

Karl Ashoka Britto  
Associate Professor, Departments of French and Comparative Literature  
Dwinelle 4125, MC # 2580  
University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA 94720-2580  
kbritto@berkeley.edu

### Curriculum Vitae

#### Academic Employment

2002-present

Associate Professor  
Departments of French and Comparative Literature  
University of California, Berkeley

1998-2002

Assistant Professor  
Departments of French and Comparative Literature  
University of California, Berkeley

1996-1998

Acting Assistant Professor  
Departments of French and Comparative Literature  
University of California, Berkeley

#### Education

Yale University, Ph.D. in French, 1998

Yale University, M.A. in French, 1992

Harvard University, A.B. conferred *magna cum laude*

with Highest Honors in Romance Languages and Literatures, 1988

#### Publications

##### BOOKS:

*Disorientation: France, Vietnam, and the Ambivalence of Interculturality*  
(Hong Kong University Press, 2004)

*Spectacles of Disorder: Reading the Colonized Body in French and Francophone Literature*

Book-length study in progress on twentieth-century literary texts that foreground the spectacular display of colonized bodies through an engagement with extra-literary forms of visual representation ranging from photography, cinema, and theatrical performance, to biomedical charts and illustrations, to dioramas and colonial expositions.

ARTICLES, REVIEWS, TRANSLATIONS:

"Madame, je ne suis pas une jeune fille': Phạm Duy Khiêm's *La Place d'un homme*," forthcoming in *French Studies* 74.4 (October 2020)

"The Place of Paris in Vietnamese Diasporic Fiction." In *Paris and the Marginalized Author: Treachery, Alienation, Queerness, and Exile*, eds. Valérie Orlando and Pamela Pears (Lexington Books, 2019)

"The Stranger's Voice." In *Think in Public: A Public Books Reader*, eds. Sharon Marcus and Caitlin Zaloom (Columbia University Press, 2019). Reprint of "The Stranger's Voice," *Public Books* [online], August 1, 2015

"Remembering and Forgetting: An Interview with Viet Thanh Nguyen," *Public Books*, September 25, 2018  
<http://www.publicbooks.org/remembering-and-forgetting-an-interview-with-viet-thanh-nguyen/>

Preface to new edition of Nguyen Phan Long's 1921 *Le Roman de Mademoiselle Lys* (DatAsia Press, 2014)

"Kim Thúy: A Way with Words," *Public Books*, October 15, 2014  
<http://www.publicbooks.org/briefs/kim-thuy-a-way-with-words>

"Marie Ndiaye: One Powerful Writer," *Public Books*, July 24, 2013  
<http://www.publicbooks.org/fiction/marie-ndiaye-one-powerful-writer>

"Lost and Found: Aimee Phan's *The Reeducation of Cherry Truong*," *Public Books*, September 5, 2012  
<http://www.publicbooks.org/briefs/lost-and-found>

Review of Vilashini Cooppan, *Worlds Within: National Narratives & Global Connections in Postcolonial Writing*. In *Comparative Literature*, Winter 2012

"*L'esprit de corps*: French Civilization and the Death of the Colonized Soldier." In Elisabeth Mudimbe-Boyi, ed., *Empire Lost: France and its Other Worlds* (Lexington Books, 2009)

"Tahar Ben Jelloun." In Lawrence D. Kritzman, ed., *The Columbia History of Twentieth-Century French Thought* (Columbia University Press, 2006)

Review of Nathalie Huhyn Chau Nguyen, *Vietnamese Voices: Gender and Cultural Identity in the Vietnamese Francophone Novel*. In *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*, Volume 1, Numbers 1-2, Fall 2006

"'You don't know this but I keep telling you': Memory and Disavowal in Monique Thuy-Dung Truong's 'Kelly'." In Winston and Ollier, eds., *Of Vietnam: Identities in Dialogue*, Palgrave Global Publishing at St. Martin's Press (2001)

"History, Memory, and Narrative Nostalgia: Pham Duy Khiem's *Nam et Sylvie*." In *Yale French Studies* 98 (2000)

Review of Robyn Wiegman, *American Anatomies: Theorizing Race and Gender*. In *MODERNISM/modernity* 3:2 (1996)

Translation of "No Woman, No Cry," a story by Maryse Condé. In *Yale French Studies* 87 (1995)

### Conference Papers and Public Events

Organizer and Presider, "The Multilingual Maghreb," panel at the 2020 MLA Annual Convention, Seattle, January 10, 2020

Respondent to panel at "Future (Im)Perfect," Comparative Literature Graduate Conference, UC Berkeley, October 21, 2018

"The Place of Paris in Vietnamese Diasporic Fiction." Paper presented in conversation with Vietnamese American author Aimee Phan. Center for Race and Gender, UC Berkeley, September 27, 2018

"'Madame, je ne suis pas une jeune fille': Phạm Duy Khiêm's *La Place d'un homme*." Paper workshopped with Francophone Studies Working Group, UC Berkeley, May 4, 2016

"Staging *métissage* in French Colonial Fiction from Indochina." Paper presented at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky, April 14-16, 2016

"'Madame, je ne suis pas une jeune fille': Phạm Duy Khiêm's *La Place d'un homme*." Paper presented at the 20th- and 21st-Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium, March 17-19, 2016

"Active Forgetting and the History of Slavery," a response to Françoise Vergès, Memory Conference, UC Berkeley, November 15, 2014

"World Literature and the Time of the Story," response to Caroline Sy Hau and Pheng Cheah, Berkeley Center for Southeast Asian Studies Conference, October 24, 2014

"Un autre O! silencieux: Monique Truong et l'écriture de la diaspora vietnamienne." Paper presented at "Le Vietnam contemporain: Littérature, Cinéma, Linguistique," conference at INALCO, Paris, France, March 17-19, 2014

"The Void and the Missing: Memory's Trace in Monique Truong's *Bitter in the Mouth*." Invited paper presented at "The Immigrant Novel in America," panel convened by The Consortium on the Novel, UC Berkeley, November 13, 2013

"Métissage and Literary Form in Colonial Indochina." Invited paper presented at "Ici, Indochine," conference at Bucknell University, April 13, 2012

"Spectacular *métissage*: Race and Representation in Jehan Cendrieux's *François Phuoc, métis*." Paper presented at the 20th- and 21st-Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium, March 29-31, 2012

"Literary Studies at Berkeley." Invited guest lecture. L & S 1, University of California, Berkeley, October 20, 2009

"Objects without Subjectivity." Response to Neferti Tadiar's "Poetics of Filipina Export: Contributions toward a Theory of Post-Fordist Servility." Presented at "Creolization of Theory," conference at UCLA, May 5, 2006

"*L'esprit de corps*: Literary Embodiments of Indochinese Colonial Soldiers." Paper presented at "Empire Lost: France and its Other Worlds," conference at Stanford University, April 14, 2006

"Impossible Subjects: A Conversation with Gayatri Gopinath." Center for the Study of Sexual Culture, UCB, May 4, 2005

"Reading Culture: A Response to 'Old and New Diasporas'." Presented at "New Cultures, New Literacies," conference at UCLA, March 13, 2004

Public discussion with Chinese francophone author Shan Sa, UCB Center for East Asian Studies, November 4, 2003

"Francophone Literature and the Future of French Studies." Presented at "Sixty-Five Years of French Studies," Yale University, April 6, 2003

"'You don't know this but I keep telling you': Memory and Disavowal in Monique Thuy-Dung Truong's 'Kelly'." Paper presented at "Minor Transnationalisms," conference at UCLA, May 4, 2001

"Bodies in Motion." Paper presented at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky, April 29, 2000

"History, Memory, Narrative: Pham Duy Khiem's *Nam et Sylvie*." Paper presented at "Indochinese Francophone Literature: a Search for Identity," conference at University of Washington, May 14, 1999

"Writing Interculturality: Pham Van Ky's *Des femmes assises ça et là*."  
Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies,  
March 26-29, 1998

"*Je n'ai pas d'histoire*: Nguyen Phan Long's *Le Roman de Mademoiselle Lys*."  
Paper presented at the International Conference on Narrative, April 2-5, 1998

## **Fellowships and Awards**

Distinguished Teaching Award, 2008  
Humanities Research Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley, 2007, 1999  
Career Development Grant, University of California, Berkeley, 2000  
Marguerite A. Peyre Prize for Outstanding Dissertation, Department of French,  
Yale University, 1998  
Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities, 1995-1996  
Bourse Chateaubriand for dissertation research in France; *Pensionnaire étranger*,  
Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, 1994-1995  
Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, 1990 Cohort

## **Teaching Experience, University of California, Berkeley, 1996-2019**

### **Graduate Seminars:**

"Francophone Literature and the Shameful State"  
"Francophone Crime Fiction"  
"Franco-American Encounters"  
"Reading the Body in Francophone Literature"  
"Dislocated Narratives: Contemporary Literatures of Immigration"  
"Nationalism, Colonialism, and Culture"  
"Gender, Culture, and Identity in Francophone Literature"  
"Francophone Literatures: Gender, Culture, History"  
"Redrawing the Hexagon: Metropolitan Reflections in Francophone  
Literature"

### **Upper-level Undergraduate Courses:**

"Francophone Journeys"  
"Fictional Diaries and the Writing of the Self"  
"Modern Crime Fiction in the Postcolonial World"  
"The Cultures of Franco-America"  
"Literature and Colonialism"  
"Reading Writing in Francophone Literature"  
"National Narratives"  
"French Civilization from Margin to Center"  
"Displaced Narratives"  
"Gender, Sexuality, and Culture"  
"The Colonial Classroom"  
"Rewriting the Canon"  
"*Le roman personnel*: Fictional Journals in French"

"Narratives of Crisis: Revolt and Resistance in the Francophone World"  
"Unnatural Deeds: Murder in Literature"  
"Reading and Writing Skills in French"

### **Selected Recent Departmental Service**

Head Graduate Adviser, Comparative Literature, 2019-present  
GSI Observation Committee, Comparative Literature, 2018-present  
Summer Chair, Comparative Literature, 2018  
Undergraduate Adviser, Comparative Literature, Fall 2018  
Graduate Admissions & Fellowships Committee, Comparative Literature,  
2017-2018  
Equity Adviser, French & Comparative Literature, 2017-2018  
Graduate Studies Committee, French (Admissions & Fellowships, Chair of MA  
Committee), 2017-2018  
Faculty Adviser for GSI Affairs, French, Fall 2017  
Head Graduate Adviser, French, 2013-2016  
Evaluator for Comparative Literature R & C Prize, 2016  
Faculty Discussant on Close Reading, Comparative Literature R & C  
Workshop, March 2015  
Job Market Placement Committee, Comparative Literature, 2014-2015

### **Selected Recent Extra-Departmental Activities and Service**

Academic Senate Liaison to External Review Committee, 2020  
Academic Senate Committee on Committees (Elected Member), 2017-2019  
Academic Senate Committee on Teaching, 2010-2016  
Campus Ad-Hoc Tenure Review Committee  
Francophone Studies Working Group, founder and current co-director  
Executive Committee for the Center for the Study of Sexual Culture, 2014-present  
France-Berkeley Fund, project proposal reviewer, 2019  
Faculty Director, Mellon/Townsend Discovery Fellows Program, 2012-2016  
Townsend Center Advisory Board (Ex Officio Member), 2012-2016  
Faculty Mentor, Center for the Study of Sexual Culture Dissertation Retreat,  
February 2016  
Faculty Presenter, Teaching Excellence Colloquium, Fall 2014  
Affiliated Faculty, Department of Gender and Women's Studies  
Associated Faculty, Center for African Studies

### **Selected Recent Service to the Profession**

Modern Language Association, LLC Francophone Executive Committee  
(Elected Member), 2017-present  
PMLA Advisory Board (Francophone Literature), 2018-present  
Peer reviewer, *PMLA*  
Peer reviewer, Liverpool University Press  
Peer reviewer, *PORTAL: Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies*  
Peer reviewer, *Public Culture*