial Classroom in the Francophone Algerian Novel” Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Lexington, KY, April 20-22, 2017.

“Patterns of Migration of Colonial Algerian Agricultural Laborers: Expropriation and Mendicancy in Mohammed Dib’s Algerian Trilogy” 58th Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association, St. Louis, MO, November 10-13, 2016.

“Torture and Violence in the Francophone Algerian Novels of Mohammed Dib and Mouloud Mammeri.” Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Lexington, KY, April 14-16, 2016.

“The Francophone Algerian Novel: The Transmission of Suffering and Memory in the works of Mohammed Dib and Mouloud Mammeri.” 20th-21st Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium, Saint Louis, MO, March 17-19, 2016.

Session Chair, “Au seuil de la raison,” 20th-21st Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium, Saint Louis, MO, March 19, 2016

“Minotaurs, Myth and *l’indicible*.” LSU Department of French Studies Graduate Student Association Conference, Baton Rouge, LA, March 13-14, 2015.

“Quadroon Balls and Identity in 19th Century New Orleans.” Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Lexington, KY, 2013.

“The Haussmannian Transformation: An Involuntary Displacement of *les bas-fonds*.” University of Pittsburgh Graduate Student Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, 2010.

Teaching Experience:

University of Memphis

Instructor of French, 2016-Present

Courses Taught:

Beginning French I: Fall 2017, 2019, 2020; Spring 2018, 2020

Beginning French II: Spring 2018

Intermediate French I: Fall 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020; Spring 2017, 2019, 2020

Intermediate French II: Summer 2017-2020; Spring 2019, 2021

Conversation and Composition: Fall 2016-2020; Spring 2017, 2018, 2020

Designed and organized an advanced language course basing conversation and composition on French and Francophone films and supplementary readings.

Francophone Literature: Spring 2017, Fall 2019, Spring 2021

Designed and organized a survey course of Francophone literature at a senior and graduate student level. Includes literature from the Caribbean, North Africa, West Africa, Louisiana, and Vietnam. Designed for seniors and graduate students.

Francophone Culture: Fall 2018

Designed and organized a course covering the vast Francophone cultures around the world through geography, history, literature, food, and music. Designed for seniors and graduate students.

20th Century French Literature: Spring 2019

Designed and organized a course to expose students to French literature produced in and outside of hexagonal France during the 20th century, covering existentialism, surrealism, and experimental texts.

Southern Illinois University

Lecturer in French, 2015-2016

Courses Taught:

Beginning French I: Spring 2016

Beginning French II: Fall 2015

Intermediate French I: Fall 2015

Intermediate French II: Spring 2016

Advanced French I: Fall 2015

Advanced French II: Spring 2016

Designed course based off short stories and students wrote their own short story at the end of the semester.

Independent Study: Photojournalism and the Algerian War: Fall 2015

Created an individualized course based on student's interests.

Masterpieces in French and Francophone Literatures and Cultures: Spring 2016
Designed and organized a course based on Algerian and Senegalese Francophone literature.

French as a Research Tool (graduate student course): Summer 2016
Designed and organized a graduate student course aimed at translation of authentic documents from French to English in students' respective fields of study.

Louisiana State University

Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2011-2015

Courses Taught:

Beginning French I: Fall 2011, 2014; Spring 2012 (2 sections), 2013 (2 sections), 2014 (2 sections)

Beginning French II: Fall 2012; Summer 2012, 2013, 2014; Spring 2015 (2 sections)

Intermediate French I: Fall 2013

Brigham Young University

Student Instructor, 2009-2011

Course Taught:

Beginning French I: Fall 2009 to Spring 2011; (5 sections)

Scholarships and Fellowships:

LSU Department of French Studies Graduate Teaching Assistantship, 2011-2015

BYU French and Italian Department Scholarship, 2009-2011

BYU French Teaching Fellowship, 2009-2011

Professional and Academic Affiliations:

Member, American Association of Teachers of French, 2018-Present

Member, Alliance Française de Memphis, 2019-Present

Member, South Central Modern Language Association, 2019-Present

Member, Midwest Modern Language Association, 2016-Present

Service:

Language Fair
Co-Director
2018-Present
University of Memphis

French 2010-2020
(Intermediate French)
Language Coordinator
2019
University of Memphis

WLL Gazette (Department
Newsletter)
Editor
2017-2018, 2020
University of Memphis

French MA General Exam
Chair
Randa Toutio
2017
University of Memphis

French Language Ph.D
Proficiency Exam
Coordinator
2017-Present
University of Memphis

French MA General Exam
Committee Member
Elodie Tantet, Randa
Toutio, Shayla Hammami,
Ibrahima Diallo, Isabella
Porcaro, Ellie Beard
2016-2019
University of Memphis

Tournées Film Festival
Coordinator
2016-2018
University of Memphis

Foreign Language Fair
Committee Member
2016-Present
University of Memphis

Graduate Assistant
Supervisor
2015-2016
Southern Illinois
University

Foreign Language Day
Committee Member
2015-2016
Southern Illinois
University