

BLASE A. PROVITOLA
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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Language and Culture Studies and Women, Gender, and Sexuality July 2022–Present
Trinity College, Hartford, CT

Visiting Assistant Professor of Language and Culture Studies | Trinity College, Hartford, CT Sept. 2019–June 2022

EDUCATION

M.A., M. Phil., Ph.D., Columbia University | Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, New York, NY October 2019
French with a concentration in Comparative Literature, GPA: 4.1
M.A. May 2014 M.Phil. Oct. 2015

Dissertation: “Sex, Race, and the Epistemology of Desire in Contemporary Francophone Literature and Culture”
Analyzes the impact of race and class on sexual identity in lesbian and queer women’s cultural production
Supervisors: Madeleine Dobie, Joseph Massad, Emmanuelle Saada | Readers: Eric Fassin, Camille Robcis

M.A. Thesis: “The Representation of the *Moudjahida* in Francophone Literature”
Examines the portrayal of female resistance fighters in literary representations of the Algerian Revolution

B.A., Haverford College | Haverford, PA May 2011
Comparative Literature with a concentration in Gender Studies, GPA: 3.97
Thesis: “*Écriture féminine* in Assia Djebar’s *L’Amour, la fantasia* and Nawal el Saadawi’s *Innocence of the Devil*”
High honors, Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Postcolonial studies • Gender and sexuality studies • Feminist and LGBT literature and social movements •
20th- and 21st-century intellectual history and literary theory • North Africa and its diasporas • Transgender studies
• Transnational queer theory • Inclusive pedagogy • Graphic novels and *bandes dessinées*

PUBLICATIONS (ORCID 0000-0002-7378-4606)

“TERF or Transfeminist *avant la lettre*?: Monique Wittig’s Complex Legacy in Trans Studies.” *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 9, Issue 3 (August 2022, special issue: “Trans-Exclusionary Feminisms and the Global New Right”), 387–406. [DOI: 10.1215/23289252-9836050](https://doi.org/10.1215/23289252-9836050).

“Laborious Intimacies: Sexual Identity as Work in Mireille Best’s *Il n’y a pas d’hommes au paradis* [There are no men in heaven].” In Siham Bouamer and Sonja Stojanovic (eds.), *‘Taking up Space’: Women at Work in Contemporary France* (forthcoming 2022, University of Wales Press, French and Francophone Studies series).

“Teaching French Feminisms from an Intersectional Perspective.” In Siham Bouamer and Loïc Bourdeau (eds.), *Diversity and Decolonization in French Studies* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022), 151–63. [DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-95357-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-95357-7).

“Faut-il choisir?: non-binarité et transidentité dans les cours de langue française (Having to choose?: non-binarity and transgender identity in French language courses).” In Louisa Mackenzie and Vinay Swamy (eds.), *Devenir non-binaire en français contemporain* (Becoming non-binary in contemporary French, 2022, Éditions Le Manuscrit).

"In Visibilities: The *Groupe du 6 novembre* and the Production of Liberal Lesbian Identity in Contemporary France." *Modern & Contemporary France*, Vol. 27, Issue 2 (2019, special issue: "Beyond Gay Liberation: France's Other Sexual Minorities"), 223–41. DOI: [10.1080/09639489.2019.1586660](https://doi.org/10.1080/09639489.2019.1586660).

"Faut-il choisir?: Transgender Access to the French Language Classroom," *H-France Salon* Vol. 11, issue 14 (July 2019, special issue on non-binary gender and pronouns in French).

"Feminism in the 'Father Book': Complicating the Emancipation Narrative in Assia Djebar's *Nowhere in my Father's House*." *Romanic Review* 106 (Jan.–Nov. 2015), Issue 1–4, 71–92.

BOOK REVIEWS (ORCID 0000-0002-7378-4606)

"Anti-Zionism versus anti-homophobia?" Review of Sa'ed Atshan's *Queer Palestine and the Empire of Critique* (SUP, 2020). *The Electronic Intifada*. 24 September 2020.

"Transgender Justice and the Administration of Sex/Gender." Review article of Heath Fogg Davis's *Beyond Trans: Does Gender Matter?* (NYU Press, 2017). *Journal of the International Network for Sexual Ethics & Politics*, Vol. 8, Sept. 2020 (special issue on non-binary sexual ethics and politics), pp. 109–17.

"Resisting the Ruses of Liberalism." Review of Joseph Massad's *Islam in Liberalism* (University of Chicago Press, 2015). *Journal of Politics, Religion & Ideology* 107 (2016), no. 4, 382–85.

"Why Liberalism Needs Islam." Co-authored with Daniel Steinmetz-Jenkins. *Los Angeles Review of Books* 11 (Sept. 2015).

SELECTED TRANSLATIONS

Milkovitch-Rioux, Catherine. "Assia Djebar's Mourners." *Romanic Review* 106 (Jan.–Nov. 2015), Issue 1–4, 29–45.

Jodorowsky, Alejandro, José Ladronn and Mœbius. *Final Incal*. Los Angeles: Humanoids, Inc., 2014.

Gabus, Pierre and Romuald Reutimann. *District 14, Season 2*. Los Angeles: Humanoids, Inc., 2014.
Awarded "Best New Series" at the 2012 International *bande dessinée* festival in Angoulême.

Ricard, Bruno and Sylvain. *Beirut 1990: Snapshots of a Civil War*. Los Angeles: Humanoids, Inc., 2013.

Jodorowsky, Alejandro. *The Shadow's Treasure*. Los Angeles: Humanoids, Inc., 2012.

INVITED TALKS

"What can transgender studies bring to the French classroom?" | Maison Française, Columbia University April 2022

"Savoir situé, savoirs situés: le cas non-binaire" (presenter & roundtable discussant) | Reid Hall, Paris Feb. 2022
[Situating knowledge, situated knowledges: the case of non-binary]
Symposium organized upon the release of *Devenir non-binaire en français contemporain*

"Non-Binarity, Gender Inclusivity, and Power in the Language Classroom" | Smith College, MA April 2021

"Lesbian of Color Literature and Activism in Contemporary France" | Bennington College, VT May 2018

"Faut-il choisir?: Trans Access to the French Language Classroom" | Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY April 2018
Conference: "Legitimizing 'iel': Language and the Trans Community in Francophone and Anglophone Spaces"

CONFERENCES

"Nous, les homosexuels': Sexual Citizenship in Nina Bouraoui's Texts and Paratexts" May 2022
Women in French Conference (virtual, hosted by Iowa State University)
Panel: "Nina Bouraoui: Beyond Margins?"

<p>“The Racialization of Gender Subversion in Adel Tincelin’s <i>On n’a que deux vies</i> and Nicola Maï’s <i>Samira</i>” Modern Language Association Conference (Washington, DC; panel conducted virtually) Women in French Sponsored Panel: “Voices of Empowerment: French and Francophone Perspectives”</p>	Jan. 2022
<p>“Narratives of Medical Transition in Contemporary French Literature” Contemporary Womxn’s Writing and the Medical Humanities Conference (virtual) School of Advanced Study, University of London</p>	July 2021
<p>“Decolonizing Queer Interpretations of Nina Bouraoui’s <i>Tomboy</i>” Conference: Queer Epistemicides: Languages, Knowledges, Sexualities (virtual) School of Modern Languages, University of Saint Andrews, UK</p>	April 2021
<p>“Gender Neutrality in French: A Transfeminist Issue” Power of Language Conference (virtual) Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT</p>	April 2021
<p>“Queer of Color Critiques: The Other Transatlantic Queer Theory” (presenter and panel organizer) 20th and 21st-Century French and Francophone Studies Colloquium (virtual) Panel: “The New Normal is the Old Normal: Sexuality and Race in a Postcolonial Frame”</p>	March 2021
<p>“Teaching French Feminism from an Intersectional Perspective” Diversity, Decolonization and the French Curriculum Conference (virtual)</p>	Nov. 2020
<p>“Trans Rights and the Challenges of Resisting Co-optation in the Media” Northeast Modern Language Association Conference (Boston, MA)</p>	March 2020
<p>“Monique Wittig’s Legacy: A Transfeminist Perspective” Drafting Monique Wittig (Yale University, New Haven, CT)</p>	Oct. 2019
<p>“European Perspectives on Queer Comics” (roundtable participant) Queers & Comics Conference (School of Visual Arts, New York, NY)</p>	May 2019
<p>“Anticolonial Desires: What’s Queer about Léonora Miano’s <i>Crépuscule du tourment?</i>” Modern Language Association Conference (Chicago, IL)</p>	Jan. 2019
<p>“Bodies Politic: Utopian World-making between Carnality and Corporeality” (seminar organizer) Northeast Modern Language Association Conference (University of Pittsburgh, PA)</p>	April 2018
<p>“Sexual Repression, Gender Terrorism, and Regulatory Queerness” Lavender Languages & Literatures Conference (University of Nottingham, UK)</p>	April 2017
<p>“Representations of Queer Racialized Women’s Sexualities in the <i>Banlieues</i>” Northeast Modern Language Association Conference (University of Maryland, Baltimore)</p>	March 2017
<p>“Burqas, Bikinis, and the Gendered Policing of Bodies in (Neo)Colonial Contexts” (panel organizer) American Comparative Literature Association Conference (Harvard University, Cambridge, MA)</p>	March 2016
<p>“Towards a Critique of French LGBT Rights Discourse” Northeast Modern Language Association Conference (Toronto, Canada)</p>	May 2015
<p>“Pour une critique épistémologique de l’homonationalisme français” Sexual (Dis)Continuities Conference (CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY)</p>	Feb. 2015
<p>“Marginality and Queer Community in Sébastien Lifshitz’s <i>Wild Side</i>” American Comparative Literature Association Conference (New York University, New York, NY)</p>	March 2014

- “Homonormativity and Corporeal Resistance to Authenticity in France” (presenter and co-organizer) Feb. 2014
French Graduate Student Association Conference (Columbia University, New York, NY)
- “Mariama Bâ’s Repositioning of Black Women in the Negritude Movement” March 2013
French Graduate Student Association Conference (Columbia University, New York, NY)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Mellon Inclusive Teaching and Advising Grant | Center for Teaching and Learning, Trinity College 2021
Received for a collaborative faculty initiative to improve learning outcomes for LGBTQ+ students
- Faculty Research Expense Grant | Trinity College [postponed to Summer 2021 due to Covid-19] Summer 2020
Awarded for archival research in Paris related to current book manuscript
- Center for Teaching and Learning Fellowship | Center for Teaching and Learning, Trinity College 2019–21
Awarded for the development of diverse French-language teaching materials (2019–20) and mastery-based teaching approaches to grammar and composition (2020–21)
- Summer Research Fellowship | French Department, Columbia University Summer 2018
Received funding to complete archival dissertation research in Paris and Marseille
- Alliance Doctoral Mobility Grant | Alliance Program, Columbia University Spring 2017
Awarded to conduct dissertation research in Paris under the direction of Marianne Blidon (Paris I)
- Georges Lurcy Fellowship | Georges Lurcy Charitable and Educational Trust 2016–17
Awarded for dissertation research promoting Franco-American exchange
- École Normale Supérieure Fellowship | Columbia University 2016–17
Given to post-MPhil graduate students to pursue research at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris
- Senior Lead Teaching Fellowship | Center for Teaching and Learning, Columbia University 2015–16
Mentored Lead Teaching Fellows and led workshops on inclusive pedagogy in the language classroom
- Lead Teaching Fellowship | Center for Teaching and Learning, Columbia University 2014–15
Expanded French language teaching resources and organized regular pedagogy workshops
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships | Columbia University 2013–15
Grant for intensive Arabic language study in New York (2014–15) and Amman, Jordan (Summer 2013)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (PORTFOLIO AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)

- Trinity College** | Hartford, CT 2019–Present
- FREN401: Senior Seminar (Spring 2021)
 - FREN241: Advanced Composition and Style (2020–21, Spring 2022)
 - FREN355: Intersectional French Feminisms (Fall 2020)
 - FREN247: Introduction to Francophone Studies (Fall 2020, Spring 2022)
 - FREN355: Sex and Gender in Contemporary Franco-Maghrebi Cultures (Spring 2020)
 - FREN202: Intermediate French II (2019–20)
 - FREN101–102: Elementary French I & II (2019–20)
- Columbia University Global Programs** | Reid Hall, Paris Summer 2019
- FREN OC3829: Subversive Paris: Protest in Contemporary Francophone Literature and Visual Cultures

Bennington College | Bennington, VT
FRE4806: Race and Gender in Franco-Maghrebi Literature and Film

Spring 2019

Columbia University | New York, NY

2013–18

COCI CC1101: Introduction to Contemporary Civilization in the West (2017–18)

FREN UN3600: France Past and Present: Introduction to French Civilization (Spring 2016)

FREN UN1201: Intermediate French I (Fall 2014)

FREN UN1101–1102: Elementary French I & II (2013–2014)

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Member | Task Force on the Status of Women, Trinity College March 2021–Present
Researched and formulated recommendations to promote the success and well-being of women and gender minorities at Trinity, including as a member of the sub-committee on campus climate and safety.
- Member | Diversity, Decolonization, and the French Curriculum Collective March 2021–Present
Participated in the Collective’s first Action Group on “mentoring for people minoritized in and by our field(s).”
- Co-Facilitator | LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Affinity Group, Trinity College Sept. 2020–Present
Organized meetings and facilitated events to build community amongst LGBTQ+ faculty, staff, and students
- Moderator | French Language and Inclusive Pedagogies Group, Vassar College May 2018–Present
Managed an online sharing platform devoted to gender inclusivity in language pedagogy; monitored discussion threads and organized virtual discussion groups on transgender issues and gender neutrality
- Translator and Editorial Assistant | Humanoids, Inc., Los Angeles & Paris 2011–19
Translated French graphic novels (remotely); served as editorial assistant (2011–2012 full-time in Paris office)
- Peer Counselor and Advocate | Gay Health Advocacy Project, Columbia University Fall 2017–Spring 2019
Counseled students on sexual health; edited and developed materials related to transgender health
- Research and Archiving Fellow | Office of Academic Affairs, Columbia University Fall 2018
Conducted archival research to aid in development of academic curriculum and policies, as part of a competitive professional development program in academic administration
- Subscriptions Manager | *The Romanic Review*, Columbia University Spring 2013–Fall 2015
Managed web page, communications, and subscriber database for quarterly romance languages journal
- Modern Salon Co-Organizer | French Department, Columbia University 2012–13
Organized quarterly speakers for a forum on 19th–21st century French and Francophone literature
- Research Assistant | Hurford Humanities Center, Haverford College 2010–11
Assisted in planning exhibitions and compiling accompanying materials for the college’s art gallery
- Member | Gender & Sexuality Studies Steering Committee, Haverford College 2010–11
Conducted research to develop new major; advised peers; organized speakers and expositions
- Peer Adviser | Center for Peace and Global Citizenship, Haverford College, Haverford, PA 2010–11
Advised students applying for summer internship funding; organized and compiled application materials
- Research and Translation Intern | SOS Racisme, Paris Spring 2010
Translated legal documents and researched antiracist organizations in the United States and Europe

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

Languages: English (fluent), French (near-native fluency), Modern Standard Arabic and Spanish (proficient)

Software: Microsoft Office Suite, Google Suite, HTML, Adobe Photoshop and InDesign, Zoom

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Comparative Literature Association

Diversity, Decolonization, and the French Curriculum Collective

GL/Q Caucus for the Modern Languages

Modern Language Association

Women in French