

**HÉLÈNE DIAZ BROWN**  
One Maybeck Place  
Elsah, Illinois, 62028  
(618) 374-5461  
[Helene.Brown\[at\]principia.edu](mailto:Helene.Brown[at]principia.edu)

Native speaker of French, naturalized U.S. citizen, English speaker at the Superior level (ACTFL).

## **EDUCATION**

1989            Ph.D., French / Minor, Russian            University of Wisconsin -- Madison

Dissertation: "L'Effet fantastique: Etude sur la mise en jeu du sujet dans des textes fantastiques des dix-neuvième et vingtième siècles."

Going beyond the definition of the genre presented by T. Torodov, this innovative study of Fantastic literature offers a new way of defining the genre through the effect it produces on the reader. The Fantastic phenomenon is clearly linked here to its socio-cultural setting. Director: Dr. Sydney Lévy.

1983            M.A., French            University of Wisconsin -- Milwaukee

1978            M.A., Russian            Université de Bordeaux, France  
Thesis: "Les Mondes individuels dans le roman de Boulgakov *Le Maître et Marguerite*."

1972 - 1975    Classes Préparatoires aux Grandes Ecoles, Bordeaux, France  
(Undergraduate Honor's Program in the Humanities)

## **ACADEMIC HONORS**

**2011            Received the title of Roy W. Johnson Distinguished Professor of French**  
2011            Recipient of Dorothy D. Moller Research Fellowship for Advanced Study.  
Topic of research is Assia Djebar, Algerian woman author.  
2010            Sabbatical Leave to focus on the teaching of Russian.  
2008            Oral Proficiency Interviewer Certification for Language Testing International,  
a branch of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages  
2008            Principia Summer Research Grant: my research was focused on regaining fluency in  
Russian and reflecting on theory and pedagogy regarding fluency.  
1987 - 1988    Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation Fellowship.  
1987            Ph.D. examinations passed with distinction.  
1978            M.A. Russian, cum laude.  
1978            C.A.P.E.S. (Certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat de l'Enseignement Secondaire)  
French national government competitive exam for Secondary Education  
Certification (Russian language teaching certificate): only ten succeeded in 1978.  
1978,1971-72    Earned competitive scholastic scholarships to study abroad.  
1971            Concours Général, a French national honorary award, 5th place.

## PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

### **Book**

*L'Effet fantastique ou la mise en jeu du sujet*. Stanford French and Italian Studies 83. Saratoga, California: Anma Libri, 1996.

[http://isbndb.com/d/book/leffet\\_fantastique\\_ou\\_la\\_mise\\_en\\_jeu\\_du\\_sujet.html](http://isbndb.com/d/book/leffet_fantastique_ou_la_mise_en_jeu_du_sujet.html)

### **Articles**

"L'Art et la Mort' ou l'Expression de l'Ineffable," *IRIS*, 1, No. 1, Fall 1985.

" Le désert, agent révélateur de l'oppression dans « L'Hôte » et « La Femme adultère » d'Albert Camus, " *Albert Camus, précurseur : Méditerranée d'hier et d'aujourd'hui*. Comp. Alek Baylee Toumi. New York: Peter Lang, 2009. 23-36.

" *Les Justes* d'Albert Camus: une réflexion sur les limites de l'engagement." *Albert Camus aujourd'hui : De L'Etranger au Premier Homme*. Comp. Alek Baylee Toumi. New York: Peter Lang, 2012. 127-147.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

« La femme et l'amour dans certains textes fantastiques : évasion et subversion dans *La morte amoureuse, la Vénus d'Ille* et *Véra*. [Women and love in fantastic literature: escapism and subversion in Gautier, Mérimée and Villiers's works *La morte amoureuse, la Vénus d'Ille* et *Véra*], Nineteenth Century French Studies national Conference, Puerto Rico, October 2014.

« Voyage exotique et utilisation de la femme noire dans l'imagerie blanche, autour d' *Ourika* de Claire de Duras [Exotic travel and use of black women in white imagery, around *Ourika* by Claire de Duras] MLA, Chicago, January 2014.

« L'artifice du voyage dans «La Femme Adultère » d'Albert Camus et *Nulle Part dans la Maison de mon Père* d'Assia Djebar » [Travel and artifice in« The Adulterous woman » by Albert Camus and *Nowhere in my Father's house* by Assia Djebar]. Also chaired this session on International Francophone Studies, MMLA, Milwaukee, November 2013.

"*The Just Assassins*, Camus's moral values and political stand in the Algerian question," NeMLA 2013 Convention, Boston, MA, March 2013.

"Le voyage en autocar dans « La Femme Adultère » d'Albert Camus et *Nulle Part dans la Maison de mon Père* d'Assia Djebar. » [The bus trip in « The Adulterous Woman » by Albert Camus and « Nowhere in my Father's house » by Assia Djebar.], *The Louisville Conference on Literature & Culture since 1900*, University of Louisville, February 2013.

"ALBERT CAMUS: Moral Values and Political Activism" Principia College, Dean's Colloquium, September 2012.

"La femme s'amusera-t-elle à sortir? Une lecture de *Nulle part dans la maison de mon père*, d'Assia Djebar." Midwest MLA, Saint Louis, MO, November 2011.

« *Les Justes* d'Albert Camus: une réflexion sur les limites de l'engagement. » Paper presented at the Second International Colloquium on Albert Camus : 50 ans après, April 22-24, 2010, UW–Madison, Wisconsin.

“Albert Camus, 50 ans après: “*Les Justes* et l'engagement.” April 24, 2010, Alliance Française, Chicago, IL.

«Ourika, héroïne romantique, et Diouana, héroïne de la décolonisation française, deux figures de l'aliénation chez Claire de Duras et Ousmane Sembène.» Midwest MLA, Cleveland OH, November 8-11, 2007.

“Le désert, agent révélateur de l'oppression coloniale dans *L'Hôte* et *La Femme adultère*, d'Albert Camus.” Albert Camus précurseur: Méditerranée d'hier et d'aujourd'hui, First International Colloquium, University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 21-23, 2006. **Accepted for publication.**

“Knowledge and Spirituality in *The Ambiguous Adventure* by C.H. Kane.” Spring 2004. Deans' Colloquium, Principia College.

“Les fins de siècles sont-elles fantastiques? ” October 1999, 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Colloquium in Nineteenth-Century French Studies, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada.

“Le fantastique: échappatoire ou tentative de subversion?” October 1998. 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Colloquium in Nineteenth-Century French Studies, The Pennsylvania State University.

"La question de la connaissance dans *L'Aventure ambiguë* de C. H. Kane," October 1995. International Conference on the Sacred and the Profane, West Georgia College, Atlanta, GA.

"Symptômes littéraires du *Mal Français* dans *Les Choses* de Pérec et autres romans contemporains," Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Cincinnati, May 1994. [A study of some problems of French society as reflected in certain contemporary works of literature].

"L'Algérie et les Pieds Noirs," a talk with slides on the French population in colonial Algeria, Causeries du Samedi, Milwaukee, WI, Spring 1981.

## **TEACHING AND RELATED EXPERIENCE**

Teaching beginning, intermediate and advanced French courses including:

- Language: pronunciation, conversation, grammar, composition
- culture through cinema
- French literature: survey courses, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century literature, 19<sup>th</sup> century literature, 20<sup>th</sup> century literature
- Literature of the French Speaking World (*francophonie*).
- Supervising senior capstones.

Teaching an introductory course in Russian and Elementary Russian courses.

## **2013-2014 Chair of the Department of Languages and Cultures Roy W. Johnson Distinguished Professor of French**

- French Program Chair

- Organizer and Director of Russia Abroad Program, May-June 2014: “Saint-Petersburg, the old and the new Russia.”
- Organizer of France Abroad Program, May-June 2016.

**2011- 2013 Roy W. Johnson Distinguished Professor of French**

- French Program Chair
- Organizer and Director of France Abroad Program, Spring 2012: Paris-Pau-Nice. Learning to bridge the gap between “foreigners.” France, with its history, its art and its language (including literature) will be the means used during that semester’s work, the ultimate focus being to teach cross-cultural understanding as applicable to any other “foreign” situation.”
- Organizer and Director of the Principia Life Long Learning abroad program “The Other France” May-June 2013
- Taught at Principia Life Long Learning summer session “Yes, I can (speak French again)

**1994-present French Program Chair** Principia College, Elsah, Illinois

- advising minors and majors in French
- planning courses for the French Program

**2008 - present Certified ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interviewer**

- Can work to provide second rating for Oral Proficiency Interviews for Language Testing International, a branch of ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).
- Began training in Writing Proficiency.

**2005 - 2011 Full Professor of French and French Program Chair**

- Organized and led France Abroad Program for June 2009.
- Organizer and Co-Director of France Abroad Program for Spring 2006.

**1997 - 2005 Associate Professor and French Program Chair** Principia College, Elsah, Illinois  
 Director of France Study Abroad Program (Spring 1998 and 2001) in Paris, Pau and Bordeaux.

**1994 - 1997 Assistant Professor and French Program Chair** Principia College, Elsah, Illinois

**1992 - 1994 Associate Lecturer** University of Wisconsin -- Milwaukee

**1989 - 1990 Radio Producer** The Christian Science Publishing Society, Boston, MA

**1983 - 1988 Teaching Assistant** University of Wisconsin -- Madison

**1982 - 1983 French Lecturer** University of Wisconsin -- Milwaukee

**1979 - 1982 Teaching Assistant** University of Wisconsin -- Milwaukee

**1977 - 1978 Russian Teacher** Centre Pédagogique Régional, France

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**2013-2014**

- November 2013, Midwest MLA convention, Milwaukee, WI: organizer and chair for the International Francophone Studies Session entitled “ Art and Artifice in World Literature in French.” Presented a paper entitled “L’artifice du voyage dans«La Femme Adultère » d'Albert Camus et *Nulle Part dans la Maison de mon Père* d'Assia Djébar”[Travel and artifice in« The Adulterous woman » by Albert Camus and *Nowhere in my Father’s house* by Assia Djébar]
- January 2014, National MLA Convention, Chicago, IL: presented a paper entitled « Voyage exotique et utilisation de la femme noire dans l’imagerie blanche, autour d’ *Ourika* de Claire de Duras »[ Exotic travel and the use of black women images in “white” imagery, around *Ourika* by Claire de Duras ] for the roundtable *Women in French*

### 2012-2013

- **Principia College, Dean’s Colloquium**, September 2012 presented a paper entitled “ALBERT CAMUS: Moral Values and Political Activism”
- Louisville Conference on Literature & Culture since 1900, February 2013d: presented a paper entitled“Le voyage en autocar dans «La Femme Adultère » d'Albert Camus et *Nulle Part dans la Maison de mon Père* d'Assia Djébar” The coach trip in « The Adulterous woman » by Albert Camus and *Nowhere in my Father’s house* by Assia Djébar
- Presented a paper at the roundtable on Albert Camus (2013 centennial of his birth) at the North East MLA convention (March 2013), and was accepted: “Albert Camus: *Les Justes*, valeurs morales et engagement politique dans la question algérienne”

### 2011-2012

- Midwest MLA convention, November 2011, Saint Louis, MO: organizer and chair for the session *Women in French*. Topic: “Je est/et JEU--le sujet en question dans les textes de femmes en français” [I at play: questioning the subject/the topic in Women’s texts in French].
- Registered participant at the full day workshop on Writing Proficiency guidelines. National Convention of ACTFL November 2011, Denver, CO.
- Attended the National Convention of the Modern Language Association, Los Angeles, January 2011.

### 2010-2011

- Midwest MLA convention, November 2010, Chicago, IL: organizer and chair for the session on International Francophone studies/ World literature in French, entitled “Le vois-yage dans les textes de la littérature monde en français” [See and travel: Various types of movements and displacements in world literature in French, the different motivations or obligations inherent in these voluntary or forced forms of travel: to see, to be seen, to move or to flee.]

### 2009-2010

- International Colloquium on Albert Camus : 50 ans après, April 22-24, 2010, UW–Madison. Paper presented: « *Les Justes* d’Albert Camus: une réflexion sur les limites de l’engagement»
- Round table participant at “Albert Camus, 50 ans après: “*Les Justes* et l’engagement.” April 24, 2010, Alliance Française, Chicago, IL.
- Paper presented at the Midwest MLA convention, November 2009, Saint Louis, MO: entitled "Memory, Identity and Politics in World Literature in French." Secretary for the session on International Francophone studies.

- Took a two week long Russian intensive course, in St Petersburg, Russia, Spring 2010.

### **2008-2009**

- Organizer and chair for the session on International Francophone studies entitled “Spaces, Places and Voices in World Literature in French”, Midwest MLA convention, Minneapolis, MN, November 2008.
- Attended the National Convention of the Modern Language Association, San Francisco, 2008.
- Took a two week long language intensive course in Russian language, ProBa School, St Petersburg, Russia, 2008.
- Attended Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching, Pomona, CA, 2009.
- Took a two week long Russian intensive course, in St Petersburg, Russia, July 2009.

### **2007-2008**

- 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium at Georgetown University, in Washington D.C: participant.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Pan-African Conference, October 2007, Principia College: participant.
- Midwest MLA convention, November 2007, Cleveland, OH. : organizer and chair for the session *Women in French II* entitled : “ La représentation des femmes dans des textes français et/ou francophones du 19<sup>e</sup> siècle au présent : La femme en temps de crise, la femme inaugurant le changement.” Secretary of the session on International Francophone studies.
- ACFTL OPI: Received full certification in February 2008.
- Chaired a session on International Francophone Studies at the Midwest MLA conference, November 2008, entitled “Spaces, Places and Voices in World Literature in French.”
- Attended the National Convention of the Modern Language Association, Chicago, December 2007.
- Participant at the workshop “The French Educational System” and “Cooking and Teaching French,” American Association of Teachers of French Convention, St Louis, MO, February, 2008.
- Participant at "Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students" workshop, Principia College, February 2008.
- Attended Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching, Newark, DE, 2008.

### **2006-2007**

- Registered participant at ACTFL four-day Oral Proficiency Interview Tester Training Workshop (29 Professional Development Hours), University of Missouri-Saint Louis, January 2007.
- Midwest MLA convention, November 2006, Chicago, IL : Co-chair and discussant at the French I session entitled: “La France face à la francophonie aujourd'hui.”
- Attended International Colloquium on A. Camus, University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 2006.
- Roundtable participant and interpreter at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Pan-African Conference, Title: “African women, pioneers of change” Principia College, October 2006.
- Participant at the workshop on “Partnering Across the Campus for Character Education” Principia College, May 2007.

### **2005-2006**

- Attended Midwest MLA convention, Milwaukee, WI, November 2005.
- Roundtable participant at Principia College Pan-African Conference “Rebuilding Africa: whose responsibility?” Fall 2005.

#### **2004-2005**

- Roundtable participant at Pan-African Conference (“Ethnic conflicts on the African Continent), Principia College, September 2004.
- Attended ACTFL (American Council on Teaching Foreign Languages) Conference in Chicago, November 2004.
- Attended Public Affair Conference on globalization, Principia College, Spring 2005.

#### **2003-2004**

- Presented a 50 minute-long paper at the Deans’ Colloquium, Principia College: “Knowledge and Spirituality in *The Ambiguous Adventure* by C.H. Kane,” Spring 2004.
- Participant at the Conference on People of Color in Predominantly White Institutions: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, November 2003.
- Pan-African Conference roundtable participant (“Understanding the Brain drain in the African Diaspora”), Principia College, October 2003.
- Participant at the Annual Public Affair Conference on terrorism, Spring 2004, Principia College.

#### **2002-2003**

- Pan-African Conference roundtable participant (“AIDS in Africa”), Principia College, October 2002.
- Participant at the Annual Public Affair Conference, Principia College, Spring 2003.
- Attended the Diversity Conference, St Louis, AACU, October 2002.

#### **1994 – 2001**

- Chair of the session “Romanticism and after” at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Colloquium in Nineteenth-Century French Studies: “20th-Century Interpretations of the 19th: Recasting & Rethinking a Century of Criticism & Theory,” University of Wisconsin- Madison, October 2001.
- Presented a paper: “Les fins de siècles sont-elles fantastiques?” and attended 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Colloquium in Nineteenth-Century French Studies, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada, October 1999.
- Presented a paper: “Le fantastique: échappatoire ou tentative de subversion?” and attended 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Colloquium in Nineteenth-Century French Studies, The Pennsylvania State University, October 1998.
- Attended ACTFL (American Council on Teaching Foreign Languages) Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, November 1997.
- Presented a paper: "La question de la connaissance dans *L'Aventure ambiguë* de C. H. Kane," and attended International Conference on the Sacred and the Profane, West Georgia College, Atlanta, GA, and October 1995.
- Presented a paper: "Symptômes littéraires du *Mal Français* dans *Les Choses* de Pérec et autres romans contemporains," and attended Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Cincinnati, May 1994.

## INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Chair of the Department of Languages and Cultures (2013-)  
Mentor for French new hire (2014-2015)  
Mentor for Department Intern (2012-2013)  
French Program Chair (1994-present)  
Women's Studies Board: Chair (2007-present).  
Member of International Student Coordinating Committee (2011-present).  
Member of Curriculum Committee (2008-2010).  
Unit Evaluation Committee Member (2009-2010).  
Member of *Language Center Director* Search Committee (2008-09).  
Member of Unit Promotion Committee (2008-2009).  
Mentor for new Spanish Faculty (2007-2008).  
Supervisor for Introductory Arabic FLAN 100 (Winter 2007).  
Member of Deans' Diversity Committee Member (2004-2008).  
Women's Studies Committee member (2006-2007).  
Spanish Search Committee member (2006-2007, 2004-2005).  
Women's Studies Board: Chair person (2003-2006).  
Spanish mentoring Committee member (2005-2006).  
Faculty Taskforce on Diversity and Global Awareness (point person): member of Planning Committee for year's activities and point person (2002-2005).  
Diversity Workshop Planning Committee for fall 2003 Faculty and Staff Workshop.  
Women's Studies Committee member (2001-2003).  
Art History Search Committee. Full bright Student Scholarship Search Committee. Scholastic Committee member (2001-2002).  
Library Advisory Committee member; Women's Studies Committee member; Member of Search Committee for French; Member of Search Committee for Russian (1995-2001).

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Organized two talks: "Changing times-unchanging idea: The unconditional equality of woman and man" and "Global warming, nature and music" (2011).  
Participant at a seminar/roundtable on Albert Camus for the Alliance Française, French Club of Chicago (2010).  
Organized a talk for the College "History/Her story: Why women in (music) history matter" (2009).  
Served as interpreter between school officials and parents of a French-speaking African student (September 2006).  
Phonetic and pronunciation training given to member of the Music Department preparing for an audition of a French piece (October 2006).  
Presentation on "The French Riots" for Sociology Professor Billy Miller's course *Race and ethnicity* (Principia College) and member of mentoring team for new Spanish hire (Fall 2005).  
I proofread a French translation of the Longyear Museum brochure, in collaboration with one of our French Majors, who was an intern at the Longyear Museum, MA (summer 2004).  
I worked to organize National French week on campus (2004 and 2002).  
Organized 3 talks on French cinema and feminism, inviting a speaker from France (February 1997).  
Organized a talk on Victor Hugo (Spring 1997).  
Organized a talk by a former French Major on her experience in the Peace Corps in Mali (1998).  
French Bible Lesson reading: weekly meetings with students and members of the community (from 1994-present).



## **TEACHING INTERESTS**

All levels of French language throughout the Francophone world.  
All periods of French Literature and Culture, especially 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.  
Francophone literatures and cultures, especially Sub-Saharan and North African.  
Contemporary French society; French and Francophone film.  
Russian Language, introductory and elementary levels.

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Modern French literature and Francophone literature (especially from Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa). French colonialism and slavery, and their impacts on individuals, especially women, and French contemporary society.

Women's Studies, especially Assia Djébar, Algerian woman author (Sabbatical leave, Spring 2011).  
Second Language Acquisition: theory and pedagogy for advanced proficiency. "Regaining fluency and reflecting on fluency" – topic for my sabbatical leave on Russian (Spring 2010).

## **LANGUAGES**

French native speaker, superior level proficiency in French and English (ACTFL). Advanced proficiency in Russian. Good comprehension and some speaking skills in Spanish; reading knowledge of Latin.

## **TRAVEL**

France annually (since moving to the United States); Russia (2008, 2009, 2010, 2013) and former Soviet Union (summers of 1971, 1972, 1978); journeys throughout Western Europe and North America during other periods.

## **CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS**

Modern Language Association  
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.