



Dear Members of the Society for Interdisciplinary French Seventeenth-Century Studies,

Happy New Year and warmest wishes to you all for the year ahead. I write with news of the Society's activities this past year and plans for 2024, and to [open voting on session topics for our 43<sup>rd</sup> annual conference](#). We are delighted to announce that it will take place October 17-19 in Chicago, generously organized by Co-Presidents Ellen McClure (University of Illinois Chicago) and Larry Norman (University of Chicago). Plans are well underway, and we look forward to sending out further details when we issue the call for papers in February.

**Please don't miss your opportunity to shape next fall's conference by casting your vote on session topics. Voting begins today and runs through Wednesday, January 24, 2024.** As is our procedure, SE17 members present at the Rochester conference nominated a series of topics for consideration. In order to vote on sessions, your membership dues must be paid for the 2024 calendar year, so **thank you for renewing your membership or joining the Society**. Once you have renewed or joined, you will be able to vote on sessions through the link that will appear in the "SE17 Member Options" menu on [the societal options page](#).

**Please read on for news and opportunities! In this newsletter, you will find:**

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## A request for your ongoing support

As we begin the new year, we invite you to **please contribute to the work of the Society by [renewing your SE17 membership or becoming a member](#)**. Your annual dues payments are crucial to the many activities of our scholarly community. They support our diversity, equity, inclusion, and access initiatives, the maintenance and development of the [Early Modern France](#) website, the publication of the [Cahiers du dix-septième](#), the SE17 Conference Travel Fund, and our annual conference. When you renew or join, please consider **making a donation to the [Francis Assaf Graduate Student Fund](#)** to support the early career scholars who are future of our discipline. We also encourage current members to take a moment to update your membership profile. SE17 is doing great things, but we cannot do them without your support.

Membership for 2024 remains a low \$25 for full time faculty and \$15 for part-time faculty, independent scholars, graduate students, and retired members. You need not have a PayPal account to pay your dues. When the join-renew link takes you to PayPal, simply select the “Pay with Debit or Credit Card” button to make payment. Thank you in advance for your generous support of the Society and its many initiatives!

## An inspiring annual conference in Rochester

President Anna Rosensweig generously hosted an [outstanding annual conference in October at the University of Rochester](#). Thanks to Anna's extraordinary commitment, hard work, and meticulous planning, the conference was everything we all love about the SE17: a warm and welcoming atmosphere, exciting and innovative sessions, truly inspiring scholarship, and dynamic and collegial exchange throughout. Several special events enriched the conference as well. In collaboration with PhD student in Visual and Cultural Studies Danielle Genevro, Anna treated participants to a delightful screening of two silent films on Friday evening: a rare surviving excerpt of Georges Méliès' 1908 *L'Avare*, followed by Fredrich Wilhelm Murnau's 1926 *Herr Tartüff*, one of the first films to use the film-within-a-film trope. Saturday began and concluded with two workshops centered on publishing, organized by our IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) officers, Jennifer Row and Ashley Williard. In the morning we heard from Jenny Tan, Acquisitions Editor for the University of Pennsylvania Press, in a session moderated by Jennifer Row, with participants asking questions either in-person or anonymously through a Google doc. In the afternoon, discussion continued informally, with several members sharing their experiences and tips regarding publishing with various presses. The highlight of Saturday afternoon was a presentation by Michael Galban, Historic Site Manager of the Ganondagan State Historic Site and Curator of the Seneca Art and Culture Center, who led participants through an investigation into the complicated history of Franco-Iroquois relations and the role of the Jesuits during the colonial period through the hands-on examination of material objects. Finally, thanks to David Harrison, we also had the pleasure of welcoming three Grinnell undergraduates to the conference who presented their translation projects of early modern French plays through a poster session. Immense gratitude goes to each of these individuals, and especially to Anna and her team, for making our time together in Rochester so enjoyable and invigorating. Many thanks also go to session and workshop chairs and participants, Treasurer Deborah Steinberger, Communications Officer Emma Gauthier-

Mamaril, Webmaster Tad Macy, the University of Rochester and each of the contributing departments for their generous support of the conference.

### **Remembering Perry Gethner fondly**

November brought the devastating loss of our beloved colleague and friend, Perry Gethner, who passed away on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. As many who knew him have written, and Allison Stedman conveyed so beautifully in [her testimonial on our Early Modern France website](#), Perry generously shared his many gifts with all those around him and he will be sorely missed. The shock and deep sadness that we feel at his passing can only be matched by the extraordinary joy he gave so many of us throughout his lifetime. A kind and treasured mentor, faithful and encouraging friend, and fearless scholar, Perry brought verve and virtuosity to each of his conference presentations. May his resounding song forever grace our Society's gatherings and inspire us all to give the best of ourselves, dare to take risks, find enjoyment in our work, and support each other in all we do.

### **Thanks to outgoing Executive Committee members and welcome to new members**

As we transition from 2023 to 2024, we want to thank several outgoing members of our Executive Committee for their service and welcome our new members. Heartfelt thanks go to Valentine Balguerie, Therese Banks, and Sylvaine Guyot for their extraordinary contributions to our work during their terms as Members-at-large. Great thanks as well to outgoing Past-Presidents Juliette Cherbuliez and Toby Wikström, who brought us the amazing 2022 Reykjavík conference and have served the Society in countless other ways. We want to express once again our gratitude to Jean-Vincent Blanchard for his years of tireless service as Editor of the *Cahiers du dix-septième*, and to Bertrand Landry for his hard work as Bibliographer for our entire community of *dix-septièmistes*.

In addition to Ellen McClure and Larry Norman, who will serve as Co-Presidents for 2024, we are thrilled to welcome to the Committee newly elected Members-at-large Ainan Liu and Radhika Koul, who will each serve a three-year term. Sylvaine Guyot returns to the Committee in a new role, partnering with Héléne Bilis as Co-Editors of the *Cahiers-Débats* (please see below for more on this exciting initiative!).

As always, I am deeply grateful to every member of the Executive Committee for their innovative ideas and extraordinary commitment to our work together over the past year. It is an honor, a privilege, and a pleasure to work with such a dynamic and committed group of colleagues and friends. As I begin the process of transitioning out of my role as Executive Director in 2025 after twenty years of serving in that role, I know the Society is in good hands, and the future is bright.

### **Announcing new *Cahiers-Débats du Dix-Septième*, edited by Héléne Bilis and Sylvaine Guyot**

As approved by the Executive Committee and endorsed by a vote of the membership at the Rochester conference, our interdisciplinary journal will have an exciting new format and new publication model from 2024-2027.

With the aim of promoting lively interdisciplinary and transnational debates, [\*Cahiers-Débats\*](#) will propose special issues around key methodological questions surrounding early modern French and Francophone Studies in the twenty-first century. Guest Editors will assemble a forum of scholars from a variety of fields, national traditions, academic institutions, and cultural contexts to grapple with major divides in the humanities on the relevance, value, and legitimacy of turning to new critical approaches to study the past. Paying particular attention to positionality and critical anchoring, the invited contributors will offer short-form essays as part of a dialogue intended to make visible the intersections, divisions, and even frictions within the field of French Studies today.

Hélène E. Bilis (Wellesley College) and Sylvaine Guyot (New York University) will serve as co-editors-in-chief for a period of three years of the new *Cahiers-Débats* format. During that time, they and a team of Managing Editors will invite essays from authors working across a broad spectrum of humanistic disciplines. [Please contact them with any questions.](#)

### ***Cahiers-Débats* Editorial Board**

Heather Kirk, Brescia University College, Chief Web Editor

Associate Editors:

Therese Banks, Middlebury College

Juliette Cherbuliez, University of Minnesota

Mita Choudhury, Vassar College

Sarah Grandin, The Clark-Getty Curatorial Fellow

Larry Norman, University of Chicago

Christophe Schuwey, Université Bretagne Sud

Jennifer Tamas, Rutgers University

Clothilde Thouret, Université Paris Nanterre

Mélanie Traversier, Université de Lille

Geoffrey Turnovsky, University of Washington-Seattle

Stella Spriet, University of Saskatchewan, Book Review Editor

Tad Macy, Web designer and technician

### **Publication Format**

Each issue will revolve around a prompt related to a current debate of interest to the study of early modern France and the humanities, more generally.

- The Guest Editors will provide a prompt or set of questions to launch the discussion.
- Contributors will respond in relatively short (approx. 3500-4500 words) but lively responses.
- Each issue will focus on a methodological approach or a key question that our field, broadly understood, should consider.
- The contributions will be interdisciplinary, with at least two essay authors stemming from fields outside of literary studies, and, ideally, with at least one contribution from

an artist or practitioner who works primarily beyond the walls of academia or outside of the early modern period; the goal will be to assemble a slate of contributors that reflect a transatlantic and transnational approach, as well as an inter-generational perspective.

- Each issue will be assembled by a pair of Guest Editors, drawn from the Editorial Board or from the SE17 membership, and/or an invited colleague from adjacent disciplines such as art history, philosophy, performance studies, etc.

**The first issue of *Cahiers-Débats* on the topic of “Feminisms and Early Modern France”** is in preparation with a publication goal of October 15, 2024. The second issue will appear in late spring with the goal of two issues per year.

### **Call for submissions for SE17’s new prize for Re-Visioning the Center: New Directions in Seventeenth-Century Francophone Studies**

The Society for Interdisciplinary French Seventeenth-Century Studies (SE17) announces a new prize to be awarded to recognize work presented at any conference that relativizes, problematizes, and revitalizes aspects of French and Francophone culture that have been under recognized by and in the established critical canon of French seventeenth-century studies. Subjects treated include, but are not limited to, the following topics: disability, race, non-normative sexuality, queer theory/studies, global topics, any area of francophone studies (North Africa, West Africa, Caribbean, North America, Asia).

Submission details:

- Papers may have been presented at any conference in any country during the previous calendar year (2023).
- Length: 12 pages double spaced or approximately 3000 words, not including endnotes and bibliography. Chicago Notes and Bibliography or Modern Languages Association styles accepted.
- Languages: English or French.
- Papers may not be published at time of submission but a longer version may be under consideration for publication.
- Submitter must be a [member of SE17](#) at the time of submission and may join the Society to submit.
- Double blind submission by March 1, 2024.
- Submit paper plus a 200-word abstract to Prize Committee Chair [Abby Zanger](#). Remove any information identifying authorship from the paper itself and include in the accompanying email the following information: name, affiliation (if any), the name and dates of the conference where the paper was presented.

Prize: Two years of complimentary membership in the Society; abstract and “Spotlight” article focused on the author and their work published on the website [earlymodernfrance.org](#). Winner announced and prize awarded at the annual SE17 conference, on the Early Modern France website, major interdisciplinary listservs, and through the Society’s social media outlets.

### **Prize Committee seeks additional jury members**

Please consider serving the Society as a member of a prize jury and enjoy reading innovative new work in the field. Each year, jury members will read submissions of conference papers presented the previous year for one of two prizes (graduate prize and new directions prize) and deliberate in an online meeting with other jury members to determine the prize winner for that year. The prize committee's work will take place primarily in February and March each year. Term length is flexible, though a three-year commitment is desirable. Jury members will recuse themselves in the case of their own work being considered for a prize. If interested, please contact Prize Committee Chair, Abby Zanger, through our [contact page](#).

### **Early Modern France Website seeks Conferences and Colloquia Editor**

Early Modern France seeks a volunteer to serve on its Editorial Board as Conferences and Colloquia Editor. In addition to posting announcements that come from the membership through the website form, the editor keeps abreast of upcoming conferences and colloquia in our fields and regularly posts calls for papers and announcements regarding upcoming scholarly gatherings on the website. If interested or to find out more, please contact EMF Website Editors, Christophe Schuway and Katherine LaPorta, through our [contact page](#).

### **Invitation to participate in an online book proposal workshop**

The 2023 conference sessions on publishing, brought to you by our IDEA officers, Ashley Williard and Jennifer Row, demonstrated the need and enthusiasm for ongoing community building and mentorship in early modern French studies. To extend that momentum, we are soliciting interest in an online book proposal workshop to take place in the coming months. An initial conversational information-sharing session would cover the format and expectations for an academic book proposal. Afterward, interested participants would have the opportunity to circulate their book proposal drafts for feedback. Colleagues at any career or book-writing stage (including graduate students) are invited to share their questions, experiences, and expertise. Sign up to volunteer as a mentor or participate as an attendee on [this form](#) by January 31, 2024.

### **Invitation to attend the next meeting of the Early Modern Race Reading Group**

The Early Modern Race Reading Group, led by Ashley Williard, continues meeting monthly on Thursday afternoons via zoom. We hope you'll join us! Our next meeting will take place on **Thursday, January 25 at 2pm EST/8pm CST**. This month, we have the privilege of discussing pieces of Christina Kullberg's new book, *Points of Entanglement in French Caribbean Travel Writing (1620-1722)*, with the author herself. The full book is [available open access](#). We will focus our discussion on: start of the introduction (pages 1-7) to get a sense of the aim of the book; and parts of chapter "Other Tongues" (pages 161-188) on translingualism and the beginning of a separation and racialization of languages.

On February 22, Therese Banks will lead a discussion of Geraldine Heng's *Invention of Race in the European Middle Ages*.

**To receive the zoom link for these meetings**, or if you would simply like to add your name to our listserv to receive information about future discussions, **please contact our group convener, [Ashley Williard](#)**. Please also feel free invite colleagues from any discipline interested in questions around racializing discourses in the early modern Francophone world.

We also hope you'll continue to contribute to our ongoing list of "[Resources for anti-racist scholarship and teaching in Early Modern French Studies](#)" by submitting references or links to primary and secondary sources, websites, media, conferences, and other projects (you will find the simple submission form at the bottom of the linked page).

### **Announcing news and sharing resources via our website and social media outlets**

We encourage you to send your announcements and resource suggestions to the Early Modern France website [using this form](#). **The editors are particularly interested in members sharing any relevant materials to enrich the Scholarly Resources and Teaching Resources sections.** We hope you will please take a moment to share your helpful finds and classroom successes with our larger community.

Follow us on social media as well to stay in tune with news regarding the Society. Please share your publications with our accounts on the following platforms or send your news directly to our Communications Officer, Emma Gauthier-Mamaril, through our [contact page](#) for distribution through our social media outlets:

- Facebook: [SE17](#)
- X/Twitter: [@SE17\\_official](#)
- Instagram: [@SE17\\_official](#)

On behalf of Co-Presidents Ellen McClure and Larry Norman, and the entire SE17 Executive Committee, we wish you all the very best for the New Year and hope to see you in Chicago!

Katherine Dauge-Roth  
Bowdoin College  
SE17 Executive Director