

Charlee M. Bezilla, PhD
cmredman@umd.edu

EDUCATION

- 2021 **PhD, Modern French Studies**
University of Maryland, College Park
Dissertation: “Fictions of Hybridity in the Anthropocene: Literature and Science in the Works of Rétif de la Bretonne”
- 2017 **MA French Language and Literature**
University of Maryland, College Park
- 2012 **BA Honors in English, BA French and Francophone Studies**
Pennsylvania State University, Schreyer Honors College, University Park

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2022–2024 **Visiting Assistant Professor of French**, George Washington University
- 2022 **Lecturer**, University of Maryland
- 2021–2023 **Adjunct Assistant Professor**, Northern Virginia Community College
- 2021–2023 **Adjunct Assistant Professor**, University of Maryland Global Campus
- 2021–2022 **Part-Time French Faculty**, Prince George’s Community College
- 2015–2020 **Graduate Teaching Assistant/Instructor of Record**, University of Maryland
- 2018 **Program Leader, Maryland-in-Montpellier**, Short-Term Study Abroad (UMD)

COURSES TAUGHT

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| George Washington University | Intermediate French II
Introduction to French Literature
Medieval & Early Modern French Literature
Modern French Literature (18 th -21 st centuries)
Empire, race et histoire dans le monde francophone
Being Human in the Eighteenth Century
Writing the Self: Autobiography & Autofiction in French
Rumors, Scandals & Culture Wars in Early Modern France |
| University of Maryland | Intensive Beginner & Intensive Intermediate French
Critical Writing on the French & Francophone World
French Grammar & Composition
Introduction to Cultural and Textual Analysis
Composition & Style
France Today |
| Prince George’s CC | French for Beginners |
| University of Maryland Global | Beginner French I; Beginner French II |
| Northern Virginia CC | Elementary French I; Elementary French II |

PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 Forthcoming Peer-Reviewed Article: “Circumscribing the Self: Rousseau and Living in the Anthropocene.” *Enlightenment and the Anthropocene: New Definitions of the Relationship between Man and Nature in the Context of the Anthropological Turn*. [Aufklärung und Anthropozän: Neue Verhältnisbestimmungen von Mensch und Natur im Zeichen der anthropologischen Wende], edited by Jürgen Overhoff and Joachim Scholz. Bremen, Edition Lumière
- 2024 “Teaching Social and Environmental Justice through the *bande dessinée*.” *AATF Selected Proceedings 2023*. <https://www.frenchteachers.org/conference-proceedings>
- 2023 Peer-Reviewed Article: “Writers, Readers, Coders, Translators? Reflection on the VESPACE Workshop.” In Louise, Moulin, Chiara Azzaretti, Julien Le Goff, and Charlee M. Bezilla. “Part III — Literary Scholarship and Social Physics: Reading and Writing with Social Physics.” *Digital Studies/Le champ numérique* 13(2): 1–42. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.16995/dscn.9978>
- 2023 “Book review: Jeremy Chow, ed., *Eighteenth-Century Environmental Humanities* (Bucknell UP, 2022).” *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, vol. 35, no. 4 (2023): 535–537.
- 2022 “Book review: Tracy Rutler, *Queering the Enlightenment: Kinship and Gender in Eighteenth-Century French Literature* (Oxford UP, 2021),” in *Women in French Studies*, vol. 30 (2022): pp. 188–90. DOI: [10.1353/wfs.2022.0018](https://doi.org/10.1353/wfs.2022.0018)
- 2018 Peer-Reviewed Book Chapter: “Marie Vieux-Chauvet’s Carnavalesque Theater of Revolt.” In *Marie Vieux-Chauvet’s Theatres: Thought, Form, and Performance of Revolt*, Caribbean Series, vol. 35, pp. 69–84. Edited by Christian Flaugh and Lena Taub Robles. Leiden: Brill, 2018.
- 2018 Article: “The French Wars of Religion and the Diseased, Disfigured, and Monstrous Body.” *The Romance Sphere*. April 7, 2018. <https://romancesphere.fas.harvard.edu/publications/french-wars-religion-and-diseased-disfigured-and-monstrous-body>

Book and Article Manuscripts in Preparation:

- Article manuscript: “Making Kin: Family and *Fraternité* in Rétif de la Bretonne’s *Lettre d’un singe*”
- Article manuscript: “Beyond the Plurality of Worlds: Epistolarity and Time in Rétif’s *Les Posthumes*”
- Article manuscript: “Fictions of Collaboration: Coopting Contemporaries in Diderot, Rétif, & Delisle de Sales”
- Book manuscript: “Before Science Fiction: Hybrid Fictions in Enlightenment-Era France”
- Journal special issue, as co-editor: *Diderot Studies*, “Diderot and Life: Enlightenment and Environmental Humanities,” forthcoming 2026

INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS

- 2024 Selected participant, “Playing with the Past: Using Role-Playing Games for Student Engagement,” Teaching French and Francophone Studies Today Symposium, Georgetown University, April 26

- 2023 Selected participant, “Beyond the Plurality of Worlds: Epistolarity and Time in Rétif’s *Les Posthumes*,” International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Early Career Seminar, “The Shapes of Time in the Enlightenment,” Rome, Italy, June 27–30
- 2023 Invited talk, Graduate Seminar, “Science and Fiction in the Anthropocene: An Ecocritical Approach to the French Enlightenment” (French 649), University of Maryland, Prof. Sarah Benharrech, December 5
- 2022 Selected participant, Indiana Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies Twentieth Annual Workshop, “The Collaborative Eighteenth Century,” Indiana University-Bloomington, May 19–21
- 2022 “Race, the Human, and the Environment in *La Découverte australe* by Rétif de la Bretonne,” Dickinson College, FREN 364, Prof. Hanna Roman, March 25
- 2021 “Questions of Race, Family, and the Human in *La Découverte australe* and “Lettre d’un singe aux êtres de son espèce” by Rétif de la Bretonne,” Dickinson College, FREN 364, Prof. Hanna Roman, April 2
- 2021 “*Des formes fantastiques*: Perfectibility and Biopower in Eighteenth-Century France,” UMD Virtual Speaker Series, “The Future of French & Francophone Studies,” March 19
- 2020 MLA Virtual Summit for the Future of Doctoral Education, November 2020 (virtual)
- 2020 Digital Humanities Social Physics Workshop, Virtual Early Modern Spectacles and Publics, Active and Collaborative Environment (VESPACE) Project, dir. Dr. Jeff Leichman, May 17–22, 2020
- 2019 Selected participant, “The Languages of Nature: Science, Literature, and the Imagination,” dir. Dr. Paula Findlen, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC, September 13–14, 2019
- 2018 “Teaching Sustainability and Environmental Topics in Language and Culture Courses,” SLLC Initiatives Committee Roundtable, November 28, 2018

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

- 2024 “Solidarity among ‘Contemporaines’: Rétif’s ‘Belle-Négociante.’” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Convention, Toronto, April 4–6
- 2024 “Recycled Souls: Palingenesis, Metempsychosis, and the Future of Humankind in Early Nineteenth-Century France.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, January 4–7
- 2023 “Science, Religion, and Tradition in the Face of Catastrophe: The Case of Antoine-Léonard Thomas.” North-East Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, virtual, November 18

- 2023 “Parasites and Planetary Systems: Towards an Eighteenth-Century Ecology?” Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, Montréal, October 18–21
- 2023 “Capitalizing (on) Knowledge of the Antipodes: Diderot’s Fictional Colonial Encounters.” East Central American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, Williamsburg, VA, October 13–14
- 2023 “Teaching Social Justice through the *bande dessinée*.” American Association of Teachers of French Convention, Trois-Rivières, Québec, July 23–26
- 2023 “Colonizing Time: *Romans d’anticipation* and (Post)Colonial Futures in the Late 18th Century.” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Niagara Falls, NY, March 23–26
- 2023 “L’art de ‘se circonscrire’: Rousseau on Living in the Anthropocene.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, St. Louis, MO, March 11–13
- 2022 “Echoes of the Philosophes: Resonating Voices in Delisle de Sales’ Philosophical Dialogues.” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, March 10–13
- 2022 “Man, Know Thyself: Materialist Imaginations of the *Homme-Plante* in Suzanne Césaire and *La Mettrie*.” Roundtable, Francophonie and the Early Modern: Intertextual Connections, Modern Language Association Convention, January 6–9
- 2021 “*Hommes-volants*: Circulating Bodies and Human Machines in Rétif de la Bretonne.” Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, November 5-7
- 2021 “The Machine-Man and Imperial Energy in French Proto-Science-Fiction.” Society for the Sciences, Literature, and Arts (SLSA) Conference (virtual), September 29-October 2
- 2021 “The Many Worlds of Rétif’s *Les Posthumes*.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference (virtual), April 7–11
- 2021 “Plant-Men and Man-Machines: An Ecocritical Reading of Hybrid Bodies in Eighteenth-Century France.” Carolina Conference on Romance Studies, March 26–27
- 2021 “‘Making Kin’? Family and ‘Fraternité’ in the Novels of Rétif de la Bretonne.” Modern Language Association Convention (virtual), January 10
- 2019 “The Man-Machine: Analogy and Hybridity in Restif de la Bretonne’s *La Découverte australe*.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Denver, March 21–23
- 2018 “Rethinking Françoise in *A la recherche du temps perdu*.” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Pittsburgh, PA, April 12–15
- 2018 “‘Dear Little People’: Insects in Eighteenth-Century French Literature and Natural Philosophy.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, Orlando, FL, March 22–24

- 2017 “The French Wars of Religion and the Diseased, Disfigured, and Monstrous Body.” *Corp(u)s*, Harvard French Graduate Student Conference, Cambridge, MA, January 28
- 2016 “What’s in a Name? Denomination, (De)mythologizing, and Crossing Borders in Mabanckou’s *Bleu-Blanc-Rouge* and Le Clézio’s *Onitsha*.” Midwestern Modern Language Association Conference, St. Louis, MO, November 10–13
- 2016 “Le carnavalesque et la violence dans des romans de Patrick Chamoiseau et Marie Vieux-Chauvet.” LSU French Graduate Student Conference, Baton Rouge, LA, March 11–12

Panels Organized

- 2023 “Sustainability and Resilience in Early Modern and Enlightenment France,” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Niagara Falls, NY, March 23–26
- 2022 “Talking to the Dead (and the Living): Dialogues des morts et des vivants in Enlightenment-Era France,” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD, March 31–April 2
- 2022 “Making Kin in Early Modern France: Interspecies Ecologies of Care,” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, March 10–13
- 2020 “Fictions of Science/Scientific Fictions in the French Ancien Régime,” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Boston, MA, March 5–8
- 2019 “Textual Matters: Searching at/in the Margins,” Forbidden, Forgotten, Erased: Exposing Absences, SLLC Graduate Colloquium, UMD, April 5–6

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 Hermine and Luc Secretan Memorial Graduate Support Fellowship
- 2020 Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2020–2017 Dean’s Fellowship
- 2020 University Teaching and Learning Program, UMD – Associate
- 2019 Valerie von Mach Choudhury Scholarship for Romance Languages
- 2019 Pi Delta Phi French National Honor Society
- 2019 ARHU Graduate Student Travel Award
- 2018 NeMLA Graduate Student Caucus Travel Award
- 2016 SLLC Excellence in Language Teaching Award

SERVICE

- 2023–2026 **Delegate** for Middle Atlantic Region, MLA Delegate Assembly
- 2020–2021 **Representative**, University Senate Research Council
- 2019 **Co-Organizer**, 2019 SLLC Graduate Student Colloquium
- 2018–2019, **Representative** for Department of French & Italian, College of Arts & Humanities
- 2019–2020 Dean’s Graduate Advisory Board
- 2017 **Co-Organizer and Communications Chair**, SLLC Graduate Student Colloquium
- 2016 **Graduate Student Representative** for Department of French & Italian, SLLC

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2024– **Associate Director, Language House Living-Learning Program**
University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- 2016–2017 **Editorial Assistant, Black Perspectives**
African American Intellectual History Society
- 2016 **Editorial Intern, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers**
Lanham, MD
- 2012–2015 **Editorial Assistant, Penn State University Press**
University Park, PA

SKILLS

- Blackboard, Canvas, Bright Space/D2L, MS Office Suite, Google Suite
- French: fluent
- Spanish & Italian: reading proficiency