

Isabelle (Gros) Cata

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Modern Languages and Literatures
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EDUCATION:

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY:

- . M.A. in Counseling Psychology, August 2005.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

- . Ph.D. in French Literature, May 1993.

Dissertation:

"Siddhartha ou la naissance d'un écrivain: Victor Segalen."

Dissertation Director: Professor George Bauer.

- . M.A. in French Literature, December 1987.

UNIVERSITÉ DE PARIS III:

- . Licence de Langues Etrangères Appliquées (English and Spanish), November 1982.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY. Fall 1993-Present.

Full Professor of French, Winter 2009-

Associate Professor of French. Fall 1999-. Fall 2009

Assistant Professor of French. Fall 1993-Winter 1999.

- . Language classes: Beginning French I and II, Intensive Elementary French, Intermediate French I and II, Conversation, French Composition, Introduction to Translation, French Advanced Grammar.

- . Civilization classes: French Culture & Civilization, Contemporary France, French History, Francophone Civilization, African Francophone Cinema.

- . Literature classes: Survey of French Literature of the 19th and 20th Centuries, 19th Century French Literature, 20th Century French Literature, Francophone literature and civilization, Ecriture et autobiographie (Capstone).

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

- . Lecturer: French Conversation, French IV, 1993.

- . Assistant Lecturer: French I-IV, French Conversation, 1985-90 and 1991-92.

- . Teaching Assistant: "The Bible as Literature" Dept. of Comparative Literature, 1990-91.

GETTY CENTER: Instructor, Beginning French, 1989-91.

CERRITOS COLLEGE: Instructor, French I, Fall 1989.

PASADENA CITY COLLEGE: Instructor, French I, Fall 1988.

TEACHING INTERESTS:

- . French Literature of the 19th, 20th, and 21st Centuries
- . Francophone Literature.
- . The Orient in French Literature.
- . The therapeutic use of literature.
- . French Language, Culture & Civilization.

PUBLICATIONS:

Published under Isabelle Cata

Books

- . Une réflexion critique sur l'oeuvre de Kama Sywor Kamanda: La Quête du rêve absolu: Recréer le monde, pénétrer l'infini, mesurer le néant. Editions Universitaires Européennes, 2019.
- . La Quête du rêve absolu: Recréer le monde, pénétrer l'infini, mesurer le néant: Une réflexion critique sur l'oeuvre de Kama Sywor Kamanda Dagan Editions, October 2015.
- . Le Siddhartha de Victor Segalen: Une dés-orientation. Espace Théâtral, L'Harmattan, March 2008.

Articles:

- . "Yasmina Khadra: à la recherche d'un miracle?" Actes du Colloque La littérature maghrébine de langue française au tournant du 21ème siècle. Formes et expressions littéraires dans un monde en mutation. Alger. January 2016.

. Translation of a segment (p.257-301) of L'Amérique saigne (Gun Bless America) by Franketienne and Claude Dambreville completed with the students of the class *Introduction to Translation* of Fall 2004 (Natalie Hampshire, Alison Dykman, Tracy Elizabeth Robey, Sofia Ohlman, Beau Platte and Mike Buth) and an article about the process "Creativity and the pleasure of completing a translation as a group in class." In the special issue of Franketienne of the Journal of Haitian Studies, Spring 2008, Vol. 14 No1,120-156.

. "L'ennui dans l'oeuvre poétique de Kama Sywor Kamanda", "Le désert dans la poésie de Kama Sywor Kamanda." and "La poésie de Kama Sywor Kamanda: une magie de l'étreinte." (three chapters in a book) in Kama Sywor Kamanda: Regards Critiques, Paris: L'Harmattan, April 2007,29-60.

. "Le désert dans la poésie d'André Velter" (a chapter in a book) in Poétique et imaginaire du désert. Textes réunis par Jean-François Durand, Presses Universitaires de Montpellier, 2005 407-414.

. "Christine Angot: Ecrire et lire l'inceste." en collaboration avec Eliane DaMolin. *Women in French Studies*, Vol.12. 2004,85-101.

. "Kama Sywor Kamanda ou la poésie de la mémoire." (Introduction) in Kama Sywor Kamanda, chantre de la mémoire égyptienne. Isabelle Cata & Franck Nyalendo. Luxembourg: Editions Paul Bauler, 2003,7-24.

. "La vie à l'endroit de Rachid Boudjedra: une question de sens?" Etudes Francophones. Vol.18, no1, Printemps 2003,39-52.

. "La nourriture dans l'oeuvre de Gérard Etienne." (a revised and expanded version) in L'Esthétique du choc: Gérard Etienne ou l'écriture haïtienne au Québec. Ed. Danielle Dumontet. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2003,133-152.

Published under Isabelle Gros

. "Tooth Mouse and Lions." Grand Valley Review. Vol. XXIII. Spring 2001,16.

. "Malika Mokeddem: Une enfance détruite et une écriture de l'espoir." (a chapter in a book) in Malika Mokeddem: Envers et contre tout. Ed. Yolande Helm. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2001, 175-183.

. "L'écriture libératrice." La Revue Française, South Africa. No 10, December 2000,209-217.

. "La nourriture dans l'oeuvre de Gérard Etienne." republished with permission in Mots Pluriels, no15, Septembre 2000, <http://www.arts.uwa.edu.au/MotsPluriels/Mp1500ig.html>

. "Rachid Mimouni: une paix à peine vécue." (a chapter in a book) in Autour des Ecrivains Maghrébins: Rachid Mimouni. Ed. Najib Redouane. Toronto: Ed. La Source, 1999,111-130.

. "La femme et la nourriture dans l'oeuvre de Gérard Etienne." La Revue Française, South Africa. No 7, July 1999, 25-34.

. "A Late Rose for George." Grand Valley Review. Vol. XVIII. Fall 1998,92-93.

. "Les odeurs dans La Répudiation de Rachid Boudjedra." Le Maghreb Littéraire: Revue canadienne des littératures maghrébines, Toronto, Canada, Vol.II, No 3, 1998,37-50.

. "Michèle Lacrosil: La libération par l'écriture ou comment vomir le dégoût de soi-même" (a chapter in a book) in Elles écrivent des Antilles edited by Joëlle Vitiello. L'Harmattan: Paris, 1997, 123-132.

. "Le Thibet recréé de Victor Segalen." in Segalen vu d'Amérique. Les Cahiers Victor Segalen. Paris,(Fall 1996),35-43.

. "Coupeurs de têtes: André Malraux et Victor Segalen." Revue André Malraux Review. Volume 25 (1994-95) 167-175.

. "Segalen's Quest in Siddhartha" Literature and Quest. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1993,45-52.

. "Entretien avec Etienne Barilier." The French Review 64.5, 762-772 (December 1991)762-772.

. "Segalen's Siddhartha." Literary Studies East and West 5 (1991)155-160.

PAPERS:

. "La folie dans l'oeuvre de Yasmina Khadra: Cinglés, tarés, personnages se sentat devenir fous..." Congrès deu CIEF, Ottawa, Canada, June 17-23, 2019.

. "Pourquoi s'intéresser à Yasmina Khadra?" A Invited Lecture at L'Université Catholique de L'Ouest, March 7, 2019.

. "Amour et Haine: Les femmes dans l'oeuvre de Yasmina Khadra." Congrès du CIEF, La Rochelle, France, June 4-9, 2018.

. "Les miracles et l'inouï dans le roman de guerre de Pierre Lemaitre 'Au revoir là-bas.'" Congrès du CIEF, Université des Antilles, Pôle Martinique, Schoelcher, La Martinique, June 26-July 2, 2017.

. "Violence et miracles chez Yasmina Khadra." Congrès du CIEF, Saly-Portudal, Sénégal, May 23-29, 2016.

. "The Congolese Writer and Poet Kama Sywor Kamanda and the Quest of the Absolute" Invited guest lecture at Hope College, Holland, Michigan, October 21, 2015.

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- . "Yasmina Khadra: à la recherche d'un miracle?" Colloque La littérature maghrébine de langue française au tournant du 21ème siècle. Formes et expressions littéraires dans un monde en mutation. Alger. April 20-21, 2015 (was not able to attend, but paper was read for me).
- . "Richesse cachée et espoir dans l'oeuvre de Ken Bugul La pièce d'or." Colloque d'Etudes Françaises, New York, New York, March 6-8, 2014.
- . "Le surnaturel dans l'oeuvre de Kama Sywor Kamanda,: voyants, magiciens et génies, chimères de la désolation et de l'infortune." Congrès du CIEF, Thessalonique, Grèce, June10-17, 2012.
- . "Kama Sywor Kamanda: Avec pour toute arme la féerie des images et de la langue," Colloque international sur la littérature congolaise post-coloniale: Bilan et perspectives d'avenir. Université Sud-Africaine, Pretoria, Afrique du Sud, November, 3-6 2010.
- . "L'ennui dans l'oeuvre poétique de Kama Sywor Kamanda." Congrès du CIEF, Ottawa, Canada, June 26-July 4, 2005.
- . "Le désert dans la poésie de Kama Sywor Kamanda." Congrès du CIEF, Liège, June 19-27, 2004.
- . "La poésie de Kama Sywor Kamanda: une magie de l'étreinte." Congrès du CIEF, La Nouvelle Orléans, Louisiane, June 17-22, 2003.
- . "La poésie de Kama Kamanda." Congrès du CIEF, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, May 26-June 2002.
- . "Catherine Cusset: Erotisme et silence." International Colloquium 20th/21st-Century French Studies, University of Connecticut, Hartford, April 2002.
- . "Le désert dans la poésie D'André Velter." Poétiques et Imaginaires du désert. Université Paul Valéry, Montpellier, 20-22 March 2002.
- . "Food in the novels of Gérard Etienne." Sixth Conference on the Americas: Food for thought. Grand Valley State University, February 9, 2002.
- . "Christine Angot et l'écriture de l'inceste." Twentieth Century Conference, Louisville, February 2001.
- . "Une écriture libératrice." CIEF Convention, Sousse, Tunisia, May 2000.
- . "La musique inouïe de Victor Segalen." M/MLA Convention, Minneapolis, November 1999.
- . "Malika Mokeddem: un regard de femme sur l'Algérie contemporaine." CIEF Convention, Lafayette, Louisiana, May 1999.
- . "La vie à l'endroit" de Rachid Boudjedra: Ecriture d'une Algérie en dérive." Colloque Algérie. Universités de Toronto & York, Toronto, May 1999.
- . "L'odorant et l'inodore dans La répudiation de R. Boudjedra." MMLA Convention, Saint Louis, November 1998.
- . "Food in French Literature in the Last Part of the 20th Century." European Studies Conference, Omaha, Nebraska, October 1998

- . "La nourriture dans l'oeuvre de Gérard Etienne." Congrès du CIEF. Moncton, New Brunswick, May 1998.
- . "Répression et nourriture dans l'oeuvre de Gérard Etienne." Duke University Romances Languages Colloquium on Haïti and Repression. April 1998.
- . "A Late Rose for George." A Memorial Session for George Bauer. MMLA Convention , Chicago, November 1997.
- . "Odeurs de Rachid Boudjedra." Congrès du CIEF. Guadeloupe, May 1997.
- . "Images from beyond our seas." MMLA Convention, Minneapolis, November 1996.
- . "Exotisme/Erotisme: Victor Segalen à Tahiti." Congrès du CIEF. Toulouse, June 1996.
- . "Artaud's Surreal Dalai Lama. " Dada and Surrealism section, MLA, Chicago, December 1995.
- . "Les eaux troublantes de Proust." Congrès du CIEF. Charleston, June 1995.
- . "Le Thibet recréé de Victor Segalen." 20th Century French Literature Colloquium. Stanford, March 1995.
- . "Victor Segalen: Un voyage poétique vers le Thibet de l'imaginaire."MMLA Convention, November 1994
- . "Victor Segalen et André Malraux." M.L.A. New York, December 1992.
- . "Victor Segalen's Quest in Siddhartha." Literature, Voyage and Quest, University of Auckland, New Zealand, July 1992.
- . "Diderot et Greuze ou la violence du père mise à nu." Colloquium, University of Southern California, April 1991.
- . "Segalen's Siddhartha." Translation East-West, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, January 1991.

HONORS/GRANTS:

- . Josephine De Kármán fellow, 1991-92.
- . Grand Valley State University. Summer Research Grant for the translation of Victor Segalen's Siddhartha. Summer 1993.
- . Grand Valley State University Circle Teaching Grant for the "French Scholars' Forum," 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000.
- .Grand Valley State University Pew Center: Grant for attending the CIEF in Ivory Coast, Summer 2002.
- . Grand Valley State University: Intercultural Faculty grant for attending a course on "Multicultural counseling and psychology". Fall 2003.
- . Grand Valley State University: Pew Faculty Teaching and Development Grant for taking CECP 610 Career Development: Theory and Practice at Western Michigan University. Spring 2004.
- . Faculty/Staff Exchange Grant to cover the cost of travel to Angers, France to further develop GVSU's partnership with UCO, Fall 2018.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY:

Service and committees at the Divisional level:

- . Arts & Humanities Divisional Curriculum Committee, Winter 1994.
- . Film Committee for the WGS Festival 2000. Fall 1999
- . The Women and Gender Studies Program Executive Committee, representative, Fall 1998-Winter 2001.
- . Editorial Board of Gender Matters. Fall 1999-Winter 2001.
- . Writing Skills Committee, Winter-Fall 1999.
- . Faculty Associate for the Pew Teaching and Learning center. Providing support for new faculty. Fall 2000-Winter 2001.
- . Participated in a six-week faculty seminar on "Integrating writing in the classroom" facilitated by Supplemental Writing Center and FTLC and Bob Mayberry, 2002.
- . Participated in "Every Fourth Friday Learning Community" for Mid-Career Women in Fall 2011 and Winter 2012.
- . Research and Development Committee. Winter 2015, Fall 2015-Winter 2016.

French section:

- . Coordinator of the French section: Fall 2003, academic years 2005-2006, 2007-2008, 2012-13, 2013-14.
- . Co-coordinator of the French section. Fall 2001-Winter 2005.

Developed, planned, wrote and implemented a thorough program change for French majors and minors therefore completely revamping the French program to provide more structure, consistency and above a solid education for French students. This work was done with the French section especially Prof. Dan Golembeski and Prof. Anne Caillaud.

Introduced and developed several courses as FRE 380 and FRE 480:

- FRE 380 Francophone Culture was later integrated in the program as FRE 312
- FRE 380 Francophone Literatures was later integrated in the program as FRE 420
- FRE 380 Introduction to French Literature was later integrated in the program as FRE 301, one of the core curriculum courses.
- FRE 380 Introduction to Translation was offered once, but resulted in the class project being published.
- FRE 480 African Cinema was offered once.

Worked on the renumbering of courses and revision of the curriculum with Prof. Pettes-Guikema and others, 2014-2015.

Worked on the assessment for French, and wrote the section report with colleague Prof. Anne Caillaud.

Organized a career in French conference in 2006 that was filmed and remains a reference in the MLL LRC.

Faculty mentor for French faculty (assistant professors, visitors and affiliates).

- . Pi Delta Phi (National French Honor Society) Moderator. Fall 1998-present.
- . Director for GVSU Summer Program in Aix-en-Provence, France, 1996 and 1998.

- . French Scholars' Forum, Chair, 1997-2001.
- . Faculty advisor for Le Cercle Français, Fall 1995-Fall 1996: Les Francophiles Fall 2018-
- . French Search Committee, Fall 1997, 2001, 2004.
- . Invited and organized the visit of the world-famous Congolese poet and writer Kama Sywor Kamanda to Grand Valley University, March 24 and 25, 2014. Kamanda gave a poetry reading and a talk on the Congo.
- . Invited and organized the visit of Professor Dragan Kujundzic (University of Florida) to present a screening of his two-part documentary: "Frozen Time, Liquid Memories, 1942-2012", Loosemore Auditorium, February 12, 2015. This documentary commemorates the anniversary of the round-up of the Jews in Serbia and in France in 1942.
- . Invited and organized the visit of the French Cultural Attaché, Mr. Denis Quénelle, from the French Consulate in Chicago. Put together a whole day and evening of events including meetings with the French Section members, the MLL Chair, the Dean of CLASS Fred Antczak, a group of French students, a visit to the LRC and the Library, attendance at two presentations (one by Professor Caillaud on Reacting to the Past, one by a student, Scott St Louis on Diderot); and finally, attendance at Méloides, our evening of French poetry and music. April 7, 2016.
- . Invited and organized the visit of Professor Brigitte Weltman-Aron (University of Florida) to give a presentation: "The Holocaust in France and the Digital and Virtual Archive," during a luncheon sponsored by the Joseph Stevens Freedom Endowment, February 13, 2015.
- . Invited and organized the visit of Professor Safoi Babana-Hampton (Michigan State University) to give a presentation on the two documentaries "Hmong Memory at the Crossroads" and "Growing up Hmong at the Crossroads" that she co-wrote, produced and co-directed. Loosemore Auditorium, February 28, 2018.
- . Invited and organized the visit of General consul of France, Guillaume Lacroix to give two presentations "Les sans-papiers, migrants venant du continent africain et d'ailleurs et la politique de la France pour les réfugiés et migrants" (mostly in French) Cook-Dewitt; and at Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Campus (5:30-7:00 p.m.): "Yellow Vests and the Political Situation in France" (mostly in English), September 18, 2019.
- . Organizer of the Méloides program once a semester, An evening of songs and poetry, October, 25, 2012; March 14, 2013; October 9, 2013; March 26, 2014; October 15, 2014; April 2, 2015; October 7, 2015; April 7, 2016, November 9, 2016; November 8, 2017, March 21, 2018; November, 7. 2018.
- . Performed French songs:
 - Méloides April 18, 2012: La vie en rose by Edith Piaf with Don Sikkema at the piano.
 - Méloides October 25, 2012: L'aigle noir by Barbara with Don Sikkema at the piano.
 - Méloides March 14, 2013: C'est si bon. Lyrics by Henri Betti, music by André Hornez with Don Sikkema at the piano.
 - Méloides October 9, 2013: Parlez-moi d'amour by Jean Lenoir with Don Sikkema at the piano.
 - Méloides March 26, 2014: D'une prison. Poem by Paul Verlaine. Music by Reynaldo Hahn. With Don Sikkema at the piano.ⁱ

Mélodies October 15, 2014: Offrande. Poem by Victor Hugo. Music by Reynaldo Hahn. With Don Sikkema at the piano.
Mélodies April 2, 2015: L'heure exquise. Poem, by Paul Verlaine. Music by Reynaldo Hahn. With Don Sikkema at the piano.
Mélodies October 7, 2015: Rêve d'amour. Poem by Victor Hugo. Music by Gabriel Fauré. With Don Sikkema at the piano.
Mélodies April 7, 2016: Le Voyage, Poem by Charles Baudelaire (read).
Mélodies November 9, 2016: Le mal de vivre, Song and music by Barbara. With Don Sikkema at the piano.
Mélodies November, 8, 2017: Je te veux, Song by Henry Pacory and music by Erik Satie. With Don Sikkema at the piano.
Mélodies March, 21, 2018: Petite fleur, Song by Fernand Bonifay and music by Sidney Bechet with Don Sikkema at the piano.
Mélodies November, 7, 2018: J'attendrai, Song by Louis Poterat and music by Dino Olivieri with Don Sikkema at the piano.
Mélodies March, 20, 2019: La Mer. Song by Charles Trenet with Don Sikkema at the piano.
International Water Poetry and Song Celebration April 3, 2019: La Mer. Song by Charles Trenet with Don Sikkema at the piano.
Mélodies November, 13, 2019: Nantes. Song and music by Barbara with Don Sikkema at the piano.

. Organizer of the Pot Franco, a French Happy hour for French alumni, French professors at Grand Valley State University and other universities and high schools in the area, and for French speakers and Francophiles in the community. Once a month on average. 2012-present.

Modern Language and Literatures Department:

- . Foreign Languages Department Outreach Committee to High Schools, member of the committee Winter 1994, Chair, Fall 1995-Winter 2001.
- . Faculty advisor for the Language House, Winter 1995-Fall 1999.
- . Language House Committee, Fall 1996-Fall 1998.
- . Library Liaison for the Department of Modern languages and Literatures. Fall 1998-Fall 1999.
- . Seeger Scholarship Committee, Fall 1997-2002.
- . Member of the Retention Committee, Fall 2011-Winter 2012.
- . Member of the Chair Selection Task force, Fall 2016.

Organization of sessions at conferences:

CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES ETUDES FRANCOPHONES:

- . President of the section "Nour-écriture" for the Congrès du CIEF, Toulouse, June 1996.
- . President of the section "L'odeur de l'autre" for the Congrès du CIEF, Guadeloupe, May 1997.
- . Secretary of the sections "les sans-papiers:légalité-l'égalité" and "Lectures Maghrébines III" for the Congrès du CIEF, Lafayette. May 1999.
- . President of the section "La poésie africaine sub-saharienne" for the Congrès du CIEF, Abidjan, May 2002.
- . Secretary of the section "Les femmes dans la littérature algérienne" for the Congrès du CIEF, La Rochelle, May 2018.

MIDWEST MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION:

- . Secretary for the MMLA "Modern Literature" section, 1994.
- . President for the "Modern Literature" section, topic "Flowers and Seeds." Saint Louis, November 1995.

- . Secretary for the section "French III: Contemporary Issues in French Studies." Chicago, November 1997.
- . President for the section "French III: Contemporary Issues in French Studies." Topic: "Odeurs d'ici et d'ailleurs." Saint Louis, November 1998.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

- . Contributing Editor, Comparative Literature Newsletter, 1990.

SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

- . President, Association of U.S.C. French Graduate Students, 1990-91.

MEMBERSHIPS:

- . Pi Delta Phi.
- . Conseil International des Etudes Francophones.
- . L'Alliance française of Grand Rapids. Board Member since August 2015

LANGUAGES:

- . French: native.
- . English: near native.
- . Spanish: fluent.
- . German: basic reading knowledge.
- . Tibetan: basic reading knowledge.
- . Italian: beginner level.

PERSONAL:

- . U.S. Citizen and French Citizen.
- . Lived in the French West Indies for four years and in Africa (Kenya and Ivory Coast)
