

Robert Kilpatrick
Assistant Professor of French
University of West Georgia

Education

Ph.D. in French literature; Italian Literature Minor, 2009
Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

Dissertation: *Le Soulier de Theramenez: Essaying the Adage in Erasmus and Montaigne*
Advisor: Dr. Eric MacPhail

This dissertation studies how Erasmus' *Adagia* and Montaigne's *Essais* engage with the form of the adage. I argue that Erasmus' approach to commentary in the *Adagia* offers an interpretive lens through which we can analyze key features of the *Essais*, in particular Montaigne's use of citation to develop a form of self-expression and his search for a "nouveau langage" adequate to the purposes of skeptical investigation. Erasmus' collection thus presents a stylistic, structural and philosophical model for the *Essais*. In chapter 1, I show how the fusion of the roles of *compiler* and *declamator* destabilizes Erasmus' own notion of adages as containers of inherent truth and highlights his use of rhetoric to amplify them. In chapter 2, I investigate problems of reading and writing in the *Essais*, analyzing in particular Montaigne's search for an "authentic" authorial presence in borrowed words. I show that the essayist seeks to assimilate classical texts through the dismemberment, conscious misinterpretation and deformation of his models. Finally, I draw attention to key paradoxes that Montaigne builds into the structure of his arguments (the use of humanist rhetoric to denounce humanism; the claim that his discourse is both unified and fragmented; and the use of citations to speak in the first person). In the third and final chapter, I analyze encounters between the *Essais* and the *Adagia* in four of Montaigne's chapters, "Des menteurs", "Des pouces", "A demain les affaires" and "Des boiteux". I argue that Montaigne's writing reveals, not just structural affinities with Erasmian commentary as it appears in the *Adagia*, but also a complex and productive engagement with Erasmus' theoretical notion of the proverb. Specifically, the essayist questions the adage's purchase on timeless truth, thus undermining its probative value. Yet Montaigne himself deploys adages in his argumentation, thus implicitly reaffirming their persuasive force.

M.A. in French Literature, 2002
Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

B.A. in French and History (with honors), 1999
Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri

Diplôme de langue et de culture françaises (Niveau Supérieur avec mention « très bien » from the Centre International d'Études Françaises), 1999
Université Catholique de l'Ouest, Angers, France

Took courses on French politics, literature and language, 1997-1998
Institute for American Universities, Aix-en-Provence, France

Certification

Certified Rater for the Simulated Oral Proficiency Interview (SOPI), 2008

Teaching Experience

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia
Assistant Professor of French, 2009-present

- Intermediate French II
- Survey of French Literature II

Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
Senior Lecturing Fellow of French, 2005-2009

- Elementary French I and II
- Advanced Intermediate French (based on film and literary texts)
- Advanced French Grammar and Writing Workshop

Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana
Associate Instructor of Italian, 2005

- Elementary Italian I

Associate Instructor of French, 1999-2001, 2002-2004

- Elementary French I and II
- Intermediate French I and II and French
- Conversational Practice

Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages, St. Brieuc, France
Instructor of French, 2000-2004 (summer)

- French Culture
- French Phonetics
- Staged Ionesco's *Rhinocéros*, *Au Rayon des aquariums*, a selection of La Fontaine's *Fables* and *L'Anglais tel qu'on le parle*

The Multimethod Language School, Milan, Italy
Instructor of English and French, 2001-2002

- Designed and taught courses at a variety of levels, including business English
- Prepared students for the Toefl exam

Leadership/Training/Coordination and Directorship

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia
Co-Director of Study Abroad in Tours, France, present

Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
Coordinator of Elementary French I and II, 2005-2009

- authored syllabi for the two-semester elementary French sequence
- trained new instructors in teaching methods, language assessment and applications of instructional technology
- developed proficiency assessment tools

Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages, St. Briec, France
Student Director, 2001-2004 (summer)

- Supervised a group of 35 advanced high school students during a seven week study abroad program in France
- Directed a team of four language instructors and an assistant
- Planned and supervised field-trips to Normandy, Dinan and Paris
- Organized an end of the summer show involving theater, music and dance

Professional Development

Language Pedagogy Reading Group

Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, 2008-2009

- current discussion topics
 - use of instructional technologies to teach culture
 - assessing writing in the foreign language classroom

ACTFL OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview) familiarization workshop

North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina, 2006

Workshops on instructional technology

Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

- VoiceThread implementation, 2009
- Duke Digital Initiative: What's In It For Me? (use of digital video technologies in language teaching), 2008
- Introduction to Google Earth, 2008
- Showcase 2008 keynote address with “intellagirl” Sarah Robbins: Pedagogy Before Technology: Exploring and Applying Tomorrow’s Technology with Today’s Students, 2008
- Documenting student proficiency and language development, 2007
- Introduction to instructional digital video, 2007
- iPod program orientation for language instructors, 2006
- Language technology round table, 2006

Research Interests in Literature and Culture Studies

16th and 17th century French literature and culture
Uses and theories of the proverb
Humanism and its legacy
Rhetoric
The History of the book
Early modern theories of citation and imitation
Early modern reading practices
Skepticism

Publications

Karen Christianson, Philip Grace, Robert Kilpatrick, Laura Kramer, and S. Vida Muse, eds., *Mapping the Premodern: Selected Proceedings of the Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies 26th Graduate Student Conference*. Chicago: The Newberry Library, 2008. Publication URL: <http://www.newberry.org/renaissance/conf-inst/conferenceproceedings.html>.

Translated into English Odette de Montesquiou's *Henriette Renié et la harpe. The Legend of Henriette Renié*. Edited by Jaymee Haefner, Authorhouse, 2007.

Conference Presentations

"Theory and Practice of the Adage in Montaigne's *Essais*." Renaissance Society of America Conference, April 2008.

"Blogging in the Advanced Grammar and Writing Classroom." Duke University Instructional Technology Showcase, April 2008.
<http://cit.duke.edu/showcase/2008/invited-demonstrations/#Kilpatrick>

"Function of Paratext in the Port-Royal edition of Pascal's *Pensées*." Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures, May 2007.

"A Feast of Language: Rabelais' Silenus Box and the Material Text." Word, Image, Body: A Copia Graduate Conference in Renaissance Studies. Princeton University, April 2004.

"The Crisis of Meaning in Umberto Eco's *Il Nome della rosa*." Indiana University Graduate Conference, April 2001.

Grants and Fellowships

Blackboard “Great Ideas” grant from the Center for Instructional Technology for the development of a blog project in an advanced writing and grammar course
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, 2008

William and Maryse Trapnell Fellowship for doctoral research in pre-1789 literature
Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 2004

Russell A. Havens Scholarship
Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 2004

College of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant
Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 2004

Service

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia
Departmental Service

- Teacher Education Committee, present
- Curriculum Committee, present

Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

- Language Faculty Representative to the Department of Romance Studies at Duke University, 2007

Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

- Coordinated Indiana University’s 14th annual Graduate Student Conference, “In Other Worlds: Crossing Borders”, 2005

Service to Professional Organizations

- Served on Organizational committee for the 25th Annual Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies Graduate Student Conference, “Mapping the pre-modern”, 2008

Languages

English: native speaker
French: near-native fluency
Italian: near-native fluency
Latin: reading knowledge

Technology Proficiency

Course management: Blackboard, Oncourse
Audio recording and editing: Wimba, Audacity
Video editing software: iMovie, Quicktime Pro, VoiceThread
Website design: CM4all Website Creator

Membership in Professional Organizations

American Association of Teachers of French (AATF)
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)
Pi Delta Phi (French Honors Society)
The Modern Language Association (MLA)
The Renaissance Society of America (RSA)

Research References

Dr. Eric MacPhail

Professor of French
Indiana University
Department of French and Italian
Bloomington, Indiana, 47405-7000
(812) 855-8948
macphai@indiana.edu

Dr. Rebecca Wilkin

Assistant Professor of French
Pacific Lutheran University
Language and Literatures Department
Tacoma, Washington, 98447
253-535-7313
wilkinrm@plu.edu

Dr. Massimo Scalabrini

Associate Professor of Italian
Indiana University
Department of French and Italian
Bloomington, Indiana, 47405-7000
812-855-8044
mscalabr@indiana.edu

Dr. Jacques Merceron

Professor of French
Indiana University
Department of French and Italian
Bloomington, Indiana
812-855-4336
jmercero@indiana.edu

Teaching References

Dr. Clare Tufts

Professor of the Practice
Director of the French Language Program
Duke University
President, Educo (Duke University's study abroad program in Paris), 2008-2009
60 rue St André des Arts
75006 Paris, France
01.55.42.82.52
ctufts@duke.edu

Dr. Deb Reisinger

Lecturer
Interim Director of the French Language Program
Duke University
Department of Romance Studies
Durham, North Carolina, 27708
919-660-3126
debsreis@duke.edu

Dr. Kelly Sax

Senior Lecturer
Director of French Language Instruction
Indiana University
Department of French and Italian
Bloomington, Indiana, 47405-7000
812-855-1254
ksax@indiana.edu