



Western Society for French History
Two-Day Virtual Conference (48th Annual Meeting)
Friday, October 22, 2021 & Thursday, October 28, 2021

The forty-eighth annual meeting of the Western Society for French History will be held virtually in Fall 2021. In order to accommodate varying schedules and time zones, as well as to avoid Zoom fatigue, the conference will take place on two half-days, spread out over two consecutive weeks. The dates are Friday, October 22, 2021 and Thursday, October 28, 2021. The conference will include both synchronous and asynchronous elements.

SCHEDULE

*Please note that all session times are in Eastern Time (ET)

Friday, October 22, 2021

12:00-13:30

Whiteness in French and Francophone History

Tyler Stovall (Fordham University) and Christy Pichichero (George Mason University)

In his recent book *White Freedom: the Racial History of an Idea*, Tyler Stovall examined the hidden racialized logic behind French and American notions of liberty: to be free is to be white and to be white is to be free. This round table discussion seeks proposals that expand the methodologies and findings of whiteness studies in French and Francophone history. What foundational concepts and discourses generated in colonial spaces, in France (*métropolitain* and *d'outre mer*), and in post-colonial political and economic relations conceal racial exclusion and discrimination? What are the stakes, forms, and mechanisms of white freedom, white supremacy, and white privilege in these different geographies, including North and Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Caribbean, and North and South America? How do historical phenomena that stealthily bolstered white supremacy continue to configure our present day? What do interdisciplinary and intersectional approaches contribute to these discussions?

Participants:

- Matthew Gerber (University of Colorado-Boulder), "How to be Both White and Colored: The Curious Case of Hiteau du Cabrol (1781)"
- Jakob Burnham (Georgetown University), "Keeping 'White Town' White: Early Colonial Pondicherry, Real Estate Auctions, and the Color Line"

- Tessie Liu (Northwestern University), “Three Moments of Whiteness in the French and Haitian Revolutions”
- Carolyn J. Eichner (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), “Whiteness, French Feminism, and 19th-Century America”
- Caroline Séquin (Lafayette College) “The Brothel as Gatekeeper of Whiteness”

14:30-15:45

Western Engagé.e.s

BEYOND DEI: Reimagining Scholarly Community in Francophone Historical Studies

The Western Engagé.e.s Committee of the Western Society for French History invites you to the third in a series of virtual events to foster solidarity & share practical strategies as we face the challenges of our current moment.

Participants:

- Cathy Kudlick (Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability at San Francisco State University)
- Grégory Pierrot (University of Connecticut)
- Suleiman Mourad (Smith College)

*Please note that pre-registration is required & space is limited. Registrants will receive a link to access **pre-recorded videos** by our speakers **one week** prior to the event and a **confirmation email** with a link to join this virtual session via Zoom approximately **three hours** before the start time. You can register [HERE](#) now.

16:15-17:30

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Thursday, October 28, 2021

12:00-13:30pm

Islamismo-Gauchisme and the French Elections

Moderator: Jennifer Boittin (University of Pennsylvania)

This round table panel will interrogate current attacks on 'Islamismo-Gauchisme' in the context of the upcoming French elections, likely to be a rematch between Macron and Le Pen. What different perspectives can be brought to contextualizing, historically and politically, the attacks on academic freedom in France? How can we situate this social and political moment in relation to debates about postcolonial studies and critical race theory? What outlooks on the future can we envisage? The session will take the form of a lightning round with a longer reflection by Abdellali Hajjat.

Participants:

- Ian Coller (University of California-Irvine), “The Jacobin and the Mameluke: Genealogies of the *islamogauchisme* slur”
- Aaron Clift (Oxford University), “Anticommunism and Post-Colonial Anxiety in France, 1945-1953”
- Muriam Haleh Davis (University of California-Santa Cruz), “Ben Bella is a Poor Robespierre: Algerian Socialism and the French Left”
- Abdellali Hajjat (University of Paris-Nanterre), “Généalogie de la notion d'islamogauchisme”

14:30-15:45**French History as Global History?**

Moderators: Alice Conklin (The Ohio State University) and Ian Coller (University of California, Irvine)

How, if at all, is French history “global history”? In an age when the nation-state has re-emerged in reactionary forms, how do we write the history of “global France” in ways that depart from older conventions of international history? How does a recognition of the global reconfigure, pluralize and interrogate the France that has defined our field, and the practices of the field itself? Is the celebration of global interconnectedness reconcilable with the recognition of structures of power and oppression? What is lost and what is gained when we choose our particular scale of analysis? The panel will be a chance to reflect on the perennial question “whither French history today” by showcasing the choices scholars are making.

Participants:

- Melanie Conroy (University of Memphis), “Cartographies of Privilege: Critical Geography for Global French Cultural History”
- Celeste Day Moore (Hamilton College), “Diasporic Routes: Individual Lives and the Writing of a Global French History”
- Claire Mayo (University of Tennessee-Knoxville), “Disaster Citizenship and the Great Flood of 1910 in the Seine Basin: A Global Language of Rights?”
- Vincent Dubé-Sénécal (University of Oslo), “Aid-to-Couture Plan: French Fashion’s Transnational Influence Bolstering France’s Commercial Diplomacy”
- Keith Rathbone (Macquarie University), “Franco-Australian Sports Contacts and a Transnational History of Sport”

16:15-17:30**Careers for French History PhDs Beyond the Professoriate**

Moderator: Jennifer Sessions (University of Virginia)

This round table brings together French historians working in and preparing students for non-professorial careers, including global education programming, public history, K-12 education and leadership, and business. Most AHA-hosted sessions on this topic have focused on scholars with expertise in Anglophone histories or specialties that apply directly to US policymaking, leaving open questions about how colleagues who have earned or are pursuing PhDs centered in other places and other languages can transfer their scholarly training into non-professorial domains. Acknowledging the catastrophic realities of the academic job market that make these conversations necessary, the round table participants will share their experiences

forging careers and helping colleagues to imagine and prepare for a wide range of professional futures after earning a PhD in French and Francophone histories.

Participants:

- Molly Giblin (Northeastern University)
- Sarah Griswold (Oklahoma State University)
- Michelle Rose Mann (Bancroft School)
Edna Yahil (VP Communications, Brand and Sustainability, SITA)