

# Cynthia Laura Vialle-Giancotti, PhD

## Lecturer at Stanford University-COLLEGE (VPUE)

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### EDUCATION

#### 2022 Ph.D. in French and Italian-Stanford University

Dissertation: "Le portrait dans le roman français au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle"

#### 2017-18 Visiting Research Fellowship-École Normale Supérieure (Paris)

Département d'Histoire et Théorie des Arts // Littératures et Langues Étrangères

#### 2015 M.A. Literature, Art and Contemporary Thought-Paris VII-Paris Diderot

Thesis 2: "La persistance du merveilleux dans le roman français du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle"

Thesis 1: "*Le chevalier de Touches* de B. d'Aureville ou la subversion du merveilleux"

#### 2014 M.A. Literary, Economical and Technical Translation-ESIT (Paris)

Language Combination: A: Italian; B: French; C: English

#### 2011 B.A. Political Science and Languages: Chinese & French-Università degli Studi di Milano

Obtained *Summa Cum Laude*

Thesis: "Analisi de *Il Castello dei destini incrociati* di Italo Calvino"

#### 2010-11 Erasmus Visiting Fellowship Paris VII-Paris Diderot

East Asian Languages and Civilization, specialty: Chinese

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

#### Current Research: "Ageisms and Narrations in the Early Modern Period"

This project explores how narrative devices, and therefore voices, were deployed to shift and reconfigure discourses surrounding the youth and the old in French fictional works.

#### Book Manuscript: "French Enlightenment Portraits: A Transversal History of Appearances"

This project blends my research on narratology, gender studies, and corporality matters to relate a history of portraiture practices in French fictional works spanning 1659-1805. By foregrounding portraits, a traditionally underestimated genre, this study shows their key role in the formation of 18<sup>th</sup>-century French fictional literature. The focus on descriptive practices, furthermore, reveals the important contribution made by 17<sup>th</sup>-century female authors to French literary history. Lastly, the interest on physical appearances brings to the fore the complex and intersectional issues at stake in the representation of identity and of alterity.

### FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Myra Strober Prize for "Best Gender News Article," Clayman Institute for Gender Research (September 2022)

ArtsCatalyst Grant, Stanford Arts Department, (2021-2022)

Graduate Dissertation Fellowship, Clayman Institute for Gender Research (2021-2022)

DLCL Research Grant, Stanford University (2021-2022)

**Europe Center Fellowship**, Stanford University (2021-2022)

**Graduate Research Opportunities (GRO) Fund**, Stanford University (2020-2021)

**DLCL Research Grant**, Stanford University (2020-2021)

**Collaborative Teaching Project Grant**, Stanford University (2019-2020)

**École d'Été- ENS-EHESS** (Marseille) (July 2018)

**Stanford-École Normale Supérieure Visiting Research Fellowship**, Stanford University (2017-2018)

**Erasmus Grant**, Università degli Studi di Milano (2010-2011)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE & INTERESTS

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### Seminars

Summer 2024, **Lecturer**, The History of Pirates in the Western Imaginary from Blackbeard to Jack Sparrow

Spring 2024, **Lecturer**, Preventing Human Extinction

Fall 2023, **Lecturer**, Why College?

Spring 2023, **Lecturer**, Preventing Human Extinction

Winter 2023, **Lecturer**, Citizenship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Fall 2022, **Lecturer**, Why College?

Summer 2022, **Graduate Instructor**, Revolutions (online), with Dan Edelstein (Summer Humanities Institute)

Winter 2022, **Lecturer**, The Art of Self-Portraits

Summer 2021, **Lead Teaching Assistant**, Capitals (online), with Adrian Daub, Lisa Surwillo

Summer 2021, **Graduate Instructor**, Revolutions (online), with Dan Edelstein (Summer Humanities Institute)

Summer 2020, **Graduate Instructor**, Revolutions (online), with Dan Edelstein (Summer Humanities Institute)

Spring 2020, **Lecturer**, The Gothic Novel (online) with Margaret Cohen

Spring 2020, **Lead Teaching Assistant**, Germany in Five Words (online), with Adrian Daub

Spring 2020, **Course Assistant**, Proust and his World (online), for Margaret Cohen

Winter 2020, **Lead Teaching Assistant**, Capitals, with Dan Edelstein, Lisa Surwillo, Adrian Daub

Winter 2020, **Lecturer**, Napoleon

Fall 2019, **Grader**, Literature that changed the World, for Michaela Bronstein

Spring 2019, **Lecturer**, Introduction to Modern Italian Culture

Spring 2019, **Lead Teaching Assistant**, Germany in Five Words, with Adrian Daub

Winter 2019, **Teaching Assistant**, Capitals, with Dan Edelstein, Lisa Surwillo, Adrian Daub

### Language Courses

Winter 2021, **Instructor**, French I (online)

Fall 2020, **Instructor**, French I (online)

Summer 2019, **Instructor**, French IA

Spring 2017, **Instructor**, French 3

Winter 2016, **Instructor**, French 22

Fall 2016, **Instructor**, French I

### Research Groups Doubled as Class

Fall-Winter-Spring 2021-22 **Coordinator**: [Comics: More than Words](#)

Fall-Winter-Spring 2020-21 **Coordinator**: [The Gothic](#)

**General Teaching interests**: the novel and novel theory, life-writing genres, portraits, history and art history, the body and issues of corporality (death, sickness, aging), Gothic genres, gender studies, environmental issues.

## WORK-IN-PROGRESS

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**Book Project** "French Enlightenment Portraits: a Transversal History of Appearances"

**Article** "Experimenting with Description in the Enlightenment: From a Feminine Socialite Practice to a Male Scientific Endeavor"

**Article** "Reconfiguring Age Characterizations in French Enlightenment Narratives"

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Essay** "18th-c. French Literary Portraits: The Repurposing of a 17th-c. Socialite Practice," part of the volume "Repurposing the past: new studies on cultural transmission in the Enlightenment," edited by Hanna Roman and Olivia Sabee and forthcoming in *Oxford Studies of the Enlightenment*.

**Article** "[Learning the art of the self-pastiche with Grace Lavery: Between caring clowns and alien fem-bots](#)" *Gender News*, Clayman Institute for Gender Studies (June 2022)

**Article** "[From aristocratic families to corporate tycoons: Modernity's fantasies of perpetuity](#)" *Gender News*, Clayman Institute for Gender Studies (April 2022)

**Article** "[You've been DARVOed and you don't even know it](#)", *Gender News*, Clayman Institute for Gender Studies (December 2021), awarded [the Myra Strober Prize](#) in September 2022

**Book Review** "Civil Rights Revisited: Review of Jeff Chang's *We Gon' Be Alright*", *Stanford Humanities Review* (January 2016)

## CONFERENCES

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**Paper Presentation: "Fictional Reconfigurations of Aging in the Early Modern and Enlightenment Times"**  
Panel: "Health, Care, and Disability in the Early Modern Francophone World," MLA, Philadelphia, January 4-7, 2024

**Paper Presentation: "Jacques Cazotte and Choderlos de Laclos: Practices of Narrative Subversion"**  
Guest Talk in "SIS Fellows Research Seminar," Stanford University, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Paper Presentation: "Description: An Epistemological Tool Unlocking Fantastic Worlds"**  
Panel: "The Edge of Enlightenment: Wonder, Superstition, and Modernity," ASECS, St. Louis, March 9-11, 2023

**Co-organizer of the Roundtable: "Renewal and Decadence across French Enlightenment"**  
In Collaboration with Hanna Roman, ASECS, St. Louis, March 9-11, 2023

**Paper Presentation: "Divergent Portraits: from Pedagogy to Transgression"**  
Roundtable: "Traces of the Other in Literary and Archival Sources," MLA, San Francisco, January 5-8, 2023

**Paper Presentation: "New 18th-Century Narrative Genres and the Creation of the Fictional Category of Youth"**  
Western Society for French History, Victoria, November 3-6, 2022

**Co-Organizer for Panel: "The Right to Speak?" - Paper Presentation: "The Right Age to Speak"**  
In Collaboration with Christophe Schuway, ACLA, Taiwan, June 15-18, 2022

**Paper Presentation: "18th-c. French Literary Portraits: The Repurposing of a 17th-c. Socialite Practice"**  
Working Group on the Novel, Stanford University, November 12<sup>th</sup> 2021

**Paper Presentation: "Le portrait au XVIIIe siècle: l'exemple du *Télémaque* de Fénelon"**  
Panel: "Personne/personnel/personnage : constructions fictionnelles et littéraires du moi," SE17, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Paper Presentation: "Appearances Should Not Deceive"**

Panel: "Repurposing Enlightenment," ACLA Seminar, April 8-11, 2021

**Co-Organizer for Panel: "Tropical Maladies: Colonization and the Gothic in the Americas"**

**Paper Presentation: "Caribbean Witches and Zombies De-Colonizing Empires"**

"Gothic in a Time of Contagion, Populism and Racial Injustice", Simon Fraser University, Canada, March 10-13, 2021

**Guest Speaker: "Framing Portraits in the 18th Century"**

French Culture Workshop, Stanford University, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Invited Talk on "Old age in *Umberto D* and Italian Neorealist Cinema"**

École d'Été, "Les arts et les âges de la vie", Organized by the ENS and the EHESS, Marseille, June 2018

**Invited Lecture on "Intersectionnalité Entre Thématique Incestueuse et Souterraine dans *Le Moine* de M.G. Lewis"**

École Normale Supérieure, class : "Récits de Mondes Souterrains", taught by Thomas Conrad, LILA April 2018

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

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**Coordinator of "SIS Fellows Research Seminar"-VPUE, September 2022-current**

- ◇ Leadership of a Research Group, Guest Faculty Talks and Fellows presentations
- ◇ Administration, budgeting, catering, advertising (university and interinstitutional channels, and social media)

**Founder of "Comics: More than Words" Research Unit-DLCL, Art, English departments (July 2021 to June 2022)**

- ◇ Leadership of a Reading Group, Guest Faculty Talks and Graduate Students' presentations
- ◇ Administration, budgeting, catering, advertising (university and interinstitutional channels, and social media)
- ◇ Lead undergraduate enrollment in the Research Group

**Founder of "The Gothic" Research Unit-DLCL, English department (July 2020 to June 2021)**

- ◇ Leadership of a Reading Group, Guest Faculty Talks and Graduate Students' presentations
- ◇ Administration, budgeting, advertising (university and interinstitutional channels, and social media)
- ◇ Digital Humanities Project on the Establishment of a Gothic Database (Timeline&Atlas of the Gothic)
- ◇ Lead undergraduate enrollment in the Research Group

**Community Associate-Graduate Life Office (July 2020 to June 2021)**

- ◇ Offering help, resources and service to residents of the community
- ◇ Administration, budgeting, advertising and communications for the community and of community events
- ◇ Organization of themed monthly community events (yoga, arts and crafts, and hikes)

**Coordinator of the 'Working Group on the Novel'-English Department (September 2019 to June 2021)**

- ◇ Leadership of the group
- ◇ Inviting Graduate Students, organizing their talks and finding a faculty respondent
- ◇ Administration, budgeting, catering, advertising (university and interinstitutional channels, and social media)

**Coordinator of the 'Center for the Study of the Novel'- English Department (November 2018 to June 2021)**

- ◇ Handling communications, logistics, travel and stay with and for guest-speakers
- ◇ Administration, budgeting, advertising (university and interinstitutional channels, and social media)
- ◇ Organizing catering for 50-100 people and dinner reservations for 20 people

**Graduate Moderator at the NG Humanities Dorm (September 2016 to March 2020)**

- ◇ Moderating undergraduate workshops
- ◇ Support in the preparation of the extracurricular activities (ping-pong, cinema, cartoons, sewing, classical music and opera, crocheting, philosophy, honors-thesis writing, etc.)

## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Research Assistant** for Margaret Cohen (January 2019-June 2020)

- ◇ Research
- ◇ Handling logistics

**Proof-Reader** of a manuscript on Tocqueville by Melvin Richter (April 2019-July 2019)

- ◇ Archival research on Tocqueville
- ◇ Proof-reading footnotes and citations

**Technical Translator** at <https://www.edmodo.com/> (San Mateo, CA) (January 2016-March 2016)

- ◇ Translation of the Edmodo educational platform for its Italian version
- ◇ Interpreter in business meetings, conference calls, etc. between Edmodo and Italian agencies

**Freelance Translator & Interpreter** Multiple Agencies, Milan (Italy) & Paris (France) (2010-2015)

- ◇ Translation of manuals, instructions, flyers
- ◇ Interpreter in business meetings, conventions, salons

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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Modern Language Association (MLA)

American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS)

Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (CSECS)

Société d'Études Pluridisciplinaires du 17<sup>ème</sup> Siècle Français (SE17)

International Gothic Association (IGA)

## DIGITAL PRESENCE

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<https://www.cynthiavialle.com/>

<https://profiles.stanford.edu/cynthia-vialle-giancotti>

<https://dlcl.stanford.edu/research/gothic>

<https://dlcl.stanford.edu/research/comics-more-words>

## LANGUAGES

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**Italian, French, English** Native, near native level

**German, Spanish** Fluent (written & oral)

**Chinese, Russian** Intermediate low

**Swedish** Beginner

## REFERENCES

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[Margaret Cohen, macohen@stanford.edu](mailto:macohen@stanford.edu)

[Dan Edelstein, daneldelst@stanford.edu](mailto:daneldelst@stanford.edu)

[John Bender, bender@stanford.edu](mailto:bender@stanford.edu)

[Adrian Daub, daub@stanford.edu](mailto:daub@stanford.edu)

Marie Lasnier, [mlasnier@stanford.edu](mailto:mlasnier@stanford.edu)

Lisa Surwillo, [surwillo@stanford.edu](mailto:surwillo@stanford.edu)

Christophe Schuwey, [christophe.schuwey@yale.edu](mailto:christophe.schuwey@yale.edu)

Hanna Roman, [romanh@dickinson.edu](mailto:romanh@dickinson.edu)