

CURRICULUM VITAE
(ABRIDGED)
THANGAM RAVINDRANATHAN

Department of French and Francophone Studies
Brown University
84 Prospect Street
Providence, RI 02912
thangam_ravindranathan@brown.edu

EDUCATION

- 2006 PhD, joint degree, Comparative Literature/French, University of Pennsylvania, Université Paris 8 (Vincennes-Saint-Denis)
- 2004 Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies (DEA/Master's), French Literature, Université de Genève, Switzerland
- 1999 Maîtrise (Bachelor's) in Comparative Literature, Université de Paris 8

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2022-2023 Interim Chair, Department of French and Francophone Studies, Brown University
- 2021-present Professor of French and Francophone Studies, Brown University
- 2013-2021 Associate Professor of French Studies, Brown University
- 2012-2013 Manning Assistant Professor of French Studies, Brown University
- 2009-2012 Robert and Nancy Carney Assistant Professor of French Studies, Brown University
- 2006-2009 Assistant Professor of French, Brown University

EDITORIAL/ADVISORY POSITIONS

- 2021-2024 Member of *PMLA* Advisory Committee
- 2020-present Co-editor of *SubStance: A Review of Theory and Literary Criticism*
- 2019-present Editorial Board Member, *SITES: Contemporary French and Francophone Studies*
- 2016-2021 Member of MLA Executive Committee for 20th and 21st century French (Secretary in 2018-2019; President in 2018-2019)

PUBLICATIONS

Authored Books:

- *Behold an Animal. Four Exorbitant Readings*. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press (“Flashpoints” Series), January 2020.
- *Donner le change : L’Impensé animal* (co-authored with Antoine Traisnel), Paris: Éditions Hermann (Series “Le Bel Aujourd’hui”), June 2016.
- *Là où je ne suis pas : Récits de dévoyage*, Paris: Presses Universitaires de Vincennes, 2012.

Edited volumes:

- *Contemporary French and Francophone Studies: SITES*. 23 (2), Special Issue “May 68: Sous les pavés I,” co-edited with Hannah Freed-Thall, Roger Célestin and Eliane Dalmolin, March 2019.
- “Inhabitable.” Special Issue of *SubStance*, 51.1 (2022).

Chapters in books:

- “Chrono-photo-mélancolie du cheval,” in Jean-Michel Devésá (ed.), *Lire, voir, penser l’œuvre de Jean-Philippe Toussaint : Colloque de Bordeaux*, Brussels : Les Impressions nouvelles, 2020, 405-414.
- “‘Je fus toutes choses’ : L’innommé animal,” in Nathalie Dupont and Éric Trudel (eds), *Poétiques de la liste et imaginaire sériel dans les lettres (XXème et XXIème siècle)*, Montreal: Éditions Nota Bene, 2019, 41-66.
- “Pour voir : l’animal, le nom, la distance,” in Alain Romestaing and Alain Schaffner (eds), *Histoires naturelles des animaux XXe-XXIe siècles*, Paris : Presses Sorbonne-Nouvelle, 2016, 91-102.
- “Le destin secret de la chair : réflexions sur quelques récits de Marie NDiaye,” in Gill Rye and Amaleena Damlé, *Aventures et expériences littéraires : Écritures des femmes au début du vingt-et-unième siècle*, Amsterdam/Atlanta: Rodopi, 2014, 250-266.
- “Poetics/Politics of the Namesake: Barlen Pyamootoo’s *Bénarès*, Mauritius,” in *India in Africa, Africa in India: Indian Ocean Cosmopolitanisms*, ed. John C. Hawley, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2008; 181-199.

Refereed journal articles:

- “In the Doldrums: Plastic, Haunting and the Sea,” with Antoine Traisnel, *SubStance*, Special issue on “In/habitable,” 51.1 (2022), 8-29.
- “L’effet-personnage animal,” *fixxion* 23 (*Statut du personnage dans la fiction contemporaine*), ed. Nathalie Piégay, Dominique Rabaté & Frédéric Martin-Achard, December 2021. (<http://www.revue-critique-de-fixxion-francaise-contemporaine.org/rcffc/article/view/fx23.12>)

- “Oil, Water, World, Wax, Mind: Jean Rolin’s *Ormuz* (2013),” *Comparative Literature*, Special issue on “Beaches and Ports,” ed. Morgane Cadieu and Hannah Freed-Thall, Spring 2021, 225-237.
- “The Rise of the Sea and the Novel,” *differences. A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*. 30(3), Special Issue “-30- The End of the Story” (December 2019), 1-33.
- “*Le monde relancé a chaque phrase* : Entretien avec Maylis de Kerangal” (Interview), with Hannah Freed-Thall, *Contemporary French and Francophone Studies: SITES*. 23 (3), Special Issue “May 68: Sous les pavés II” (June 2019),
- “L’absent de tous troupeaux,” *Critique*. 74 (855-856). Special Issue “Éric Chevillard: Angles d’Attaque” (September 2018), 747-762.
- “Bating the Lobster (On Early Beckett),” *differences. A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*. 28(1), Special Issue “Bad Object” (May 2017), 64-93.
- “Missing,” *Political Concepts: A Critical Lexicon* 3.5 (2016) (politicalconcepts.org)
- “What Gives (*Donner le change*),” with Antoine Traisnel, *SubStance* 45.2 (2016), 143-161.
- “Un hérisson peut toujours arriver,” *Revue Critique de Ficción Française Contemporaine* 11, Special Issue « *Écopoétique* », ed. Alain Romestaing, Pierre Schoentjes and Anne Simon (Winter 2015), 71-80 (online publication).
- “Unequal Metrics: Animals passing in La Fontaine, Poe and Chevillard,” *differences. A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*. 24(3) (Fall 2013), 1-35.
- “Drame du constructeur : Michaux lecteur de Poe,” *L’Esprit Créateur* 53.3, Special Issue *Old and New, Avant-garde and ‘Arrière-garde’ in Modernist literature*, ed. Éric Trudel and Jan Baetens (Fall 2013), 91-103.
- “Le degré in-fini de l’écriture : la prose d’Eric Chevillard,” *@analyses : Revue de critique et de théorie littéraire*, Ottawa University, Special issue *Réel du Récit/Récit du réel*, 7(1) (February 2012), 16 p. (online publication).
- “Du scarabée aptère (Kafka, Michaux, Chevillard),” *French Forum*, 36.1 (Winter 2011), 75-94.
- “Lettres en souffrance : Sur quelques usages de la carte postale,” *Cahiers Georges Perec* 10, “*Beau présent : Georges Perec et l’art contemporain*”, éd. Jean-Luc Joly (October 2010), 206-226.
- “L’oublié du récit : Prénom et préhistoire dans *En famille* de Marie NDiaye,” *Approches interdisciplinaires de la lecture* 4, “Intertexte et arrière-texte : Les coulisses de la littérature” (December 2010), 89-110.
Excerpts of this essay reprinted in M-M. Gladiou, J-M. Pottier and A. Trouvé (eds), *L’arrière-texte. Pour repenser le littéraire*, Brussels: Peter Lang, 2013; 43-44.
- “Le regard en miroir : *L’Afrique Fantôme* et *L’Inde Fantôme*,” *Cahiers Michel Leiris* 2 (August 2009), 148-177.

- “L’Ailleurs Fantôme : Michel Leiris et Louis Malle,” *Approches interdisciplinaires de la lecture 2*, “Lecture et Altérités” (April 2008), 169-185.
- “*Amor Matris*: Language and Loss in J. M. Coetzee’s *Age of Iron*,” *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies*. Vol. 8 (14) (October 2007), 395-411.
- “The Song of Zidane,” *New Formations* 62 (Autumn 2007), 20-24.
- “Entre l’exhaustif et l’inachevé: Ponge et Perec,” *Symposium: A Quarterly Journal in Modern Foreign Literatures*. 59(4) (Winter 2006), 212-224.

Non-refereed articles:

- “Double Take” with Gwen Strahle (On Edouard Léon Louis Edy-Légrand’s *Crowd at the Circus*, ca. 1930), *Manual: A Journal about Art and Art-Making*, RISD Museum, 3 (Fall 2014), 12-13.
- “Under the Castaway’s Spell” (on Patrick Chamoiseau’s *L’Empreinte à Crusoë* and the history of the Robinsonade), *The Hindu*, India, 7 October 2012.
- “*Main Hoon Na* ou les infinies ressources de l’épopée” (film review), *L’Express*, Mauritius, 12 June 2004.

Translations:

- Jean-Philippe Toussaint, “Zidane’s Melancholy” (with Timothy Bewes), *New Formations* 62 (Autumn 2007); 10-12.
Revised and republished in *Best European Fiction*. Ed. Aleksander Hemon, London/Champagne: Dalkey Archive, 2010; 34-38.
- Bernard Stiegler, “The Tongue of the Eye: What “Art History” Means” (with Bernard Geoghegan), in *Releasing the Image: From Kant to New Media*. Ed. Jacques Khalip and Robert Mitchell, Stanford University Press, 2011; 222-235.

Book reviews:

- Astrid Bracke. *Climate Crisis and the 21st-Century British Novel (Environmental Cultures)*. London/New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2018). *Journal of British Studies* 58 (2), April 2019.
- “This thick and fibrous now”: A Review of Donna Haraway’s *Manifestly Haraway* (University of Minnesota Press, 2016) and *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene* (Duke University Press, 2016), *Postmodern Culture* 28.2 (January 2018)
- Alain Romestaing and Alain Schaffner, ed. *Animaux d’écritures: le lien et l’abîme* (Classiques Garnier, 2014), *French Review* 90.2 (December 2016).
- Alex Demeulenaere, *Le Récit de voyage français en Afrique noire (1830 - 1931). Essai de scénographie*. Berlin, LIT 2009, (Littératures et cultures francophones hors d’Europe, 3), *Romanische Forschungen* 124 (2012).

- Yvonne Hsieh, *Segalen : Stèles* (University of Glasgow, 2007), *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* 37 (1-2; Fall-Winter 2008); 130-133.
- Kimberley Healey, *The Modernist Traveler* (University of Nebraska Press, 2004), *French Forum* 29 (Fall 2004); 116-118.

LECTURES AND COLLOQUIA

Invited lectures:

- “Too plain to see: Narrative matter and the earth,” Department of French, Yale University, 29 March 2022.
- “Vague Dog,” Fall Colloquium, 3CT: Center for Critical and Cultural Theory, Rice University, Houston, 16 November 2020.
- “Elephant,” Political Concepts Conference, Cogut Institute for the Humanities, Brown University, 7 December 2019.
- “Animals Missing,” Romance Languages, University of Pennsylvania, 19 November 2019.
- “The Elephant in the Text,” French Department, Emory University, 5 November 2019.
- “The Rise of the Sea and the Novel,” Maison Française, NYU, 21 February 2019
- “The Elephant in the Text,” French & Italian Department, Dartmouth University, 24 May 2018.
- “Vanishing Elephants,” *Anthropocene Now! Ecology, Ethics, Politics*. Symposium sponsored by the Society for the Study of Bio-Political Futures, SUNY Albany, 20-21 April 2018.
- “The Elephant in the Text,” France and the World Series, Harvard University Mahindra Humanities Center, 8 February 2018.
- “The animal by its/another name: Henri Michaux and Éric Chevillard,” French and Francophone Studies Program, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, 19 October 2015. (part of a faculty lecture series titled “The Lists Project”)
- “Missing,” Political Concepts Conference, Brown University, 10 April 2015.
- “Animals Passing,” Department of German and Romance Language and Literatures, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, 22 April 2014.
- “Barely a hedgehog, strictly speaking (On Darrieussecq, Deleuze, Derrida),” Department of French and Italian, Miami University, Ohio, 17 April 2014.
- “Le Roman Contemporain,” six-day intensive MA lectures at Ecole Nationale Supérieure, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 30 May-June 4 2011 (as part of a consortium of faculty volunteers from Universities of Paris-8, Paris-7 and Montreal participating in Paris-8/ENS dual-degree Master’s program in Literature and Philosophy)
- “L’oublié du récit : prénom et préhistoire dans *En famille* de Marie NDiaye,” *Séminaire Approches Inter-disciplinaires de la Lecture* 2009-2010, “Intertexte et arrière-texte”. Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France, 24 November 2009.

- Discussant: “The Post-Exotic Now,” East Asian Studies senior seminar colloquium, Connecticut College, April 18 2009.
- “L’Ailleurs Fantôme: Michel Leiris et Louis Malle,” *Séminaire Approches Interdisciplinaires de la Lecture* 2006-2007, “Lectures et Altérités”, Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France, 27 March 2007.
- “Bestiaires (post-)exotiques: l’animal dans les oeuvres de Michaux et Chevillard,” French Cultural Studies Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, 26 March 2006.
- “*Terra Cognita*: Seductions du Voyage Absolu,” Department of French and Francophone Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, 6 February 2006.

Other papers read :

- Untitled (On Distraction and Ecology), panel “Donner voix, faire signe: la littérature contemporaine face à la crise écologique,” Twentieth and Twentieth-Century French and Francophone Studies Annual Colloquium, Pittsburgh, 24 March, 2022.
- “Viscous,” Twentieth and Twentieth-Century French and Francophone Studies Annual Colloquium, online, 12 March 2021.
- “Wax’s Weird Wager,” ACLA Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., 9 March 2019.
- “Unearthly Literature,” 20th/21st Centuries French and Francophone Studies International Annual Colloquium, Bloomington, Indiana, 6 April 2017.
- “Terrain vague : Écriture et écologie,” Contemporary French and Francophone Studies Annual Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, 20 March 2016.
- “Bating the Lobster (On early Samuel Beckett),” Modernist Studies Association (MSA) Annual Convention, Boston, 20 November 2015.
- “Over-determination of Elephants: Romain Gary,” 20th/21st Centuries French and Francophone Studies International Annual Colloquium, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, 26 March 2015.
- “The Gifted Animal (*Donner le change II*),” *Derrida Today*, Fordham University, New York City, 28-31 May 2014.
- “Grammaire nominative: Catalogues et fuites de l’animal dans l’écriture contemporaine,” *Histoire(s) Naturelles des Animaux dans la Littérature de Langue Française (XX^{ème} et XXI^{ème} siècles)*, Université de Paris 3 (Sorbonne Nouvelle), 5-7 February 2014.
- “Bits of hedgehog: The incomplete bodies of Marie Darrieussecq,” Special session organized by Division on Philosophical Approaches to Literature, MLA annual convention, Chicago, 6-9 January 2014.
- “Rat de bibliothèque: Partial words in Michelle Grangaud’s *Le Bébégaiement du Beau Beaubourg*,” 20th/21st Centuries French and Francophone Studies International Annual Colloquium, Atlanta, March 28-30 2013.
- “L’animal sous verre : *Nénette* (2010) de Nicolas Philibert,” *Que la bête meure*, conference co-hosted by University of Paris IV (Sorbonne) and the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature, Paris, 11-12 June 2012.

- “The Unequal Animal,” ACLA annual conference, Brown University, Providence, March 28-April 1 2012.
- “Prose interrupted, or folded back : Darrieussecq and Chevillard,” 20th/21st Centuries French and Francophone Studies International Annual Colloquium, San Francisco, 30 March-2 April 2011.
- “Le destin secret de la chair : réflexions sur quelques récits de Marie NDiaye,” 10th Anniversary Conference of Contemporary Women’s Writing in French, ‘A Decade of Women’s Writing in France: Trends and Horizons 2000-10’, Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, University of London, 16-18 October 2010.
- “The endangered exotic: Vanishing animals in the fiction of Eric Chevillard,” *Exoticism/The Exotic*, International Conference, Sultan Moulaye Slimane University, Beni Mellal, Morocco, 16-18 April 2010.
- “Le degré in-fini de l’écriture: la prose d’Eric Chevillard,” *Réal du Récit/Récit du réel*, inaugural colloquium of “Prospero” (research team on the literary fact and the politics of the present), Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, 21-22 May 2009.
- “*Je fus toutes choses* : La métamorphose à l’épreuve de la poésie (Michaux) et de la prose (Chevillard),” 20th/21st Centuries French and Francophone Studies International Annual Colloquium, Minneapolis, 26-28 March 2009.
- “Metamorphosis in the Novel: Three recent French(/Francophone) cases (Chamoiseau, NDiaye, Chevillard),” *The Novel and its Borders*, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, 8-10 July 2008.
- “L’Ailleurs Fantôme: Michel Leiris et Louis Malle,” 20th/21st Centuries French Studies International Colloquium, University of Texas A&M, 24 March 2007.
- “*Barbarus Hic Ego*: Incertitude et Etrang(èr)eté chez Jean-Philippe Toussaint,” 20th/21st Centuries French Studies International Colloquium, University of Florida, March 30-April 2, 2005.
- “*Ars non viatica*: Georges Perec’s *243 Postcards in Real Color*,” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Annual Conference, Pennsylvania State University, March 11-13, 2005.
- “Poetics/Politics of the Namesake: Barlen Pyamootoo’s *Bénarès*,” Association for Commonwealth Literatures and Languages (ACLALS), Hyderabad, India, 6-9 August 2004.
- “Temps et écriture dans *Rien ne manque au manque* de Sabine Macher,” 20th/21st Centuries French Studies International Colloquium, University of Connecticut, March 2002.

Conferences and panels organized:

- Organizer and participant, “*Le texte et la terre* : What French Literary Theory can (not) tell us about the Anthropocene,” Twentieth and Twentieth-Century French and Francophone Studies Annual Colloquium, online, 12 March 2021.
- Organizer and session chair, “Habitat: French Ecocritical Perspectives,” MLA Annual Convention, Seattle, 7-10 January 2020.

- Co-organizer, *Sous les pavés*. Twentieth and Twentieth-Century French and Francophone Studies Annual Colloquium, Providence, 12-14 April 2018.
- Organizer and session chair, “Deleuze: literature, philosophy and the postcolonial,” MLA Annual Convention, New York City, 4-6 January 2018.
- Organizer and participant, “Narrative, Disaster, Unearthly Time,” 20th/21st Centuries French and Francophone Studies International Annual Colloquium, Bloomington, Indiana, 6-8 April 2017.
- Organizer and participant, “Difficult ecology: Derrida, Gary, Clément/Rolin,” 20th/21st Centuries French and Francophone Studies International Annual Colloquium, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, 26 March 2015.
- Co-organizer and introduction, “Impatiences du concept/Impatient concepts,” Department of French Studies, Brown University, 5-6 April 2013.
- Co-organizer and participant, “Animal Metrics” (with Antoine Traisnel), ACLA annual conference, Brown University, March 28-April 1 2012.
- Organizer and participant, “Interrupting Animals,” 20th/21st Centuries French and Francophone Studies International Annual Colloquium, San Francisco, 30 March-2 April 2011.
- Co-organizer and introduction, “The Demon of Melancholy: Genealogies, Modernities,” Brown University, 24-25 April 2008.

TEACHING (RECENT)

- Fall 2021 FREN2190 Matière et Récit (graduate seminar)
- 2021-2022 FREN2160 French Ecological Thought (Graduate Seminar co-taught with David Wills)
FREN1110F Le Roman Contemporain
FREN720 J'accuse! La littérature et le cinéma face au réel (First-Year Seminar)
- 2020-2021 FREN720G L'art de la nouvelle (First-Year Seminar)
FREN1120 L'enfer, c'est les autres
HMAN 2401/FREN 2620K Metaphor/Matter/Time: Literature and the Changing Earth. Collaborative Humanities Graduate Seminar co-taught with Ada Smailbegovic (English)
- 2019-2020 FREN2190 Roman et Réel au 21^{ème} siècle (Graduate Seminar)
FREN720 L'art de la nouvelle (First-Year Seminar)
(*On leave in spring 2020*)
- 2018-2019 *On leave*
- 2017-2018 FREN1100 Le Roman Contemporain
FREN760 Introduction à l'Analyse Littéraire
FREN1120F L'enfer, c'est les autres
- 2016-2017 FREN1130E Le poétique et le quotidien
FREN750 L'animal contemporain
FREN1110 Le Roman Contemporain
FREN2190 Littérature et Écologie (Graduate Seminar)
- 2015-2016 FREN0720 The Contemporary French Novel (First-Year Seminar)
FREN2190 L'Honneur des poètes (Graduate Seminar)
FREN1120 Scénographies du 20^{ème} siècle
- 2014-2015 FREN1310 L'art de la nouvelle
FREN0720 The Contemporary French Novel (First-Year Seminar)
FREN2190 Animals and I (Graduate Seminar)
FREN0750 L'Animal dans la culture contemporaine
- 2013-2014 FREN2190 Les Autres du Réel
FREN400 Intermediate French (Course Chair, three sections)
(*On sabbatical leave Spring 2014*)
- 2012-2013 FREN0760 Introduction à l'Analyse Littéraire
FREN400 Intermediate French (Course Chair, three sections)
FREN2190 Introduction à la poésie du 20^{ème} siècle (Graduate Seminar)

FREN1110 Le Roman Contemporain
FREN400 Intermediate French (Course Chair, two sections)

2011-2012 HMAN1970 The Question of the Animal
FREN2190 L'Honneur des poètes (Graduate Seminar)
FREN400 Intermediate French II (section instructor)

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