Aaron T. Witcher

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# Research Interests

* 20th and 21st century French and Francophone literature and cultural studies
* Caribbean literature
* Colonial history, postcolonial studies, decolonial methodologies
* African diaspora studies
* Écocriticism and literary theory

# Education

**PhD** The Pennsylvania State University, French and Francophones Studies Aug 2022

Dissertation: “Poétiques marronnes: Lignes de fuites, recréation

culturelle et errance dans la littérature martiniquaise”

Thesis Director: Emmanuel Bruno Jean-François

**MA** The Pennsylvania State University, French and Francophone Studies Dec 2017

**BA** Indiana University, English and French Studies May 2014

# Publications / Research

## Journal Publications

“Practices of Micro-Marronage: Mambos, Solidarity, Détours, and Heritage in Fabienne Kanor’s *Humus” The New West Indian Guide.* (published online ahead of print 2022)*.* <https://doi.org/10.1163/22134360-bja10020>

“Poétique de l’os: Mémoire de marron, modes écologiques et manières d’être au monde*. Nouvelles études francophones,* vol. 36, no. 1&2, 2021, pp. 284-297.

## Book Reviews

“Ecologies of the Sacred: A Review of Valérie Loichot’s *Water Graves*.” *Southern Spaces*. April 22, 2021. <https://southernspaces.org/2021/ecologies-sacred-review-valerie-loichots-water-graves/>

## Conference Papers

“Confronting Colonial Pasts in “Maroon Ecologies” in Jean-François Samlong’s *Hallali pour un chasseur* Northeastern Modern Language Association Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, March, 2022.

“Rethinking the Gender of Marronage: *Mambos* as Maroons in Fabienne Kanor’s *Humus”* Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Lexington, Kentucky, April 2021.

“Marooning Poetics: (Re)Tracing Lines of Flight in Édouard Glissant’s *Mahagony*” Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Lexington, Kentucky, April 2020. (Conference canceled)

“Penser la zone de contact et sa matérialité: les espaces de contre-culture dans *Tropique de la violence* de Nathacha Appanah” Écotones 3, Océan Indien: écotones, zones de contact et tiers-espaces, Saint-Denis, Réunion, June 2018.

# Teaching Experience

**The University of Texas**, Austin, TX Aug. 2024 - present

**Assistant Professor of Instruction**, French and Italian Studies

* *Upper-Division Course*
  + FR322E: Advanced French II

**Elon University,** Elon, NC Aug. 2023 to Aug 2024

**Visiting Assistant Professor**, World Languages and Cultures

* *Lower-Division Course*
  + FRE1020: Introductory French language course: part 2 (4 sections)
* *Upper-Division Course*
  + FRE3701: Writings of Contestation in the French-speaking world
  + FRE3060: Francophone Cultures and Histories

**Wake Forest University**, Winston-Salem, NC Jul 2022 to Jul 2023

**Visiting Assistant Professor**, French Studies

* *Lower-Division Courses*
  + FRH111: Introductory French language course: part I (1 section)
  + FRH112: Introductory French language course: part II (2 sections)
  + FRH153: Intermediate French language course (2 sections)
* *Upper-Division Courses*
  + FRH 321: Introduction to Translation in French (1 section)

**The Pennsylvania State University**, State College, PA Aug 2015 to May 2022

**Graduate Instructor of Record**, French and Francophones Studies

* *Lower-Division Courses*
  + FR002: Introductory French language course: part II (4 sections)
  + FR003: Intermediate French language course (4 sections)
* *Upper-Division Courses*
  + FR201: French Oral communication and Reading
  + FR332: History of France: French Revolution of 1789 to WWII (2 sections)
  + FR352: French and Francophone Literature since 1789 (1 section)
  + FR470: Race and Gender in Francophone Literature (1 section)
* *Language Coordination*
  + Assistant coordinator, Basic Language Program: FR003 (2016-17)
* *General Education Lecture Course*
  + FR137: Paris, Anatomy of a City (45-80 students; 3 sections)
* *Online*
  + FR137: Paris, Anatomy of a City (2 sections)
  + FR003: Intermediate French language course (2 sections)
  + FR001: Introductory French language course (2 sections)
* *Graduate-level Interventions*
  + FR597: Oceanic Creolizations, Diasporic Cultures, and Re-worlding Trajectories
  + FR559: Relation, Creolization, Archipelagic Thinking. In Conversation with Édouard Glissant

# Honors and Awards

**Wake Forest University Visiting Faculty Development Fund** 2022

$1,000 were awarded in order to attend ACTFL for professional development

**Marian Trygve Freed Graduate Research Award** 2021

Research award to support doctoral thesis completion

**Humanities Institute Residency** 2021

Semester-length residency with teaching release awarded on a competitive basis

**Centers for Humanities and Information Fellowship** 2020-2021

Year-long fellowship awarded to promising research in the Humanities

**French and Francophone Studies Excellent in Teaching Award** 2020

An award given to a graduate instructor of record based on student evaluations

and observations from the basic-language director

**Internal Research Release Grant, Dept. of French and Francophone Studies** 2020

Semester-length teaching release awarded to doctoral candidates

**Digital Humanities Training Grant** 2019

$2,000 funding to attend workshops at the University of Pennsylvania on Digital

Humanities

**Conference Travel Funding, Dept. of French and Francophone Studies** 2018

$750 award to present research at a professional conference

# Service to the Profession

**Assistant de formatage/ Formatting Editor** 2021 - present

*Nouvelles Études Francophone*, Journal of the International Council of

Francophone Studies

**Vice President / Faculty Committee Representative** 2020-2021

French and Francophone Studies Graduate Student Organization

* *Liaison between Graduate Student Organization and Faculty Committee*

**Committee member for invited speaker committee** 2020-2021

French and Francophone Studies Graduate Student Organization

* *Graduate* Table Ronde *committee: invited speakers and organized their interventions*

**Organizer of French and Francophone Film Series** 2020-2021

French and Francophone Studies Graduate Student Organization

* *Organized university-and-community-wide viewings of French and*

*Francophone films*

**Graduate Committee Representative** 2020-2021

French and Francophone Studies Graduate Student Organization

* *Liaison between Graduate Student Organization and Graduate Committee*

# Professional Training

**The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Conference**

Boston, Nov. 18-20, 2022

The Conference offered workshops and panels geared towards refining pedagogy for language teachers.

**DReAM Lab 2019, Price Lab for Digital Humanities**

Philadelphia, June 10-14, 2019

Workshorp that focused on exploring a number of in class applications of digital humanities like textual analysis, textual mining and visualization, etc.

# Professional Affiliations

**The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages** 2022-Present

Member of this pedagogical organization.

**Modern Language Association** 2022-Present

Member of this research / university organization

# Languages

**English**: Native

**French**: Near-native

**Spanish**: Intermediate Reading and Writing

# References

**Professor Emmanuel Bruno Jean-François -** Advisor - ebj2@psu.edu

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**Professor Heather McCoy -** hjm10@psu.edu

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**Professor Bénédicte Monicat** - Bxm6@psu.edu

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