

## FRANCOPOCO (Francophone Colonial and Postcolonial) Network



The University of Birmingham FRANCOPOCO Network was launched in March 2010 to promote learning and teaching, research and knowledge transfer in Francophone Colonial and Postcolonial Studies.

Francophone Postcolonial Studies is a growth field in the UK and internationally, encouraging researchers and students to explore new boundaries within the discipline of French Studies. The teaching and research activities carried out

within the framework of the FRANCOPOCO Network situate cultural works (literature, film and other forms of cultural production) in their global context, exploring historical, political and economic contexts and considering evolving relationships between France, Europe and the wider world.

The FRANCOPOCO network harnesses the research and teaching expertise of University of Birmingham academics in French Studies whose work spans the major French-speaking areas around the world, including analysis of the early modern and modern eras.

New [MA in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies](http://schools/lcahm/departments/french/news/2014/ma-colonial-postcolonial-studies.aspx) launched.

### Staff and areas of expertise

- [Dr Craig Blunt](http://staff/profiles/french/blunt-craig.aspx) Algeria and the legacy of the Algerian War
- [Dr Béatrice Damamme-Gilbert](http://staff/profiles/french/damamme-gilbert-beatrice.aspx) Literary representations of colonial and postcolonial cultures (African, Mauritian, Mexican and Amerindian, and Oceanian) in J.M.G. Le Clézio's work.
- [Dr Sarah Fishwick](http://staff/profiles/french/fishwick-sarah.aspx) Francophone Women Writers
- [Dr Louise Hardwick](http://staff/profiles/french/hardwick-louise.aspx) Francophone Caribbean – Martinique, Guadeloupe, Haiti, and the Haitian diaspora in contemporary Canada.
- [Dr Kate Ince](http://staff/profiles/french/ince-kate.aspx) Filmic representations of colonial and postcolonial cultures
- [Dr Berny Sèbe](http://staff/profiles/french/sebe-berny.aspx) Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahara (colonial, decolonisation and postcolonial)
- [Dr Andrew Watts](http://staff/profiles/french/watts-andrew.aspx) Race otherness and colonialism in the 19th Century

### Postdoctoral and postgraduate community

- **Dr Claire Peters**, Teaching Fellow  
After an AHRC-funded PhD at the University of Birmingham, I was appointed as a Teaching Fellow at Birmingham. I specialise in contemporary French film and fiction, with particular interests in representations of Paris, memories of the Holocaust and the Algerian war, postcolonial theory and various aspects of twentieth-century French thought.
- **Antonia Wimbush**, AHRC-funded PhD student  
Supervisor: Dr Louise Hardwick, Birmingham (70%)  
Co-Supervisor: Dr Nicki Hitchcott, Nottingham (30%)  
I am a graduate of the University of Exeter, and joined Birmingham and Nottingham in September 2014. My doctoral studies are funded by a full AHRC PhD Scholarship through the [Midlands 3 Cities Consortium](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/calgs/scholarships/ahrc-faqs.aspx). I study the representations of exile in Francophone women's autobiographical writing, and am interested in the comparative experiences of women writers and how their postcolonial condition has influenced their work. See my profile here: <http://vpp.midlands3cities.ac.uk/display/ucaaw/Welcome>

### Student Profiles: MA in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies Students

- **Alex Salonen** (MA in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies, Full Time)
- **Bethany Mason** (MA in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies, Part Time)
- **Sinead Cussen** (Part Time), MA in Translation Studies  
I decided to take some postcolonial modules as I really enjoyed my undergraduate modules on Francophone Africa, and am interested in the relation between language and identity, especially in a political or postcolonial setting.

### FRANCOPOCO activities

- Guest edited journal issue of the [International Journal of Francophone Studies on 'Race, Violence and Biopolitics'](http://www.intellectbooks.co.uk/journals/view-issue.id=27811) (2014), edited by Louise Hardwick and Alessandro Corio (2014)
- Dr Berny Sebe on BBC: *Great Continental Railways*, presented by Michael Portillo, includes a presentation of Marseilles, in which Berny introduces the imperial past of the city. BBC2 Wednesday, 10 December, 2014, at 9.00 pm.
- AHRC-funded Early Career Fellowship: Dr Louise Hardwick, "Joseph Zobel: Négritude's Novelist? The Transnational Politics of a French Caribbean Author working between the Caribbean, Africa and Europe" (2014-2016, £168,000). Visit the project blog here: [www.josephzobel.wordpress.com](http://www.josephzobel.wordpress.com)
- Seminar: Alessandro Corio, *Caribbean Biopolitics of Literature: the reversal of the abyss in NourbeSe Philip and Édouard Glissant*, University of Birmingham, 28 January 2014.
- Film screening: [Discover Dany Laferrière: A Restless Child of Haiti](http://schools/lcahm/departments/french/events/2013/hardwick-laferriere.aspx) Monday 18 March 2013 - part of the University's Arts and Science Festival
- [Francophone Caribbean Literature and Translation](http://schools/lcahm/departments/french/events/2010/francophone.aspx) - Guest Lectures by Guadeloupean author Maryse Condé and her translator Richard Philcox in 2010. You can now watch the [Maryse Condé's invited guest lecture](http://schools/lcahm/departments/french/events/2010/maryse-conde-lecture.aspx) and see photos from [Maryse and Richard's visit to campus](http://www.flickr.com/photos/artsatbirmingham/sets/72157624967831265) and the special displays of her work at the University of Birmingham Library and at Birmingham Central Library which Dr Hardwick arranged in honour of her visit
- [Haiti: beyond the Earthquake](http://schools/lcahm/departments/french/events/2010/haiti.aspx) (Cultural strand of the Birmingham Action for Haiti campaign)
- AHRC funded project: [Outposts of Conquest: the History and Legacy of the Fortresses of the Steppe and the Sahara in Comparative perspective \(1840s to today\)](http://schools/lcahm/departments/french/research/outposts-of-conquests.aspx)
- EC/FP7 European Funded project: [Caribbean Biopolitics](http://schools/lcahm/departments/french/news/2012/european-funding-hardwick.aspx). You can also read the project's blog at <http://caribiolit.wordpress.com/>
- Details of related research seminars by invited academic speakers including Jean-Loup Amsell, Nicolas Bancel, Tony Chafer and Charles Forsdick are on the

## **[Postcolonial Birmingham Webpage \(/research/activity/postcolonial/events/events-archive.aspx\)](/research/activity/postcolonial/events/events-archive.aspx)**

- Details of related research seminars in French and Francophone Studies by invited academic speakers including Dr Denis Provencher and Dr Maeve McCusker are **[available \(/schools/lcahm/departments/french/events/archived-events.aspx\)](/schools/lcahm/departments/french/events/archived-events.aspx)** **[here \(/schools/lcahm/departments/french/events/archived-events.aspx\)](/schools/lcahm/departments/french/events/archived-events.aspx)**

The FRANCOPOCO Network promotes

- A dynamic programme of research activity and interdisciplinary collaboration
- The enrichment of Undergraduate teaching and learning
- The enrichment of Postgraduate supervision and training opportunities
- International perspectives of France and the French language
- The exploration of contemporary France's international relations with Africa, the Caribbean, Canada and Asia
- New interdisciplinary research analysing urgent themes which include the global economy, environmental issues, racial politics and gender politics, drawing attention to Francophone Colonial and Postcolonial paradigms of international importance
- Knowledge Transfer, bringing Francophone Colonial and Postcolonial Studies to a wider public through a series of film screenings and visits from major authors and academics, all of which are open to the general public

## **Potential applicants**

We welcome applications from potential graduate students at Masters or PhD level interested in working on research projects in any of the fields in which we specialise.

The FRANCOPOCO Network consolidates the teaching and research expertise in Francophone Colonial and Postcolonial fields in French Studies. FRANCOPOCO is part of the wider interdisciplinary **[Postcolonial Birmingham Research Network \(/research/activity/postcolonial/index.aspx\)](/research/activity/postcolonial/index.aspx)** at the University of Birmingham.



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