

LSU

**Department of
French Studies**



*Department of French Studies Graduate Student Association
Conference 2026*

Literature, What For?

March 5-6, 2026



QR Code to access
conference site hosted
in the LSU Scholarly
Repository

Conference Day 1: Thursday, March 5th

** A 10-Minute Q&A Panel Session will follow all sessions; Lunch Break will take place from 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Keynote: For What Literature? 10:00am – 11:00am

Location: Magnolia Room, LSU Student Union/ [Zoom Link](#)

Dr. Annabel Kim

Harvard University

Panel A: Women & Literature (11:00am – 12:30pm)

Location: Magnolia Room, LSU Student Union

Moderator: Julius Osei

[Zoom Link](#)

| Time | Presentation | Presenter | Institutional Affiliation |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 11:00am – 11:20am | What Is Literature for a Child in Bondage? Memory, Space, and Agency in Harriet Jacobs's Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl | Karen Amarteifio | Louisiana State University |
| 11:20am – 11:40am | A Poetics of Disorder: Maryse Condé in Dialogue with Édouard Glissant and "Others" | Princewill Onomejoh | Louisiana State University |
| 11:40pm – 12:00pm | Redefining Gender Roles through Care and Vulnerability in Żeromski's The Faithful River | Avril Akogun | Louisiana State University |
| 12:00pm – 12:20pm | The Written Word, What For? Exploring Genre as Written Memory and Connection over Time | Hallie-Blair Quatro | University of Tennessee, Knoxville |

Panel B: The Arts & Literature (1:30pm – 3:00pm)**Location: Magnolia Room, LSU Student Union****Moderator: Wólé Olúgúnḽ****Zoom [Link](#)**

| Time | Presentation | Presenter | Institutional Affiliation |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1:30pm – 1:50pm | On Literature and Inclination | Maria Laura Cucciniello | Humboldt-University Berlin |
| 1:50pm – 2:10pm | Why the Film Was Banned and its Significance during the Colonial Era and Aftermath | Sawel Awuni | University of Mississippi |
| 2:10pm – 2:30pm | Adapting Identities: Multimodal Expressions of African Women's Agency in Francophone Film | Alicia M. Hilaire | Louisiana State University |
| 2:30pm – 2:50pm | 1990s Alt Music Slang and Socioeconomic Precarity in Despentés' "Vernon Subutex" Series | Daniel J. Lightfoot | University of St. Andrews |

Panel C: Politics & Literature I (1:30pm – 3:00pm)**Location: Magnolia Room, LSU Student Union****Moderator: Zull-Kifuly Moumouni****Zoom [Link](#)**

| Time | Presentation | Presenter | Institutional Affiliation |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 3:00pm – 3:20pm | Survive or Perish: Violence as a Survival Strategy for Abandoned Youth in Mayotte in Natacha Appanah's <i>Tropique de la violence</i> . | Lydia Gyamfi | Louisiana State University |
| 3:20pm – 3:40pm | Death, Freedom, and Decolonial Sovereignty: Rereading Jean-Jacques Dessalines's Revolutionary ethic "Liberté ou la Mort" in the Context of Haitian Independence. | Mawuli Kwami Ankou | Louisiana State University |
| 3:40pm – 4:00pm | Mimicry, Power, and Neocolonial Discourse in Waberi's Satirical Reversal of the Global Order | Emmanuel K. Somali | Mississippi State University |
| 4:00pm – 4:20pm | Toxic Masculinity and Post-Colonial Violence in Titaua Peu's <i>Pina</i> . | Junia Owumi | Louisiana State University |

Conference Day 2: Friday, March 6th

** A 10-Minute Q&A Panel Session will follow all sessions; Lunch break will take place from 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Panel D: Information & Society (10:00am – 11:20am)

Location: Magnolia Room, LSU Student Union

Moderator: Dr. Farida Guechoud

Zoom [Link](#)

| Time | Presentation | Presenter | Institutional Affiliation |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| 10:00am – 10:20am | The Enduring Need for Literature: Cognitive Benefits and the Prospect of its Disappearance | Imane Labiad | Université Abou Bekr Belkaid, Tlemcen |
| 10:20am – 10:40am | La Satire, un outil pour la conscience sociale : Le rôle public de la littérature aujourd'hui | Arshdeep Kaur | Panjab University, Chandigarh, India |
| 10:40am – 11:00am | Contemporary French Autobiographical Literature in the Digital Age, a Mirror of the Self | Cheyma Ben Hassine | Tulane University |
| 11:00am – 11:20am | Simulating Rewriting Style: Algorithmic Reproduction of Camus's Literary Voice in Machine-Generated Texts | Peter Akongfeh Agwu, PhD | University of Calabar- Faculty of Arts |

Panel E: Poetry & Philosophy (10:00am – 11:20am)

Location: Magnolia Room, LSU Student Union

Moderator: Dr. Adelaide Russo

Zoom [Link](#)

| Time | Presentation | Presenter | Institutional Affiliation |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 11:30am – 11:50am | Libération Educative à Travers la Poésie Africaine Francophone: Les Contributions Pédagogiques de David Diop et de Léopold Sédar Senghor | Stanley Ugochukwu Dibiah | University of Benin |
| 11:50am – 12:10pm | The Street as Chronotope: Palimpsestic Memory in Hédi Kaddour's 'Rue de Tournon | Omar Harem | University Centre of Maghnia |
| 12:10pm – 12:30pm | Femigritude Writers: Reclaiming the Self Through Return and Agency | Diweng Mercy Dafong | University of Alabama - Tuscaloosa |
| 12:30pm – 12:50pm | The Narrative Voice and the Fragmented Self in Black Skin White Masks | Emmanuella Abaidoo Kwarteng | Louisiana State University |

Panel F: Politics & Literature II (2:00pm – 3:40pm)

Location: Magnolia Room, LSU Student Union

Moderator: Alicia Hilaire

Zoom [Link](#)

| Time | Presentation | Presenter | Institutional Affiliation |
|-----------------|--|---------------------|---|
| 2:00pm – 2:20pm | Transcending Postcolonial Boundaries in Tierno Monénembo's Saharienne Indigo | Aviana R. San Souci | Louisiana State University |
| 2:20pm – 2:40pm | Literature as Counter-Power in Postcolonial Algeria | Nabil Boudraa | Oregon State University |
| 2:40pm – 3:00pm | Énumérer pour déjouer la démemoration, écrire pour pacifier les mémoires : Dans le ventre du Congo de Blaise Ndala | Bilel Ben El Asker | Emory University |
| 3:00pm – 3:20pm | Corps-données, langages-symptômes : anatomie de la dystopie biomédicale dans Notre vie dans les forêts de Marie Darrieussecq | Joel Mensah Asmah | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill |
| 3:20pm – 3:40pm | Écrire pour résister : la littérature francophone en Algérie face aux enjeux politiques contemporains | Chiraz Amani | University of Louisiana at Lafayette |

Closing Note & Happy Hour 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: Magnolia Room, LSU Student Union/ [Zoom Link](#)