

**Rachel Gabara**  
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### **Fields of specialization**

African and European cinema and literature; documentary film; postcolonial studies.

### **Publications**

#### **Books**

*From Split to Screened Selves: French and Francophone Autobiography in the Third Person.*  
Stanford University Press, 2006.

- Winner of the 2007 South Atlantic Modern Language Association Studies Book Award.

"Reclaiming Realism: From Documentary Film in Africa to African Documentary Film."  
Manuscript in progress.

#### **Recent Articles**

- "Complex Realism: Paulin Soumanou Vieyra and the Emergence of West African Documentary Film." *Black Camera* 11.2 (2020): 32-59.
- "From Ethnography to Essay: Realism, Reflexivity, and African Documentary Film." *A Companion to African Cinema*. Eds. Kenneth Harrow and Carmela Garritano. Wiley-Blackwell, 2018. 358-378.
- "Abderrahmane Sissako: On the Politics of African Auteurs." *The Global Auteur: Politics and Philosophy in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cinema*. Eds. Jeremi Szaniawski and Seung-hoon Jeong. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016. 43-60.
- "Mixing Impossible Genres: David Achkar and African AutoBiographical Documentary." Revised reprint. *The Documentary Film Reader*. Ed. Jonathan Kahana. Oxford University Press, 2016. 924-937.
- "War by Documentary." *Romance Notes* 55.3 (2015): 409-423.
- "Interrogating Images: *Lumumba: Death of the Prophet* as Reflexive AutoBiographical Documentary." *Raoul Peck: Power, Politics, and the Cinematic Imagination*. Eds. Toni Pressley-Sanon and Sophie Saint-Just. Lexington Books, 2015. 153-170.
- "Abderrahmane Sissako: Second and Third Cinema in the First Person." *Global Art Cinema: New Theories and Histories*. Eds. Karl Schoonover and Rosalind Galt. Oxford University Press, 2010. 320-333.
- "'A Poetics of Refusals': Neorealism from Italy to Africa." *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 23.3 (2006): 201-215.

#### **Recent Book and Film Reviews**

- Review of Rosine Mbakam, *Chez Jolie Coiffure*. *African Studies Review* 63.4 (2020): E84-E86.
- Review of Emmanuel Gras, *Makala*. *Docalogue* (2019). <https://docalogue.com/august-makala/>

- Review of Marc Allégret, *Travels in the Congo*. *African Studies Review* 62.2 (2019): E51-E53.
- Review of Dieudo Hamadi, *National Diploma and Mama Colonel*. *African Studies Review* 62.1 (2019): E53-E55.
- Review of Valérie Orlando, *New African Cinema*. *African Studies Review* 61.1 (2018): 263-264.
- Review of *Africa First, Volume Two*. *African Studies Review* 57.3 (2014): 254-258.
- Review of Osvalde Lewat, *Black Business*. *African Studies Review* 57.1 (2014): 238-240.
- Review of *Textual and Visual Selves: Photography, Film, and Comic Art in French Autobiography*. *Studies in 20th and 21st Century Literature* 37.2 (2013): 169-171.
- Review of Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, *A Screaming Man*. *African Studies Review* 56.2 (2013): 227-228.
- Review of Timothy Corrigan, *The Essay Film: From Montaigne, After Marker*. *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 30.4 (2013): 371-374.
- Review of Réda Bensmaïa, *Experimental Nations: Or, the Invention of the Maghreb*. *The Translator* 15.1 (2009): 185-189.

### **Major Awards and Fellowships**

**National Endowment for the Humanities** Fellowship, July 2020-June 2021.

**National Endowment for the Humanities** Summer Stipend, June-July 2018.

**American Philosophical Society** Franklin Research Grant, June-July 2018.

### **University of Georgia**

- Willson Center for Humanities and Arts Research Fellowship, 2021-22.
- M.G. Michael Award for Excellence in Research, 2018.
- Virginia Mary Macagnoni Prize for Innovative Research, 2013-14.
- Willson Center for Humanities and Arts Research Fellowship, 2013-14.

**Fulbright Scholar Program** African Regional Research Grant, January-May 2003.

### **Princeton University**

- Christian Gauss Fund University Preceptorship, 2003-05.
- Old Dominion Faculty Fellow (Humanities Council), 2003-04.

### **Recent Invited Talks and Colloquia**

- “Vieyra, Filmmaker” and “Vieyra, Historian.” Paulin Vieyra Workshop, Black Film Center/Archive, Indiana University, September 2019.
- “Reclaiming Realism: The Emergence of African Documentary Film, 1960-1973.” Institute of African Studies Seminar, Emory University, November 2018.
- Keynote Discussion with filmmaker Raoul Peck. African Literature Association Conference, Atlanta, April 2016.
- “War by Documentary.” *Romance Notes* Colloquium, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, April 2015.

- Seminar participant, Semaphores and Surfaces: Reading the New African Cinemas. Princeton University, November 2013.
- Curator and Presenter for “African Film Weekend” festival. University of Richmond, September 2013.

#### **Recent Conference Presentations**

- “Documentary Dialogues: Contemporary African Nonfiction Film.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Virtual Conference, March 2021.
- “Filming Independence.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Seattle, March 2019. Organized and chaired panel entitled “An Interior Vision: African Film in the Decades After Independence.”
- “Documentary Energies: *Asientos* and the African Essay Film.” African Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, December 2018.
- Organizer and roundtable participant, “African Film and Media Studies: New Paths and Connections.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Toronto, March 2018.
- “Paulin Soumanou Vieyra: African Documentary from France to Senegal.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Chicago, March 2017.
- “Samba Félix Ndiaye and the Transformation of African Documentary.” Documentary Filmmaking Practices in Africa: An International Conference, University of Toronto, January 2017.
- “‘I Travel in French’: Dyana Gaye’s Global Cinema.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Atlanta, April 2016. Organized and chaired panel entitled “World Cinema in French.”
- “World Cinema in French.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Harvard University, March 2016.
- “From Ethnography to Essay: Reflexive Strategies in African Documentary Film.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Montreal, Canada, March 2015.
- “We Are All Comp Lit Now: Comparative Literature Lessons for Multiple-Language Department Graduate Programs.” American Comparative Literature Association ACL(x) Otherwise Conference, University of South Carolina, February 2015. [Published online in the ACLA’s State of the Discipline Report: <http://stateofthediscipline.acla.org/entry/rgp-rachel-gabara-university-georgia> .]
- “Filmic Fragments of the Colonial Past: *Actualités* and Contemporary Francophone African Film.” 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century French and Francophone Studies Colloquium, Atlanta, March 2013.
- “Ethnography and Documentary in Francophone Africa.” Visible Evidence Conference, New York University, August 2011. Organized and chaired panel entitled “Colonial Documentary: Power, Politics, and Resistance.”

#### **Selected Professional Activities**

##### ***African Studies Review***

- Senior Film Review Editor, 2020-current.
- Film Review Editor, 2019-20.

##### **Society for Cinema and Media Studies**

- Co-chair, French and Francophone Scholarly Interest Group, 2016-19.

### **American Comparative Literature Association**

- René Wellek Book Prize committee, 2013-15 (Chair, 2013-14).

### **Bronze Lens Film Festival and Consulate General of France in Atlanta**

- Co-organizer of visit and screenings and moderator of student workshop and public discussion with filmmaker Abderrahmane Sissako, SCAD Atlanta and High Museum of Art, November 2015.
- Translated and facilitated public discussion with filmmaker Dyana Gaye, October 2014.
- Translated and facilitated public discussion with filmmaker Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, November 2013.

### **University of Georgia**

- Organized public discussions, and film screenings with Marguerite Abouet and Alain Gomis, in cooperation with the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts and the Consulate General of France in Atlanta, October 2017.
- Organized “Afro-French Studies Colloquium,” featuring visiting scholars Pap Ndiaye (Institut d’Etudes Politiques, Paris) and Philippe Gumpowicz (University of Paris Saclay), in cooperation with the Consulate General of France in Atlanta, April 2017.

### **Princeton University**

- Organized and presented “Films in French,” a series of five 35mm screenings of recent films from France and West Africa, February-April 2004 and March-May 2002.
- Organized and presented the 2002 Sacret Young Lecture in Film Studies, a screening and discussion with filmmaker Mansour Sora Wade, April 2002.

### **Manuscript Review**

- Focal Press/Routledge, Michigan State University Press, Oxford University Press, University of Nebraska Press, *African Studies Review*, *Africa Today*, *Black Camera*, *Journal of African Cinemas*, *Nouvelles Études Francophones*, *Research in African Literatures*, *South Atlantic Review*.

### **Recent Teaching**

- French 3010: “Conversation and Composition”
- French 4080: “Contemporary French and Francophone Autobiography”
- French 4120/6120 (split-level undergraduate/graduate): “Filming Displacement: Europeans in Africa and Africans in Europe”; “World Literature in French”
- French 4170: “Francophone Film, Literature, and Culture”
- French 6200 (graduate): “The Francophone African Novel”
- French 8180 (graduate): “Postcolonial Studies”
- French 8700 (graduate): “The Historical Novel and Film in Francophone Africa”; “Francophone Literature, Cinema, and Theory: From Anticolonial to Postcolonial (and Beyond); “Postcolonial Paris”

### **Languages**

French (near-native fluency), Russian and Polish (reading knowledge), Wolof (elementary).