

Jennifer Solheim, PhD, MFA  
813 Lake Street #1N  
Oak Park, Illinois 60301  
708-522-7529  
jennifer.solheim@gmail.com  
www.jennifersolheim.com

## **EDUCATION:**

2018: MFA in writing and literature. Bennington Writing Seminars, Fiction section.  
Thesis advisor: David Gates. Faculty: Amy Hempel, Alice Mattison, Lynne Sharon Schwartz.

2013-2014: Novel-in-a-Year Workshop at StoryStudio Chicago with Rebecca Makkai.

2011: PhD in French. University of Michigan.

Dissertation title: "Sounding the Text: Listening to Gender in Mediterranean Culture in French."  
Committee: David Caron, Jarrod Hayes, Peggy McCracken, EJ Westlake.

2007-2008: Graduate Student Resident, Center for World Performance Studies, University of Michigan. A three-semester residency that includes two seminars on theory and approaches to performance theory and studies, two summers of fieldwork, and a performance-based symposium.

2004-2005: Graduate Student in French in Excellent Standing. University of California, Berkeley.

2000: BA with Highest Distinction in English literature with a minor in French. University of Illinois at Chicago. Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi.

1999: Student, Université de Paris IV – La Sorbonne. Study Abroad Program, Universities of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Chicago.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

### **University of Illinois, Chicago, IL**

2019-2020: Visiting Lecturer, Departments of English and French and Francophone Studies  
English 161: Academic Writing II: "Chicago Stories: Conflict and Negotiation"

2013-2017: Visiting Assistant Professor, Departments of English and French and Francophone Studies

Courses:

Humanities 101: Freshman Experience Initiative: "Chicago to Bagdad, Beirut to Paris"

Humanities 101: Freshman Experience Initiative: "The Red Line Project"

French 297: Paris in Literature, Film, and Culture: “Metro Line 2: Paris Transnational” (Fall 2013, Fall 2015)  
French 298: French Literature, Drama and/or Film in Translation: “Francophone Literacy Narratives” (Spring 2014)  
French 201: French and Francophone Literature from the Revolution to the 21st Century (Spring 2014)  
French 231: Intermediate Conversation and Composition I (2013-2014)

2011: Visiting Lecturer, Department of French and Francophone Studies.

Courses:

French 200: Introduction to the Study of French Literature and Culture (Spring 2011)  
Supervised semester-long honors project about literary and cultural works on the Algerian War

### **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI**

2009-2010: Junior Fellow and Graduate Student Instructor, Gayle Morris Sweetland Writing Center. Participant in a Fall 2009 seminar comprised of faculty and graduate students on theories of writing and writing pedagogy.

Course taught:

English 125 (First-Year Seminar): College Writing: “Imagining the City” (Winter 2010)

2006-2008: Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures.

Courses taught:

French 231: Second-Year French (Fall 2007, Winter 2008)

French 102: Elementary French, Continued (Winter 2007)

French 103: Review of Elementary French (Fall 2006)

### **Université de Paris VII, Paris, France**

2008-2009: Lecturer in the English program, UFR d’Etudes Anglophones.

### **OTHER ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS AND TEACHING:**

#### **Northwestern School of Professional Studies, Evanston, IL**

Summer Writers’ Conference Workshop Presenter: Getting from the Abstract to the Concrete (Or, How to Make the Political Personal in Fiction) (August 2019)

#### **Freelance Academic Editor, Oak Park, IL**

Editor for scholarly work in disciplines across the humanities and qualitative social sciences (2017—2019)

#### **Off-Campus Writers’ Workshop, Winnetka, IL**

Creative Writing Workshop: Reading Like a Writer (April 2019)

Creative Writing Workshop: Shake Up Your Thinking with the Tools of Oulipo: Generate New Work or Reenvision Character, Scene, Plot, and More in Works-in-Progress (December 2017)

**Academia Institute, Oak Park, IL**

Instructor and Course Developer, Introduction to Creative Writing I and II (2017-2018)

**StoryStudio Chicago, Chicago, IL**

Potential Literature: Tighten the Rules and Free Your Mind (Summer 2014)

**University of Illinois, Chicago, IL**

Visiting Scholar, Department of French and Francophone Studies (2011-2013)

**SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS:**

“A Walk on the Wilde Side: Rock Music as Narrative Strategy in Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis*.” Essay from *Sounds Senses*. Ed. Yassir el Hariry. Liverpool University Press, 2021.

*The Performance of Listening in Postcolonial Francophone Culture*. Liverpool University Press, 2018.

“Lucienne Boyer and the Cult of Boyerism.” Essay from *An anthology of French and Francophone singers from A to Z: “Singin’ in French.”* Eds. Michel Abecassis and Marcelline Block. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2018.

“Tékitoi, Rachid Taha?” Essay from *An anthology of French and Francophone singers from A to Z: “Singin’ in French.”* Eds. Michel Abecassis and Marcelline Block. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2018.

“Please Tell Me Who I Am’: Resisting Media Representations of Arab Masculinity and Violence in Wajdi Mouawad’s *Incendies*.” *Modern and Contemporary France* 22.1 (2014).

“Tenter de les évoquer’: Testimony and *écriture féminine* in Evelyne Accad’s *Coquelicot du massacre*.” Essay from *On Evelyne Accad: Essays in Literature, Feminism, and Cultural Studies*, Cheryl Toman, ed. Summa Publications. Recipient of the MLA Scholar’s Choice Award, 2007.

**FICTION:**

“The Lie.” *Bellevue Literary Review*. Issue 37, Fall 2019.

“We Knew a World.” *Bellevue Literary Review*. Issue 35, Fall 2018.

“The August Temples.” *Cleavermagazine.com*. Issue 22, Summer 2018.

“Weather Systems.” *The Pinch*. Issue 38.1, Spring 2018.

“Reader.” *Monkeybicycle.net*. 2 February 2018.

“In Paris.” *Akashicbooks.com*. Akashic Books Noir Series, 13 September 2015.

“On the Island.” *Confrontation*. 112: Autumn 2012.

“What is your landmass?” *Conclave: A Journal of Character*. 4: Autumn 2012.

### **SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS:**

“The Adaptation of Existentialism in Kamel Daoud’s *The Meursault Investigation*.”

“Adaptations: Aesthetic, Textual, and Cultural Transactions in Contemporary Francophone Practices of Rewriting” Panel. Modern Language Association Convention. Chicago, Illinois. 5 January 2019.

“Literacy Narratives: A Supplemental Pedagogical Form.” English Department Teachwrite Series. University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. 24 October 2018.

“Incompletion as Narrative Strategy: Sterne, Winterson, and Perec.” Bennington Writing Seminars Graduate Lecture. Bennington, Vermont. 18 June 2018.

“Music & Literature: Dylan’s Nobel Prize.” Bennington Writing Seminars. Panelist with David Gates, Lee Clay Johnson, and Alexander Benaim. Bennington, Vermont. 14 January 2017.

“Cut the Sound: Squat Performance in Leïla Sebbar’s *Shérázade: 17 ans, brune, frisée, les yeux verts* (1982).” *Contemporary French Civilization* at 40 Conference: Inner Harbor, Baltimore, Maryland. 3-5 September 2015.

“Not a Moment of Silence, but a Moment to Speak: A Critical Homage to Assia Djebar.” Gender and Subjectivity Panel. In/Between Conference 2015: Border Crossings. University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. 5 March 2015.

“Secularism and Multiculturalism in France.” Charlie and Context Roundtable. Institute for the Humanities, University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. 18 February 2015.

“To Sound or Not to Sound: Digital Discourses of Conflict in Mediterranean Culture in French.” Sounds and Silences of Performative Politics Panel. In/Between Conference 2014: The Soundscapes of Culture. University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. 27 February 2014.

“Beirut Calling: Lebanese Avant Jazz in Global and French Mediterranean Contexts.” Music Performance Panel, Department of Theater and Music. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, Michigan. 26 March 2013.

“Mazen Kerbaj and the Call to Listen.” Reading Culture in European Studies Panel. In/Between Conference 2011: Thoughts on Language and Literature. University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. 15 April 2011.

“A Call to Listen: Sonic Dynamics of Gender and Ethnicity in Mediterranean Culture in French.” Department of French and Francophone Studies Fall Lecture Series. University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. 17 November 2010.

“Sounding Modernity and Tradition: The Interplay of Sound and Image in Yasmina Khadra’s *Les Sirènes de Bagdad*.” Writing History, Writing the Self Panel. Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference. University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky. 15-17 April 2010.

“‘Please Tell Me Who I Am’: Blasting Supertramp and Machine Guns in Wajdi Mouawad’s *Incendies*.” Visualizing the Mediterranean: Geographies, Bodies, Soundscapes Panel. 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Mediterranean Studies Congress. Università di Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy. 28 May 2009.

“Resisting the Periphery: Rape and Narrative Aphasia in the *Heptaméron*, Story 2.” What Ails The Sixteenth Century? Panel. Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference. University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky. 19 April 2007.

“Resisting the Periphery: Rape and Silence in Marguerite de Navarre’s *Heptaméron*.” Redefining the Human: Violence, Poverty, and the Political Body. 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Charles F. Fraker Conference. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. 17 March 2007.

“L’écriture féminine comme un acte d’engagement contre la guerre au Liban, cas d’Evelyne Accad.” Colloque: Orphée chante les jardins du Liban: Guerre et Amour. Université Libanaise, Tripoli, Lebanon. 25 November 2005.

“*Jouissance* as Political Activism in Evelyne Accad’s *Coquelicot du massacre*.” The Critical and Creative Writings of Evelyne Accad: An International Colloquium (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). Maison du Liban, Cité Universitaire, Paris, France. 18 June 2004.

“Translating Yolaine Simha: Her Life and Work.” Guest lecture. Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois. 18 November 2002.

“Translating Yolaine Simha: Her Life and Work.” Guest lecture. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois. 17 November 2002.

## **LITERARY TRANSLATIONS:**

Translation (French to English) of Ezza Agha Malak's *Love, Peace, and Nothing Else (La paix, l'amour et rien d'autre, 2016)* (Forthcoming 2020, University Press of the South).

Translation (French to English) of Yolaine Simha's *I Saw You on the Street (Je vous ai vue dans la rue, 1998)* (Forthcoming 2019, Éditions Alfabarre).

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING:**

Alumni Speech. University of Illinois at Chicago Honors College Convocation. Chicago: UIC Forum. 4 May 2016.

Interview. "A Look Inside Charlie Hebdo." John Williams Show. Chicago: WGN 720AM. Live radio and podcast. 31 January 2015.

### **ESSAYS AND BOOK REVIEWS:**

"Safe and Sound: The Indelible Narratives of Lucia Berlin." *Fictionwritersreview.com*. Fiction Writers Review, 15 November 2018.

"Writing Algeria: Kamel Daoud's *Chroniques, Columns 2010-2016*." *Lareviewofbooks.org*. Los Angeles Review of Books, 16 October 2018.

"The Monstrous Complicity of Leila Slimani's *The Perfect Nanny*." *Fictionwritersreview.com*. Fiction Writers Review, 27 February 2018.

"Narrative Dystopian Authority in Boualem Sansal's *2084: The End of the World*." *Fictionwritersreview.com*. Fiction Writers Review, 27 March 2017.

"'Resistance is Non-Negotiable': The First Gathering of The Conversation, a Chicago Literary Series." *Fictionwritersreview.com*. Fiction Writers Review, 20 February 2017.

"Empathy and Omniscience in Grace Paley's 'Samuel.'" *Fictionwritersreview.com*. Fiction Writers Review, 9 November 2016.

"How Do You Translate a Gunshot? *Charlie Hebdo*, Francophone Literature and the Translation Conundrum." *Poets & Writers*: November/December 2015.

"The Art of Making Ghosts Speak: On Kamel Daoud's *The Meursault Investigation*." *Fictionwritersreview.com*. Fiction Writers Review, 15 October 2015.

"Plot in the Body: Yasmina Reza's *Happy are the Happy*." *Fictionwritersreview.com*. Fiction Writers Review, 17 April 2015.

"I Guess That This Must Be The Place: Teaching French Literacy Narratives." "Just Visiting"

Blog. *Insidehighered.com*. 4 June 2014.

“You are Unhome: Teaching French Literacy Narratives.” “Just Visiting” Blog. *Insidehighered.com*. 10 January 2014.

“Bridges and Barriers: Polyphony and Its Translation in Nathacha Appanah’s *The Last Brother*.” *Fictionwritersreview.com*. Fiction Writers Review, 3 October 2011.

“The Seamless Skin: Translation’s Halting Flow.” *Fictionwritersreview.com*. Fiction Writers Review, 16 December 2010.

### **AWARDS AND HONORS:**

2019: *Glimmer Train* Family Matters Award Honorable Mention

2018: *Glimmer Train* Very Short Fiction Award Honorable Mention

2018 and 2013: William Faulkner-William Wisdom Creative Writing Competition Semi-Finalist (Novel Category)

2016: Bennington Writing Seminars Grant

2016: Honoring Our Professors’ Excellence (HOPE) Award

2015: James Jones First Novel Fellowship Semi-finalist, 2015

2010-2011: Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship

2010: Mellon Humanities Dissertation Seminar

2010, 2007: Rackham Graduate School Travel Grants

2009-2010: Gayle Morris Sweetland Writing Center Junior Fellowship

2009: Humanities Research Fellowship

2009: Rackham International Research Award

2009, 2005: Rackham Graduate School International Travel Grants

2007-2008: Rackham Graduate Student Research Grants

2007-2008: Center for World Performance Studies Summer Fellowships

2007: International Institute Individual Fellowship

2006: Newberry Renaissance Studies Consortium Grant for research at the Newberry Library, Chicago, IL

2005-2006: University of Michigan Lacroute Fellowship

2004-2005: Townsend/Mellon Discovery Fellowship, UC Berkeley. One of seven fellowships awarded yearly to graduate students in the humanities through the interdisciplinary Townsend Center.

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

February 2018 – present: Co-founder and organizer, Bennington Midwest Salon (Reading Series).

September 2016 – present: Contributing Editor, *Fiction Writers Review*.

3 November 2016 and 28 March 2017: Evelyne Accad and Cynthia T. Hahn. “Writing and Translating Trauma: The Example of Lebanon.” Humanities Institute, University of Illinois—Chicago.

Organizer and discussant. A capstone event for students in my HUM101 course, Chicago to Baghdad, Beirut to Paris.

4 November 2015: Andrew Ross. “The Brothel, the Police, and the Economy of Desire in Nineteenth-Century Paris.” Humanities Institute, University of Illinois—Chicago.

Organizer and discussant. A capstone event for students in my FR297 course, Metro Line 2: Paris Transnational.

30 September 2015: Evelyne Accad, Cynthia T. Hahn, and Monique Loubet. “Co-Incidences: Creative Practice in Paris and Other Urban Spaces.” Humanities Institute, University of Illinois—Chicago.

Organizer and discussant.

17 September 2014: Larmes: Cycle d’Une Femme-Racine. Reading, Performance, and Q&A with Mélanie Rivet. Humanities Institute, University of Illinois—Chicago.

Organizer and discussant.

7 March 2014: Poppy from the Massacre: Writing and Translating the Lebanese Civil War.

Discussion and Q&A with Evelyne Accad and Cynthia T. Hahn. Humanities Institute, University of Illinois—Chicago.

Organizer and discussant. A capstone event for students in my FR298 course, Francophone Literacy Narratives.

25 March 2013: Dissertation Writing Workshop, University of Michigan Department of English, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Workshop co-leader

Winter-Spring 2009: Paris French Studies Seminar, Paris, France

Co-founder and co-director of the Paris French Studies seminar. Invited graduate student researchers and scholars working in Paris from across French studies to participate in seminars and reading groups.

2006-2007: President, Romance Languages Graduate Student Association

Planned and lead events (film screenings, roundtable discussions, and mock job talks); critical introduction to Jean-Luc Godard's *Breathless (A bout de souffle)*; introduction and mediation of roundtable discussion on Louis Althusser interview "Philosophy as a Revolutionary Weapon"; graduate student representative on committee for new department library design.

2005-2007, 2009-2010: Committee member, Charles F. Fraker Conferences

Member of the keynote speaker committee and welcoming committee. Helped plan and structure all aspects of the Fraker conference, including abstract selection, panel organization, and budgeting. Introduced keynote speaker Ross Chambers, March 16, 2007.

#### **ACADEMIC COMMITTEES AND SERVICE:**

2016-2017: Committee member, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Bennington Writing Seminars.

2015: Interview committee member for Fulbright, Rhodes, and British Marshall Candidates, UIC Office of Special Scholarship Programs.

2014-2016: Faculty Liaison for the UIC French Club.

2011-2014: Modern Language Association Delegate Assembly Representative (Great Lakes Graduate Student Division).

2007-2008: Graduate Student Representative, Executive Committee, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures.

2005-2011: Member and volunteer, Graduate Employees' Organization.

2005-2007: Communications committee member, Graduate Employees' Organization.

#### **MUSIC RECORDINGS AND SELECT PERFORMANCES:**

Performer. "Fictilicious." The Stuck Show. Performance in English and French. The Hideout Inn, Chicago, Illinois. 4 August 2014.

Warehouse. "Take Me Black Hole." Perf. David K. Alderman, Karine Larivet, Hervé Marché, Jenn Solheim. *Escape Plan Foiled*. Paris: Darenne, 2008.

Performer. “Intermède poétique et musicale.” Figures féminines mythiques d’hier et d’aujourd’hui. Colloque de Traverses—Gradiva (Université de Paris 8). Colegio de España, Cité Universitaire, Paris, France. 9 June 2007.

Lolita Haze. *Playing the Body*. Tour de Vis, 2002.

Minim. “Fine (or Superfine)”/ “70 lbs.” Dyslexic, 1998.

The Smoothies. *Pickle*. Southern, 1995.

The Smoothies. “Reasonably Happy”/ “Etcetera.” Southern, 1995.

The Smoothies. “Overdose Me”/ “No Aesthetic.” Johann’s Face, 1995.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

8 August 2017: Interviewed Jordan Stump, translator of Marie Ndiaye’s *My Heart Hemmed In* at Unabridged Bookstore, Chicago, IL.

19 March 2016: Organizer and discussion moderator for the round table “Chez moi, chez toi: La littérature francophone et sa traduction” at the Salon du Livre, Alliance Française de Chicago.

2014-2015: Co-organizer 'Soirée Afrique' for the Francophonie month at the Alliance Française de Chicago.

2004, 2007, 2008-2009: Soutien scolaire, L’Association de Culture Berbère, Paris, France.

Helped and supervised students ages 6-16 from immigrant families with working parents during regularly scheduled homework sessions at the Berber Cultural Association in the Ménilmontant neighborhood.

### **LANGUAGES:**

English, French

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

American Association of University Professors

Association of Writers and Writing Programs

Modern Language Association

National Book Critics Circle

Women in French