

## **Pim Higginson**

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures  
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### **EDUCATION**

**Ph.D.**, University of California at Berkeley, in Comparative Literature. December 1997.

**Dissertation:** *Disenchanted Race* analyzes the relationship between music and literature, and how this relationship participates in the construction of race. It is based on theoretical texts from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and the literary works of French author and songwriter Boris Vian (1920-59) and African-American novelist Chester Himes (1909-1984).

**Committee:** Avital Ronell, Chair; Michael Lucey; Abdul JanMohamed; Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe.

**B.A.** University of California at Berkeley in Comparative Literature. December 1990.

Contra Costa College, CA. Culinary Arts Program. 1986-1987.

Berklee College of Music. 1982-1983

### **TEACHING POSITIONS**

Professor of Global French Studies, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Fall 2016-Present

Professor, Bryn Mawr College, Department of French and Francophone Studies.  
2015-2016.

Associate Professor, Bryn Mawr College, Department of French and Francophone Studies. 2006-2015.

Assistant Professor, Bryn Mawr College, Department of French and Francophone Studies. 2000-2006.

Assistant Professor, Simon's Rock College of Bard. Department of Languages and Literatures. 1997-2000.

Lecturer, Swarthmore College, Department of Languages and Literatures.  
1996-1997.

Visiting Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico Francophone Summer Program. 1998.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Bryn Mawr College Avignon Summer Program.  
2003.

Visiting Associate Professor, UC Santa Barbara Summer Institute in French and Francophone Studies.  
2006.

Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Romance Languages, University of Pennsylvania. Spring  
2012.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

#### **University of New Mexico**

Member, Faculty Senate Budget Committee, 2021-Present

Member Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee 2021-Present  
Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures Committee on Workload Policy, Fall 2022  
College Senior Promotion Committee, 2021-2022  
Acting Chair of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Nov. 1, 2017-June 30, 2018  
Director of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, 2016-2019

### **Bryn Mawr College**

Chair of French and Francophone Studies, BMC, 2009-2012; Spring 2013; 2014-2016  
Director of Africana Studies, 2009-2012  
Committee on Academic Priorities, 2007-2011  
Chair of the Committee on Academic Priorities, 2010-2011  
Steering Committee of Comparative Literature and African Studies, 2000-2016  
Sub-Committee on Independent Majors, 2004-2006  
Bryn Mawr Diversity Council, Faculty at Large Member, 2004-2007  
Selection Committee, Bryn Mawr Rockefeller Foundation in Residence Fellow for CECSP, 2003-2005  
Committee on Undergraduate Awards and Fellowships, 2000-2003

### **Other:**

Teacher Education Committee  
Graduate Council  
Library Committee  
Kaleidoscope Steering Committee  
Globalization Sub-Committee of the Curricular Renewal  
Numerous Search Committees (principally for French and Comparative Literature)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

*Scoring Race: Jazz, Fiction, and Francophone Africa*

James Currey. African Articulations, Stephanie Newell and Ranka Primorac, Editors. Boydell and Brewer, 2017.

Draws on critical race theory, aesthetics, cultural studies, musicology, and postcolonial studies to examine the convergence of aesthetics and race in Western thought and to explore the impact of this convergence on Francophone African literature.

*The Noir Atlantic: Chester Himes and the Birth of the Francophone African Crime Novel*,  
Liverpool University Press, 2011.

Traces the influence of African American author Chester Himes on the growing popularity of crime fiction among Francophone African authors in the last twenty years and seeks to demonstrate that this shift to a "paraliterary" genre actively challenges esthetic and ideological models of writing inherited from the colonial experience.

### **Edited volume**

*Positively Popular: African Culture in the Mainstream.*

Special issue of *Research in African Literatures*, vol. 39, no 4, Winter 2008.

### **Journal Articles**

"What Is and Where is Francophone African Popular Fiction?" in *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*. Tsitsi Jaji and L. Saint, eds, vol 4, no 2, 2017: 207-221.

“Chester Himes and the Frivolous Literary,” in *AR3 Magazine*, vol 2, no 4, 2016: 40-42.

“Popular Perceptions: Voice and Genre in Félix Couchoro’s Crime Fiction”  
*Journal of Postcolonial Writing* vol 49, no 1, 2013: 87-99.

“Into the Jungle: Jazz, Writing, and Francophone African Transnationalism”  
*Yale French Studies* vol 120, 2011: 88-99.

“Tortured Bodies, Loved Bodies: Gendering African Popular Fiction”  
*Research in African Literatures*, vol 39, no 4, Winter 2008: 133-146.

“A Descent into Crime: Explaining Mongo Beti’s Last Two Novels”  
*International Journal of Francophone Studies*, vol 10, no 3, Nov. 2007: 377-392.

“The Well-Tempered Savage: Albert Schweitzer, Music and Imperial Deafness.” *Research in African Literatures*, vol 36, no 4, Winter 2005: 205-22.

“Blood on the Canon: The Advent of the African Polar.”  
*Yale French Studies*, vol 108, 2005: 160-176.

“Le Gwo-Ka de la parole chantée dans *Solibo Magnifique* de Patrick Chamoiseau.” *Studies in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literature*, vol 28, no 3, Summer 2004: 411-27.

“Of Dogs and Men: *La Belle Créole* and the Global Subject.” *Romanic Review*, vol 94, nos 3-4, May-Nov. 2003: 291-308.

“The Rantings of Vian/Sullivan: Race Undercover.” *Cincinnati Romance Review*, vol. 17, 1998: 49-57.

### **Book chapters**

“Musicien de jazz: Une double impossibilité?” *Quand les musiciens de jazz s’écrivent*, Pierre Fargeton and Yannick Seité, editors. Saint-Etienne UP, 2023. (Forthcoming)

“The Grottes d’Ouvéa: French Colonialism’s Last Battle?” *Post-Colonial Realms of Memory*, Lydie Moudileno and Etienne Achille, editors. Liverpool UP, 2020

“Drinking Scenes: Alcohol in the Francophone African Novel.” *Routledge Handbook of African Literature*, Moradewun Adejunmobi and Carli Coetzee, editors. Routledge, 2019

“Armed and Dangerous: The ‘Le Poulpe Phenomenon’ in *Dying for More: Studies in Serial Crime Fiction*. Jean Anderson, Carolina Miranda, Barbara Pezzotti, eds. Palgrave, 2015.

“Un cahier de racines: Maryse Condé et la traversée impossible” in *Maryse Condé: Une nomade inconvenante*. Madeleine Cotenet-Hages and Lydie Moudileno, eds. Ibis Rouge, 2002: 95-105.

“Pigs and Birds: Ferdinand Oyono's Colonial Zoology.” in *Sont-il bons, sont-ils méchants? Usages des stéréotypes*, Christian Garaud, ed. Honoré Champion, 2001:123-31.

“Eating Your Way Out: Food as Resistance in the Novels of Francophone Africa.” *French Food: On the Table, On the Page, and in French Culture*. Lawrence R. Schehr and Allen S. Weiss, eds. Routledge, 2001: 170-83.

### **Translations**

*Cruel City* by Mongo Beti, with an extensive translator’s critical introduction.  
Indiana University Press, 2013.

“Living Kinshasa: From Colonial Modernization to Globalization” by Bogumil Jewsiewicki. *Research in African Literatures*, vol 39, no 4, 2008.

“Labou Tansi’s *La Vie et Demie*, or the Tortuous Path of the Fable” by Lydie Moudileno. *Research in African Literatures*, vol 29, no 3, 1998: 21-33.

“Portrait of the Artist as a Dreamer in Maryse Condé’s *Traversée de la mangrove* and *Les Derniers rois mages*” by Lydie Moudileno. *Callaloo*, vol 18, no 3, 1995.

#### **Book reviews**

Goulet, Andrea. *Legacies of the Rue Morgue: Science, Space, and Crime Fiction in France, Modern Philology*, vol 115,, no 3, Feb. 2018.

Janes, Lauren. *Colonial Food in Interwar Paris. The Taste of Empire* Contemporary French Civilization, vol 42, nos 3–4, 2017.

Loichot, Valérie. *The Tropics Bite Back: Culinary Coups in Caribbean Literature*, in *Contemporary French Civilization*, vol 39,, no 2, 2014.

Claire Gorrara ed. *French Crime Fiction*, in *Contemporary French Civilization*, vol 36, no 2, 2011.

Hargreaves, Alec, ed. *Memory, Empire, and Postcolonialism: Legacies of French Colonialism* in *French Forum*, vol 38, no 3, 2007.

Madeleine Dobie. *Foreign Bodies: Gender, Language and Culture in French Orientalism* in *Bryn Mawr Review of Comparative Literature*, vol 4, no 1, 2003.

Martine Antle. *Cultures du Surréalisme: les représentation de l’autre* in *French Forum*, vol 76, no 4, 2003.

#### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS**

Villanova University,

*Princesse tam tam* and Josephine Baker’s “Self-Commodification”

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Invited Lecture

American Comparative Literature Association Conference,

*Models of Freedom: The Bildungsroman, Africa and World Literature*

“Boto’s Boomerang: Lines of Flight and Circular Trajectories in Mongo Bete’s ‘Ville Cruelle’.”

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Quand les musiciens de jazz “s’écrivent.”

Colloquium at the University of Saint Étienne

Saint-Etienne, France (via zoom)

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Keynote Address

Interview on Chester Himes with Vincent Dowd for the BBC’s “Witnessing History”

Broadcast December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Albuquerque International Association,

“Josephine Baker and the Ambiguities of Race in France”

Invited Lecture,

Albuquerque, NM, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

*UNM Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies Annual Conference*

“What is a Network?”

Organizer and Chair

Albuquerque, NM, Apr.11, 2019

*Annual 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Century French and Francophone Studies Conference,*  
"Boris Vian and *J'irai cracher sur vos tombes*: Looking Forward/Looking Back"  
Brown University, Providence, RI, Apr.12-14, 2018

*African Literatures Association Annual Conference*  
"Nibbling at the Margins: Foodways in a Postcolonial State"  
Yale University, New Haven, CT, June 14-17, 2017

*UNM Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies Annual Conference*  
"What is Trash?"  
Organizer and Chair  
Albuquerque, NM, Apr.12, 2017

*Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association*  
"The Culinary and the Cooked: Foodways and Resistance in Francophone African Literature"  
Pasadena, CA, Nov. 11-13, 2016

*Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association*  
"Tram 83: Fiston Mwenza Mujila and the (un)Masking of Jazz"  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, Mar. 17-20, 2016

*Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association*  
"Black Atlantic Riffs: Jazz in Francophone Sub-Saharan African Contexts"  
Portland, OR, Nov. 6-8, 2015

*University of North Carolina*  
Invited Speaker. The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History  
"Armstrong Plays Kinshasa: A Case Study"  
Chapel Hill, NC, Oct. 23, 2015

*Rencontres scientifiques du festival Cinejazz, laboratoire SeFeA de la Sorbonne Nouvelle, Esthétique(s)*  
Jazz : la scène et les images  
"Déjouer' l'instrument: jazz et l'ontologie raciale"  
Fondation Dapper. Paris France, Nov. 28-29, 2014

*African Studies Association of the United Kingdom Conference*  
Panel Organizer (with Ranka Primorak) of *Literature and Africa's Networks*  
Presenter, "Parisian Ghosts: Representing Jazz in the Francophone African Novel"  
University of Sussex, Brighton, England, Sept. 9-11, 2014

*Gettysburg French Department Guest Lecture Series*  
Invited speaker  
"Noir C'est Noir: Race, Writing, and the Francophone African Crime Novel"  
Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA, April 10, 2014

*La critique de jazz (genres, régimes d'écriture, médiums, figures).*  
Invited Speaker  
"Romancier africain, critique de jazz : Ousmane Socé, Emmanuel Dongala, Kangni Alem". Université Paris Diderot, Paris, France, Feb. 6-7, 2014

*Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA) Conference*

"Jazz and the French Atlantic Triangle"  
Loyola University, Milwaukee, WI, Nov. 7-10, 2012

*Crime and its Fictions in Africa*

Invited Speaker

Discussion of *The Noir Atlantic: Chester Himes and the Birth of the Francophone African Crime Novel*

Yale University, New Haven, CT, Mar. 22-23, 2012

*Round Table: Defining the Public Intellectual through Gender Research and Advocacy*

Invited speaker

"New Models for Interdisciplinary Learning: Bryn Mawr College and the 360 Program"

University of Ghana, Lagon, Ghana, Mar. 9, 2012

*Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA) Conference,*

"The Postcolonial Soundtrack"

Scripps College, Claremont, CA, November 5-6, 2011.

*African Studies Association of the United Kingdom (ASAUK) Conference,*

"An Archeology of Crime: Felix Couchoro and the Sources of Francophone African Noir"

St. Antony's College, Oxford University, Oxford, England, Sept. 16-19, 2010

*Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association*

Creoles, Diasporas, Cosmopolitanisms

"From Dongala to Beti: Utopia, Pessimism, and Jazz in the Francophone African Novel"

New Orleans, LA, April 1-4, 2010

*Conventions & Conversions. Generic Innovations in African Literature*

Invited Speaker

"Converting to the Frivolous: Explaining the African Crime Novel"

Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, Mar. 1-4, 2010

*The Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Conference*

"Chester Himes and the Birth of African Noir"

San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA, Nov. 6-7, 2009

*The African Literature Association Conference*

"Chester Himes and the African Crime Novel"

University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, April 15-19, 2009

*Chester Himes: A Centennial Symposium, 1909- 2009*

Invited speaker

"Tone Death: Himes, Blackness, and Music"

Penn State University, State College, PA, Mar. 2, 2009

*French and Francophone Studies Program*

Wine and Globalization: A Roundtable and Reception

Invited speaker

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, May 22, 2007

*French and Francophone Studies Program*

"An Introduction to African Noir"

Invited speaker

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, May 21, 2007

*Annual Graduate Romanic Association Conference*

Keynote address

“Scripting the Self, Playing the Other: Writing, Music, and Race”

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, Mar. 17, 2007

*20th and 21st Century French and Francophone International Conference*

“Teaching Mongo Beti’s *Ville Cruelle*”

Texas A&M, College Station, TX, Mar. 21-24, 2007

*Boundaries and limits of Postcolonialism: Anglophone, Francophone, Global*

“Beti’s Rise to Crime”

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2006

*Francophone Studies in the Twenty-First Century*

Mellon-8 workshop Invited speaker

“Romance into Crime: The Case of Aïda Diallo”

Smith College, Northampton, MA, Apr. 8, 2006

*20th and 21st Century French and Francophone International Conference*

“Mongo Beti’s Turn to Crime”

Miami University, Miami, FL, Mar. 29-Apr. 2, 2006

*Current Debates in African Studies, African Studies Center*

Invited speaker

“Loved Bodies, Tortured Bodies”

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, Mar. 24, 2006

*Kentucky Foreign Language Conference,*

Invited speaker, organizer and session chair

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, Apr. 21-23, 2005

*Roundtable on African Popular Culture*

Invited speaker

“Same Crime, Different Place: Literary Vernacular in A. Ngoye's Hard-Boiled Fiction”

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, Apr. 15, 2005

*20th and 21st Century International French and Francophone Studies Conference*

“Writing Crime and the Crime of Writing: The Cold Case of Sembene Ousmane’s *Le Docker noir*.”

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, Mar. 31-Apr. 2, 2005

*Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, April 24-26, 2003.*

Invited speaker, organizer and session chair and panelist)

“Disturbing Affiliations: Getting Beyond *Françafrique*”

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, Apr. 24-26, 2003

*Cuvée Noire: Les sociétés africaines au miroir de leurs littératures policières*

Invited speaker

“Literature, Comic Strips and Cinema in an African Context”

Liège, Belgium, April 4-6, 2003

*Colloquium in Twentieth-Century French and Francophone Studies*

*Cultural Capital: Canons, Cultures and Contexts*

“Blood on the Canon: The African Polar”

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Mar. 27-30, 2003



*Thinking Beyond Borders: Globalization and Universalism in the Francophone World* (invited speaker)  
“Njami/Himes contre la Françafrique”  
Miami University of Ohio, Miami, OH, Feb. 11-12, 2003

*Mongo Beti Remembered*  
(Invited speaker)

“Blood on the Streets: Mongo Beti’s Crime Fiction”  
Columbia University, New York, NY, Oct. 5, 2002

*(Dis)Locating Francophonie: New Voices in the Discipline.* (Conference organizer)  
“Le Grand Blanc de Lambéréne: Music as a counter-narrative in African Film”  
Haverford/Bryn Mawr Francophone Studies Conference  
Haverford College, Haverford, PA, Apr. 19, 2002

*FIU Conference on World Cinema*

“An African Counterpoint: Albert Schweitzer, Music, and the Colonial Project in *Le Grand Blanc de Lambaréne*”  
Florida International University, Miami, FL, Jan. 28-29, 2002

*African Literature Forum*

Invited speaker

“The Well-Tempered Savage: Albert Schweitzer, Music and Imperial Deafness”  
Africa and Latin America: Forging New Identities through Film, Literature and Music State University of  
New York, Plattsburgh, NY, Nov. 8, 2001

*Kentucky Foreign Language Conference*

Invited speaker

“Mayhem at the Crossroads: Modernity, Post-modernity and Rumor in African Pulp”  
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, Apr.1-3, 2001

*Annual African Literature Association Conference*

Session Chair, “Popular Fiction and Video” and presenter of “Men in Black: Representations of  
Masculinity in African Diaspora Crime Fiction”  
University of Richmond, Richmond, VA, April 4-8, 2001

*Colloquium in 21<sup>st</sup> Century French and Francophone Studies*

“Music and Language: Some Early Encounters”

UC Davis, Davis CA, March 12-14-2001

*Annual African Literature Association Conference*

“The Roman Noir of the African Diaspora”

Kansas City, MO, April 12-14, 2000

*Colloquium in Twentieth-Century French and Francophone Studies*

“Vian on/as Jazz”

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, Mar. 30-Apr. 2, 2000

*The Second International Conference in Caribbean Literature*

“How They Faced the Music Behind Them”

Bermuda, Nov. 3-7, 1999

*Colloquium in Twentieth-Century French and Francophone Studies*

“Le Gwo-Ka de la parole chantée dans *Solibo Magnifique* de Patrick Chamoiseau”



University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, Mar. 25-27, 1999

*The First International Conference on Caribbean Literature*

"Crossing Roots: Distopian Identity in Maryse Condé's *Traversée de la Mangrove*"

Session Chair, "Créolité et Littérature." Nassau, Bahamas, Nov. 4-8, 1998

*SORAC (Society of Research on African Cultures)*

"Africa as the Mystery Novel: The Case of Boileau-Narcejac's *Maléfices*"

Montclair University, Montclair, NJ, Oct. 22-24, 1998

*New Mexico Francophone Summer Institute,*

Louis Malle's *Ascenseur pour l'échaffaud*: Lecture and projection

University of New Mexico, Santa Fe, NM, July 1, 1998

*Colloquium in Twentieth-Century French and Francophone Studies*

"Pigs and Birds: Ferdinand Oyono's Colonial Zoology"

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, Mar. 26-28, 1998

*Simon's Rock College Faculty Lecture Series.*

Presentation and discussion of Mathieu Kassovitz's film *La Haine*.

Simon's Rock College, Great Barrington, MA, Mar. 24, 1998

*Simon's Rock College Faculty Lecture Series*

"'What the Hell Is Going On?' Lewinski, Clinton, and Why the French Now *Know We're Insane*"

Simon's Rock College, Great Barrington, MA, Feb. 23, 1998

*Modern Language Association*

"'Cette voix créole un peu voilée': Diffused Marginalities in George Sand's *Indiana*"

Toronto, Canada, Dec. 27-30, 1997

*Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures*

"The Rantings of Vian/Sullivan: Race Undercover"

University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, April 13-16, 1996