

51st Annual
Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium

Play/Le jeu

October 30–November 1, 2025
Reno, NV



Paul Cézanne, *Les joueurs de cartes*, ca. 1890–1892, oil on canvas, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Thursday, October 30

Session 1 – 1:15–2:30 PM

1A A Little Bit of History Repeating (Emerald A)

Chair: Teddy Kellogg, Cornell University

“The Hunt for Power, Money, and Property in Émile Zola’s *La curée* and the 2024 U.S. Election”

Charles McAllister, University of California, Riverside

“Speculation as Form: Prefiguring Finance Capital in Balzac, Flaubert, and Zola”

Teddy Kellogg, Cornell University

“Sliding Into Authoritarianism: Napoléon III in the Age of Trump”

Ty Blakeney, Northwestern University

“Playing on 1848 in 2025: Corruption and Redemption in *Les Misérables*”

Abigail Ray Alexander, Kennesaw State University

1B Playing with Mallarmé (Emerald B)

Chair: Darci L. Gardner, Appalachian State University

“Soundplay in Mallarmé”

Catherine Witt, Reed College

“Staging the Page: Dramatic Space in the Works of Mallarmé and Albiach”

Olivia Goldring, University of California, Berkeley

1C News and Paper (Emerald C)

Chair: Rachel Corkle, CUNY, Graduate Center and BMCC

“Play on the Front Page: Chroniques beyond Commentary”

Maureen DeNino, University of Georgia

“Semantic Play in the Age of Print”

Cary Hollinshead-Strick, American University of Paris

“Dressing up: Fashion Plates, Sewing Patterns, and Democracy of Clothing in Mallarmé’s *La dernière mode* (1874) and Zola’s *Au Bonheur des dames* (1883)”

Abby H. Shepherd, Duke University

“The Novel Game of Fake News and Capital in Emile Zola’s *L’Argent*”

Amr Kamal, CUNY, Graduate Center

Break 2:30–2:45 PM (Paradise Terrace)

Session 2 – 2:45–4:00 PM

2A Same-Sex Desire and Pleasure (Emerald A)

Chair: Abigail Fields, University of Kansas

“Sapphists at Play: Prostitution, Poetry, and Perusing During the Belle Epoque”

Lowry Martin, University of Texas – El Paso

“Playing with herself: Women’s self-pleasure in *Nana* and *La Jongleuse*”

Adeline Soldin, Dickinson College

“Renée Vivien’s Poetic Androgyny: Playing with Form and Gender”

Victoria Cheff, Brown University

2B Expositions Universelles and Other Spectacles (Emerald B)

Chair: Kathy Comfort, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Georges de Peyrebrune’s Burlesque Railway Odyssey”

Aimée Boutin, Florida State University

“Universal Play: The Parisian Expositions and Popular Literature”

Anne O’Neil-Henry, Georgetown University

“Je veux faire le trottoir... roulant!?: Jane de la Vaudère and the Female Gaze at the Exposition Universelle”

Sharon Larson, Christopher Newport University

2C Within and Beyond France (Emerald C)

Chair: Maureen DeNino, University of Georgia

“On Display: Six Osages in Europe (1827)”

Fabienne Moore, University of Oregon

“Flâneurs and Fellaghas in Colonial Algiers”

Colin Foss, Austin College

Break 4:00–4:15 PM (Paradise Terrace)

Session 3 – 4:15–5:30 PM

3A Reflections of Nineteenth-Century Spaces (Emerald A)

Chair: Ty Blakeney, Northwestern University

“Baudelairean Modernity at Play: Eugène Atget’s Ironic Photo Reflections”

Lauren S. Weingarden, Florida State University

“The Serious Play of Seeing: Eugène Atget and the Ludic Architecture of the Nineteenth-Century City”

Camille Rollando-Kozłowski, University of Texas at Austin

“Liminal Spaces in *La Peau de chagrin* and its TV-Film Adaptations (1980, 2010): Play, Performance and Peril in the Gambling House, the Opera, and the Antiquarian Shop”

Dana Vuckovic, Oxford University

“Playing dollhouse: Émile Zola and *The Sims 4*”

Nina Kirkegaard, University of Texas at Austin

3B Poor Emma! (Emerald B)

Chair: Anthony Zielonka, Assumption University

“*Lucie*, Interrupted, or What Emma Might Have Learned Had She Stayed for the Third Act of the Opera”

Susan McCready, University of South Alabama

“‘Une ignoble petite Venise?’: Rouen as a Tourist Destination in *Madame Bovary*”

Jennifer Kramer, University of Maine

“Playing Pretend: Destructive Desire and Compulsory Cisheteronormative Attraction in Gustave Flaubert’s *Madame Bovary*”

Aubrey Lewis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“Playful Retirement in Flaubert’s *Bouvard et Pécuchet* (1881)”

Anthony Zielonka, Assumption University

3C Musical Revolutions (Emerald C)

Chair: Margaret Miner, University of Illinois Chicago

“Berlioz Plays the Orchestra: Form, Music, and Narrative”

Jeffrey Burkholder, Santa Clara University

“Rossini’s Wager: Operatic Aesthetics and Queer Trouser Role Performance in *Le comte Ory*”

Keenan Burton, Western Washington University

“Playing with the Alba: Troubadour Medievalism in Déodat de Séverac’s Occitan-language ‘Albado’”

Sarah Le Van, University of Pennsylvania

“The Box Opened: Marie Taglioni’s *Pandore*, or the Risk of Authorship in Dance”

Madison Mainwaring, University of Notre Dame

Friday, October 31

Breakfast 8:00–9:00 AM (Paradise Ballroom C, D, E)

Session 4 – 9:00–10:15 AM

4A Les jeux d’Alexandre Dumas père (Emerald A)

Chair: Roxane Petit-Rasselle, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

“Playing with Identity: Alexandre Dumas, African American Memory, and the Gamble of Literary Heritage”

Eric Martone, Mercy University

“‘Mais vous, vous m’aimez’: les jeux de relations entre Alexandre Dumas et Marceline Desbordes-Valmore”

Roxane Petit-Rasselle, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

“Dumas aux prises avec le démon du jeu : *La Femme au collier de velours* (1849) et *Olympe de Clèves* (1852)”

Julie Anselmini, Université Caen Normandie

“Double jeu et double enjeu amoureux dans *La Peau de chagrin* (1831) d’Honoré Balzac et *La Femme au collier de velours* (1850) d’Alexandre Dumas”

Daniel Desormeaux, Johns Hopkins University

4B Old and New Games (Emerald B)

Chair: Corry Cropper, Brigham Young University

“The Automaton That Played Chess Against Napoleon: The ‘Turc mécanique,’ Hoaxes, and AI *avant la lettre*”

Nicola Angeli, Yale University

“Child’s Play? Japanese *Jouets* as Cultural Mediators, 1853–1914”

Elizabeth Emery, Montclair State University

“Masques et simulacre dans le Jeu de l’Oie de l’Affaire Dreyfus et de la Vérité”

Karine Macarez, University of Pennsylvania

4C The Epistolary Nineteenth Century (Emerald C)

Chair: Claudie Bernard, New York University

“Epistolary games: Élisabeth de Clermont-Tonnerre requests a mysterious favor from Marcel Proust”

François Proulx, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“Playing with Words and Desire: How Sophie Cottin’s *Claire d’Albe* Challenged Moral Codes and Writing Conventions in Early Nineteenth-Century France”

Brooke Tybush, College of Charleston

“The Princess and the Priest: How Anne-Marie Ghika’s ‘Cahiers Saint-Germain’ Became Liane de Pougy’s *Cahiers bleus*”

Courtney Ann Sullivan, Washburn University

4D Balzac’s Risky Business (Grand 3)

Chair: Patrick Bray, University College London

“Balzac’s Wager”

Göran Blix, Princeton University

“Gaming and Chance in Balzac’s *La Peau de chagrin*”

Thomas W. Briggs, Independent Scholar

“Betting on the Beyond: Balzac, Meyerbeer, Dumas, and the Banal”

Margaret Miner, University of Illinois Chicago

Break 10:15–10:30 AM (Paradise Terrace)

Session 5 – 10:30–11:45 AM

5A Haiti and the 1825 Indemnity (Emerald A)

Chair: Christopher T. Bonner, Texas A&M University

“Debt Jubilation: Theater, Poetry, and Politics at the Boyer Government’s Celebration of the 1825 Independence Debt”

Christopher T. Bonner, Texas A&M University

“Cultures of Indebtedness: Anténor Firmin, Haiti, and the Empire of Francophonie”

Bastien Craipain, Louisiana State University

5B Human and Non-Human Worlds (Emerald B)

Chair: Anne O’Neil-Henry, Georgetown University

“Le Droit de Vivre’: Imagining Vegetal Life in Nineteenth-Century France”

Giulia Pacini, William & Mary

“Playing with the Veillée: George Sand’s Experimental Settings in the Romans Champêtres”

Abigail Fields, University of Kansas

“Ecofeminist Monsters in Renée Vivien’s *La Dame à la louve*”

Christopher Robison, Swarthmore College

“Les choses au clair : Rimbaud et le Parnasse”

Mendel Péladéan-Houle, St. Francis Xavier University

5C Possible Futures (Emerald C)

Chair: Melanie Conroy, University of Memphis

“Ludic Couture: Fashion, Love, and Electricity in Third Republic France”

Sara Phenix, Brigham Young University

“Les enjeux à venir : ‘Paris au XXe siècle’ de Jules Verne”

Nicolas Valazza, Indiana University – Bloomington

“Zadoc Kahn’s *pari littéraire*: literature, history, and legacy”

Gayle Zachmann, University of Florida

Break 11:45 AM–12:00 PM (Paradise Terrace)

Session 6 – 12:00–1:15 PM

6A Now You See It, Now You Don’t: The Land Behind the Landscape (Emerald A)

Chair: Masha Belenky, The George Washington University

“Now You See Her, Now You Don’t: Women Working in the French Perfume Industry”

Cheryl Krueger, University of Virginia

“Traces of Extraction in Fashion Plate Landscapes”

Susan Hiner, Vassar College

“Degas’ Extractive Landscape”

Marni Kessler, University of Kansas

“The Play of Nature: Landscapes of the Mind in Louise Bourgeois’s *Eugénie Grandet*”

Alexandra K. Wettlaufer, University of Texas at Austin

6B Zola’s Vices (Emerald B)

Chair: Lisa Algazi Marcus, Hood College

“Playing with Fire: Race, Alcohol, and Spontaneous Human Combustion in Les Rougon Macquart”

Holly Collins, Baylor University

“Playing with Fire in Zola’s *Le docteur Pascal*”

Robert Mahan, University of Virginia

“*Au Grand Faim des Dames*: Playing with Fashion and Hunger in Zola’s *Au Bonheur des dames* (1883)”

Kellie Giordano, Boston University

“Le pouvoir religieux dans ‘Les Trois Villes’ d’Emile Zola : un jeu d’influence et de séduction?”

Maria Sayegh, Université de La Sorbonne Nouvelle

6C The Wheel of Fortune (Emerald C)

Chair: Colin Foss, Austin College

“Reversals of Fortune in Chateaubriand’s *Essai sur les Révolutions*”

Michael Taormina, Hunter College

“Les (en)jeux de (la) société: *L’arriviste* as a window into the games played in Parisian society”

Keith Wagner, University of Texas at Austin

6D Moving Pictures (Grand 3)

Chair: Madeleine Wolf, St. Olaf College

“Playing Snake in Early French Cops-and-Robbers Films”

Jennifer Forrest, Texas State University

“The screen as playing card: Méliès, Lumières”

Zeynep Aygün, Brown University

“Animating the Circus with Charles-Emile Reynaud’s Praxinoscope”

Melanie Conroy, University of Memphis

Lunch 1:15–2:45 PM

Session 7 – 2:45–4:00 PM

7A Playing with Gender (Emerald A)

Chair: Rachel Mesch, Boston University

“The Play’s the Thing: Theater and Gender Creativity in Nineteenth-Century France”

Rachel Mesch, Boston University

“Body as Resistance in George Sand’s Gabriel”

Alex Earls, Boston University

“Sappho in the Studio: Costume, (Role) Play and Self Invention in Laure-Mathilde Gouin’s portraits of Antonia”

Raisa Rexer, Vanderbilt University

“For a Trans Framework of Gender Euphoria: the Pleasure of Gender-Bending in 19th-Century French Literature”

Jordan Tudisco, University of California, Berkeley

7B Orientalist Play from Delacroix to Loti (Emerald B)

Chair: Elizabeth Emery, Montclair State University

“Gender, Fashion, and the Performance of Identity in Marc Hélyès and Isabelle Eberhardt”

Julianne Angeli, University of Michigan

“Playing between Timeless Desire and Ephemeral Gaze: Orientalism and the Female Body in Delacroix and Ingres”

Shan Hsiao, University of Texas at Austin

7C Perceptions of the City (Emerald C)

Chair: Aimée Boutin, Florida State University

“Playing for the Audience: Eugénie Foa’s Urban Sketches”

Masha Belenky, The George Washington University

“Parisian Playback: Listening to the City through Baudelaire”

Madeleine Wolf, St. Olaf College

“The Vampires of Paris in Zola’s *Le Ventre de Paris* and the pleasures of Gold, Silver, and Food”

Justin Cotten, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

7D Hugo’s Archetypes (Grand 3)

Chair: Susanna Lee, Georgetown University

“Masque du rire et théâtre du pouvoir : Subversion de l’Esthétique du jeu dans *Le Roi s’amuse* de Victor Hugo”

Marie Dufay-Verbié, University of Alabama at Birmingham

“Playing with Whiteness: Hugo’s Adaptation of the Racial Taxonomy in *Bug-Jargal*”

Kylie Sago, San Diego State University

“Fantine and Sien Hoornik: The perspectives of Hugo and Van Gogh on prostitution”

Mikaela Hart, McMaster University

“Altérité et perception poétique chez Victor Hugo : Analyse en idem et en ipse de l’imaginaire métaphorique dans ‘Booz endormi’”

Arpine Mkrtchyan, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Break 4:00–4:15 PM (Paradise Terrace)

Session 8 – 4:15–5:30 PM

8A Philosophy and Poetry (Emerald A)

Chair: Sayeeda Mamoon, Edgewood University

“Laughing with Lautréamont, ou le rire de Derrida”

Thomas C. Connolly, Yale University

“Trèfle, whist, valet de cœur : jeu de cartes et calcul esthétique”

Henning Hufnagel, University of Zurich

8B Games People Play (Emerald B)

Chair: Dany Jacob, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

“Jeux de reflets, jeux d’écriture fin-de-siècle, Georges Rodenbach et Jean Lorrain”

Claudie Bernard, New York University

“Acting the Part and Playing with Hearts: Acting in/and George Sand’s Libertine Leone Leoni”

Rachel Corkle, CUNY, Graduate Center and BMCC

8C Censorship and Literary Play (Emerald C)

Chair: Cary Hollinshead-Strick, American University of Paris

“Why Anarchism? The Symbolists Get Political”

Richard Shryock, Virginia Tech

“The Comic as Playfulness in Fin-de-Siècle Narrative”

Warren Johnson, Arkansas State University

“‘Amusements Galants’: Playing at storytelling in the Nouveau Décameron”

Hannah Kosman, Wesleyan University

Break 5:30–5:45 PM (Paradise Terrace)

Plenary 5:45–6:45 PM (Paradise Ballroom C, D, E)

“Industrial Gambling in 19th Century Europe: Bodies, Emotions, Psychology”

Dr. Jared Poley, Georgia State University

Reception 6:45–7:45 PM (Paradise Terrace)

Saturday, November 1

Breakfast 9:30–10:30 AM (Paradise Ballroom C, D, E)

NCFS Board Meeting

Session 9 – 10:30–11:45 AM

9A Jeux de société (Emerald A)

Chair: Cheryl Krueger, University of Virginia

“Pyramid Scheme: Pharaon in Nineteenth-Century France”

Corry Cropper, Brigham Young University

“Ce divertissement bruyant et tumultueux?: Explaining le jeu de paume”

Seth Whidden, University of Oxford (The Queen’s College)

“Whist and its (Anglophobic) Undersides”

Andrea Goulet, University of Pennsylvania

9B Model Children (Emerald B)

Chair: Marie Dufay-Verbié, University of Alabama at Birmingham

“Petites poupées et petits maîtres: Representations of Masculinity in Nineteenth-Century French Doll Literature”

Elisabeth April Bloom, Princeton University

“Playing Like a Girl?: Games, Friendship, and Feminine Sociability in La Comtesse de Ségur’s Fleurville Trilogy”

Camille Roche, Johns Hopkins University

“Les romans scolaires de Marie Robert Halt ou les femmes meneuses du jeu économique”

Laurie Dubois, Gonzaga University

9C Jeux de genre (Emerald C)

Chair: Jennifer Forrest, Texas State University

“Jeu et manipulation chez Rachilde”

Guri Ellen Barstad, Østfold University College

“Se jouer du masculin : Quand la virilité devient dérision et travestissement”

Dany Jacob, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

“Play as Form: On Théophile Gautier’s *Mademoiselle de Maupin*”

Divya Menon, Boston University

Break 11:45 AM–12:00 PM (Paradise Terrace)

Session 10 – 12:00–1:15 PM

10A Playing with Food and Drink (Emerald A)

Chair: Divya Menon, Boston University

“Playing the Celebrity Chef in the Apple TV+ Series *Carême*”

Michael Garval, North Carolina State University

“Madame Bovary walks into a bar...”

Gretchen Schultz, Brown University

10B Le mal du siècle (Emerald B)

Chair: Gerald Prince, University of Pennsylvania

“Betting on the Happy Few: Stendhal and the Vicissitudes of Taste”

Patrick Bray, University College London

“Le jeu dans l’univers féminin: Indiana et Emma”

Christine Tchamabo, University of Oklahoma

10C Empowered Women (Emerald C)

Chair: E. Nicole Meyer, Augusta University

“Fractured Fairy Tales: Eugénie Foa’s reimagining of literary moral education for the post-revolutionary young woman”

Julia Elizabeth Burgin, University of Texas at Austin

“Female Bodily Resistance in Three Short Stories by Guy de Maupassant”

Kathy Comfort, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Narrating Chance in the 1890s: Women’s Fates under an Outdated Civil Code”

Darci L. Gardner, Appalachian State University

10D Artifice and Reality (Grand 3)

Chair: Richard Shryock, Virginia Tech

“Literati’s Hashish and Ragpicker’s Wine: Poetic Recreation and Labor in Baudelaire”

Sisi Liu, University of Texas at Austin

“Risk and reward: the drunken man as plot device in Pierre Loti’s *Mon frère Yves*”

Susanna Lee, Georgetown University

“L’économie du jeu: L’artifice dans la littérature du XIXe siècle”

Guillaume Ménard, McGill University

Lunch 1:15 –2:45 PM

Session 11 – 2:45–4:00 PM

11A Images de la prostitution chez Flaubert (Emerald A)

Chair: Eric Le Calvez, Georgia State University

“Présence de la prostitution dans *L’Éducation sentimentale*”

Eric Le Calvez, Georgia State University

“Flaubert et le spectacle de la prostitution”

Bruno Pentead, Texas Tech University

“Il se vendit enfin, il se prostitua : Homais, du déshonneur à la croix d’honneur”

Christophe Ippolito, Georgia Institute of Technology

11B Mistaken Identities (Emerald B)

Chair: Fabienne Moore, University of Oregon

“Perverse Play: Lautréamont’s Peculiar Aesthetic Games”

Pamela Genova, University of Oklahoma

“Et le chancre est un gagne-pain !: Tristan Corbière’s disseminations of ‘la cour des miracles’ in *Les Amours Jaunes*”

Tristan Pagèze, University of Texas at Austin

“The Name of the Mother: Nerval’s Alternative Inheritance”

Cate Talley, Skidmore College

11C Carnavalesque Characters (Emerald C)

Chair: Karen Humphreys, Trinity College

“Masking and Unmasking: Carnival as Subversive Social Play in James Ensor’s *L’Entrée du Christ à Bruxelles en 1889* (1888)”

Hannah Rose Blakeley, Princeton University

“Carnival of Chaos: From Victor Hugo’s Gwynplaine to The Joker”

Samuel Holmertz, New York University

“Fortunio, ou comment se jouer de son lecteur”

Maxime Foerster, Southern Methodist University

Break 4:00–4:15 PM (Paradise Terrace)

Session 12 – 4:15–5:30 PM

12A In Memory of Dr. Bénédicte Monicat (1962–2025): Transformative Legacies at Play in Women’s Writing (Emerald A)

Chair: Ying Wang, Pace University

“La case de depart’: Nineteenth-century women’s travel writing and the work of Bénédicte Monicat”

Margot Irvine, University of Guelph

“The Gamification of Research? A 19th Century Women Writers Database for Play, Curiosity, and Community”

Morgane Haesen, University of Texas at Austin

“Playing Away: Renée Vivien’s Dream of a Life in Sappho’s Footsteps”

Melanie Hawthorne, Texas A&M University

“Berthe Mariani, ‘demi-femme de lettres’ and ‘femme d’esprit’”

Cheryl Morgan, Hamilton College

“Un ‘jeu’ textuel dans *Monsieur le Marquis de Pontanges* de Delphine de Girardin”

Ying Wang, Pace University

12B New Connections to New Orleans (Emerald B)

Chair: Courtney Ann Sullivan, Washburn University

“Creole Literary Play in Alice Dunbar Nelson’s New Orleans Fiction”

Heidi Brevik-Zender, University of California, Riverside

“Le Chevalier Beauregard: Linguistic and Identitarian Play in Reconstruction-Era New Orleans”

Ryan Atticus Doherty, Centenary College of Louisiana

“A Franco-American Treasure Hunt: Uncovering Amélie Henriquel-Dupont’s 1871 Diary from the Franco-Prussian War”

Martine F. Wagner, University of South Florida

12C Positively Literary (Emerald C)

Chair: Cate Talley, Skidmore College

“Cruel Games: Flaubert and the Melancholy of Childhood”

Jean-Baptiste Chantoiseau, Métropole Rouen Normandie/Université Sorbonne Nouvelle

“Darwinian Fairy Tales? George Sand’s *Contes d’une grand-mère*”

Lynn R. Wilkinson, University of Texas at Austin

12D Proust for Whom? (Grand 3)

Chair: François Proulx, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“An Aesthetic Revolution in French Literature of the Long Nineteenth Century”

Emily Rose Kraus, University of Georgia

“Proust, Brecht and Popular Art”

Max McGuinness, Trinity College Dublin

“Proust’s Noses”

Gerald Prince, University of Pennsylvania

Break 5:30–5:45 PM (Paradise Terrace)

NCFS Mentoring Network Meeting 5:45–6:30 PM (Paradise Ballroom C, D, E)

All current and prospective participants are invited to attend.

Banquet 7:00 PM (Paradise Ballroom A, B)

A toast to Dr. Bénédicte Monicat

Remarks from Dr. David Do Paço, Attaché for academic cooperation, Deputy director of the Villa Albertine in San Francisco

The following individuals have been invaluable in the planning and execution of the 51st annual Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium. Thank you!

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The Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority facilitated connections with local venues and provided a generous sponsorship in support of the event.



Finally, the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa graciously hosted the event, providing beautiful meeting spaces, delicious food, and upgraded amenities for all our guests.

