

Rachel Gabara

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Education

- Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Graduate Certificate in Film Studies, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor
- Maîtrise and Diplôme d'Études Approfondies in Comparative Literature, Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris III
- B.A. in Comparative Literature, Yale University

Publications

Books

Documentary Objectives: Filming Africa from Colonialism to Independence. Forthcoming from Indiana University Press, 2025.

From Split to Screened Selves: French and Francophone Autobiography in the Third Person. Stanford University Press, 2006.

- Winner, 2007 South Atlantic Modern Language Association Studies Book Award.

Selected Articles

- “African Film Criticism in the Colonial Capital, 1957-1967.” In *Global Movie Magazine Networks*, edited by Kelley Conway and Eric Hoyt, 184-201. University of California Press, 2025.
- “Cinephobia/Cinephilia: Modernism and Sub-Saharan African Film.” *Modernism/modernity* Print Plus 8, no. 3 (2024).
- “Restituer: sharing colonial films.” *Contemporary French Civilization* 48, no. 1 (2023): 7-26.
- “Hunting Images: Sub-Saharan Africa in Early French Cinema.” *French Screen Studies* 23, no. 4 (2023): 249-269.
 - Winner, British Association of Film, Television, and Screen Studies (BAFTSS) Best Journal Article Award, 2023.
- “Complex Realism: Paulin Soumanou Vieyra and the Emergence of West African Documentary Film.” *Black Camera* 11, no. 2 (2020): 32-59.
- “From Ethnography to Essay: Realism, Reflexivity, and African Documentary Film.” In *A Companion to African Cinema*, edited by Kenneth Harrow and Carmela Garritano, 358-378. Wiley-Blackwell, 2018.
- “Abderrahmane Sissako: On the Politics of African Auteurs.” In *The Global Auteur: Politics and Philosophy in 21st Century Cinema*, edited by Jeremi Szaniawski and Seung-hoon Jeong, 43-60. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016.
- “Mixing Impossible Genres: David Achkar and African Autobiographical Documentary,” revised reprint. In *The Documentary Film Reader*, edited by Jonathan Kahana, 924-937. Oxford University Press, 2016.

- “War by Documentary.” *Romance Notes* 55, no. 3 (2015): 409-423.
- “Interrogating Images: *Lumumba: Death of the Prophet* as Reflexive Autobiographical Documentary.” In *Raoul Peck: Power, Politics, and the Cinematic Imagination*, edited by Toni Pressley-Sanon and Sophie Saint-Just, 153-170. Lexington Books, 2015.
- “Abderrahmane Sissako: Second and Third Cinema in the First Person.” In *Global Art Cinema: New Theories and Histories*, edited by Karl Schoonover and Rosalind Galt, 320-333. Oxford University Press, 2010.
- “‘A Poetics of Refusals’: Neorealism from Italy to Africa.” *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 23, no. 3 (2006): 201-215.
- “Mixing Impossible Genres: David Achkar and African AutoBiographical Documentary.” *New Literary History* 34, no. 2 (2003): 331-352.

Recent Film and Book Reviews

- Review of Rosine Mbakam, *Chez Jolie Coiffure*. *African Studies Review* 63, no. 4 (2020): E84-E86.
- Review of Emmanuel Gras, *Makala. Docalogue* (2019). <https://docalogue.com/august-makala/>
- Review of Marc Allégret, *Travels in the Congo*. *African Studies Review* 62, no. 2 (2019): E51-E53.
- Review of Dieudo Hamadi, *National Diploma* and *Mama Colonel*. *African Studies Review* 62, no. 1 (2019): E53-E55.
- Review of Valérie Orlando, *New African Cinema*. *African Studies Review* 61, no. 1 (2018): 263-264.
- Review of *Africa First, Volume Two*. *African Studies Review* 57, no. 3 (2014): 254-258.
- Review of Osvalde Lewat, *Black Business*. *African Studies Review* 57, no. 1 (2014): 238-240.
- Review of *Textual and Visual Selves: Photography, Film, and Comic Art in French Autobiography*. *Studies in 20th and 21st Century Literature* 37, no. 2 (2013): 169-171.
- Review of Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, *A Screaming Man*. *African Studies Review* 56, no. 2 (2013): 227-228.
- Review of Timothy Corrigan, *The Essay Film: From Montaigne, After Marker*. *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 30, no. 4 (2013): 371-374.

Major Fellowships and Awards

Albertine Foundation and French Embassy in the U.S. French in Higher Education Grant (with Jonathan Haddad), August 2024-July 2026.

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, July 2020-June 2021.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, June-July 2018.

American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant, June-July 2018.

University of Georgia

- Center for Teaching and Learning Senior Teaching Fellowship, 2022-23.
- Willson Center for Humanities and Arts Research Fellowship, 2021-22, 2013-14.
- Albert Christ-Janer Creative Research Award, 2021.
- M.G. Michael Award for Excellence in Research, 2018.

Fulbright Scholar Program African Regional Research Grant, January-June 2003.

Princeton University

- Christian Gauss Fund University Preceptorship, 2003-05.

Recent Invited Talks and Colloquia

- “Filming Africa: From Ethnography to Essay.” Atlanta Global Studies Center, Georgia Institute of Technology, October 2023.
- “Cinephilia and African Modernism.” Global South Cinephilias, Interdisciplinary Modernism Workshop, University of Georgia (Virtual), April 2022.
- “Vieyra, Filmmaker” and “Vieyra, Historian.” Paulin Vieyra Workshop, Black Film Center/Archive, Indiana University, September 2019.
- “Reclaiming Realism: The Emergence of African Documentary Film, 1960-1973.” Institute of African Studies Seminar, Emory University, November 2018.
- Keynote Discussion with filmmaker Raoul Peck. African Literature Association Conference, Atlanta, April 2016.
- “War by Documentary.” *Romance Notes* Colloquium, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, April 2015.
- Seminar participant, Semaphores and Surfaces: Reading the New African Cinemas. Princeton University, November 2013.
- Curator and Presenter for “African Film Weekend” festival. University of Richmond, September 2013.

Recent Conference Presentations

- “Paris Dakar: Paulin Soumanou Vieyra, Filmmaker and Critic.” To be presented at the 20th and 21st Century French and Francophone Studies Colloquium, Greensboro, March 2025. Organized panel entitled “Paulin Soumanou Vieyra, 1925-2025: Networks of Early African Cinema.”
- “African Film Criticism in the Colonial Capital.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Boston, March 2024.
- “Keyword: Documentary.” African Studies Association Conference, Philadelphia, November 2022.
- “Giving Back Colonial Films.” Modern Languages Association Convention, Virtual, January 2022.
- “Documentary Dialogues: Contemporary African Nonfiction Film.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Virtual, March 2021.
- “Filming Independence.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Seattle, March 2019. Organized and chaired panel entitled “An Interior Vision: African Film in the Decades After Independence.”
- “Documentary Energies: *Asientos* and the African Essay Film.” African Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, December 2018.

- Organizer and roundtable participant, “African Film and Media Studies: New Paths and Connections.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Toronto, March 2018.
- “Paulin Soumanou Vieyra: African Documentary from France to Senegal.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Chicago, March 2017.
- “Samba Félix Ndiaye and the Transformation of African Documentary.” Documentary Filmmaking Practices in Africa: An International Conference, University of Toronto, January 2017.
- “‘I Travel in French’: Dyana Gaye’s Global Cinema.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Atlanta, April 2016. Organized and chaired panel entitled “World Cinema in French.”
- “World Cinema in French.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Harvard University, March 2016.

Recent Professional Activities

African Studies Review

- Senior Film Review Editor, 2020-23.
- Film Review Editor, 2019-20, 2024.

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

- Co-chair, French and Francophone Scholarly Interest Group, 2016-19.

Bronze Lens Film Festival and Consulate General of France in Atlanta

- Co-organizer of visit and screenings and moderator of student workshop and public discussion with filmmaker Abderrahmane Sissako, SCAD Atlanta and High Museum of Art, November 2015.
- Translated and facilitated public discussion with filmmakers Dyana Gaye, October 2014, and Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, November 2013.

University of Georgia

- Organized visit and discussion with El Hadji Malick Ndiaye, curator and Director of the Théodore Monod Museum (Dakar, Senegal), October 2023.
- Organized visit and screening with musician and filmmaker Alain Kassanda (Paris, France), October 2022.
- Organized visit and moderated roundtable discussion with Maboula Soumahoro (University of Tours and Villa Albertine), January 2022.
- Organized visit and lecture by Jessica Silbey (Northeastern School of Law), February 2018.
- Organized public discussion and film screening with Marguerite Abouet and Alain Gomis, October 2017.
- Organized “Afro-French Studies Colloquium,” featuring visiting scholars Pap Ndiaye (Institut d’Etudes Politiques, Paris) and Philippe Gumplowicz (University of Paris Saclay), April 2017.
- Organized visit to campus, screening, and discussions with filmmaker Su Friedrich (Princeton University), October 2016.