

William M. Burton

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Academic appointments

Assistant professor, Department of French, University of California, Berkeley, 2021–present.

Lecturer, Department of French and Romance Philology, Columbia University, 2020–21.

Education

Ph.D., Department of French and Romance Philology, 2020
Columbia University

Dissertation: “On the Origin and End of Sex. Language, Science and Social Contract in Rousseau and Wittig”

Committee: Joanna Stalnaker (chair), Pierre Force, Camille Robcis

M.Phil., French and Romance Philology, 2017
Columbia University

M.A., French and Romance Philology, 2015
Columbia University

Thesis: “‘Cette voix intérieure qui me juge en secret’: Morale, fictions et politique chez Rousseau” (Supervisor: Joanna Stalnaker)

Maîtrise ès arts (M.A.), Études anglaises, 2014
Université de Montréal

Tableau d’honneur du doyen. Thesis: “‘A Most Weird Dialectic of Inversion’: Revolutionary fraternity, sexuality and translation in Pierre Vallières and Eldridge Cleaver” (Supervisor: Robert Schwartzwald)

B.A. (First Class Honours), Lettres et traduction françaises, 2010
McGill University

Minor concentration in linguistics. Dean’s honour list, 2008-2010

Fields of teaching and research interest

18th-century French literature and philosophy
20th-century French literature and philosophy
Gender, sexuality, and feminism
Intellectual history

History of science
Critical social theory
Translation theory
Quebec studies

Publications

Peer-reviewed

“Translatability and Queer Desire in *Nègres Blancs d’Amérique*: Three Theses + a Hypothesis.” *Québec Studies*, 61, June 2016: 137–64. doi:10.3828/qs.2016.9.

Other scholarly publications

Report on “Entangled Diasporas: Shadow Archives in Black, Queer and Postcolonial Studies”, co-written with Lydia Epp Schmidt, in *Bulletin-Info*, Zentrum für transdisziplinäre Geschlechterstudien, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, 29 (2018) 57, pp. 55-58.

“Inverting the Text: A Proposed Queer Translation Praxis.” In “Translating Queers, Queering Translation”, special issue edited by B.J. Epstein of *In Other Words: The Journal for Literary Translators*, no. 36 (2010): 54–68.

Other media

“What the 1755 Lisbon Earthquake Can Teach Us Now.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, 9 April 2020. <https://lareviewofbooks.org/short-takes/1755-lisbon-earthquake-now/>

Fellowships, awards, honours

Core Preceptor Fellowship, Center for the Core Curriculum, Columbia University, 2019-20.

Bourse Chateaubriand en Sciences humaines et sociales, affiliated with the Centre d'études et de recherches interdisciplinaires en Lettres, Arts, Cinéma (CERILAC), Université Paris Diderot, Fall 2018. Supervisor: Anne F. Garréta. €6000.

Visiting scholar, Zentrum für transdisziplinäre Geschlechterstudien (ZtG), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, summer semester 2018.

Otis Fellows Fellowship in French, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 2017-2018. Approx. \$29 000.

Summer funding, Department of French and Romance Philology, Columbia University, to undertake archival research in Switzerland and France, 2017. \$3000.

Teaching fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017. Approx. \$29 000/year.

Intensivsprachkursstipendium, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), summer 2015. €2763.

Summer funding, Department of French and Romance Philology, Columbia University, to undertake research and coursework in digital humanities methodology, 2014. \$3000.

Dean's Fellowship, first-year fellowship for PhD students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University, 2013-2014. Approx. \$27 000.

Bourse Monseigneur Olivier-Maurault, scholarship awarded to one master's student in the humanities to support thesis research and writing. Faculté des arts et des sciences of Université de Montréal, 2012-2013. \$3000.

Robert Kessler Martin Prize for Best Essay by an M.A. Student, Département d'études anglaises (Université de Montréal), 2011-2012.

Hugh Hood Memorial Entrance Scholarship for Most Outstanding Master's Student in the Département d'études anglaises (Université de Montréal), 2011-2012. \$3000.

Bourse d'exemption des droits de scolarité supplémentaires, Faculté des études supérieures et postdoctorales, Université de Montréal, 2011-2012. \$6200/semester.

McGill University Faculty of Arts major entrance bursary, 2006-2010. \$10 000/year for four years.

Presentations and conferences

Conference presentations

- “Is marriage natural? Buffon, Locke and Rousseau through the prism of Carib marriage practices.” In panel on “The Married Condition in the Eighteenth-Century Americas”, at the annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (April 2021).
- “Rousseau’s materialist theory of linguistic embodiment.” Doktorand_innentag des Zentrums für transdisziplinäre Geschlechterstudien, Humboldt-Universität von Berlin (6 July 2018).
- “La traductibilité queer, ou *Nègres blancs d’Amérique* en anglais.” Premier Congrès mondial de la traductologie, Paris Ouest-Nanterre-La Défense (11-14 March 2017).
- “Barthes and Moses: The Critic as Prophet of the End of Literature.” “Language is Never Innocent: Roland Barthes,” Boston College interdisciplinary graduate student conference (14 November 2015).
- “Translatability and Queer Desire in *Nègres blancs d’Amérique*.” Panel “Pluralities”, as a part of the colloquium “Queer Quebec”, conference of the American Council for Quebec Studies, held in Montreal (16-19 October 2014).
- “An Intolerable Comparison: The Illegibility of Transracial Identification and Solidarity in *Les Nègres blancs d’Amérique*.” “Of Human Bondage: Literatures of Constraint,” Université de Montréal English Graduate Students’ Society annual conference (1-2 March 2013).
- “L’envers des mots’: Hétérotopie, ironie et traduction féministe dans *Le Désert mauve* de Nicole Brossard.” “Art and Politics of Irony” conference, organized by the Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas (McGill University) (12-14 April 2012).
- “White-washing or incitation? Race, translation and utopia in Nicole Brossard’s *Mauve Desert*.” “Literature from the margins”, Université de Montréal English Graduate Students’ Society annual conference (11-12 March 2011).

Conferences organised

- Co-organiser, “The Crypt(ic).” Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University, annual graduate student conference (29 March 2014).
- Co-organiser (ex officio as president of the Graduate Students’ Society), “Of Human Bondage: Literatures of Constraint.” Université de Montréal English Graduate Students’ Society annual conference (1-2 March 2013).

Translations

- Hyppolite, Jean. “A New Perspective on Marx and Marxism.” In *Jean Hyppolite*, special issue of *Pli. The Warwick Journal of Philosophy*. Coventry: University of Warwick. 2013. 24:18–39.
Translation of: “Une perspective nouvelle sur Marx et le marxisme.” In *Contemporary Philosophy: A Survey*, edited by Raymond Klibansky. Florence: La Nuova Italia, 1971. IV:339–57.
- Angenot, Marc. “The Historian in Prosecutor’s Garb, Or, The Idea of Legal And/OR Moral Responsibility in Historiography: The Example of Communism.” *AmeriQuests* 10, no. 1 (2012).
<http://vurj.vanderbilt.edu/ojs/index.php/ameriquests/article/view/3639>.
Translation of: “L’historien en robe de procureur. La notion de responsabilité morale/juridique chez les historiens,” 2011. <http://marcangenot.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/La-notion-de-responsabilit%C3%A9-chez-divers-historiens.pdf>.

Service

Secretary, French Graduate Students' Association (FGSA), Department of French and Romance Philology, Columbia University. 2014-15.

President, English Graduate Students' Society (EGSS), Département d'études anglaises, Université de Montréal. 2012-13.

Students' Society of McGill University representative to the Equity Subcommittee on Queer People, a consultative body of the Joint-Senate Board Committee on Equity. September 2010 – December 2010.

Vice-president (external affairs), Association générale des étudiants de langue et littérature françaises (AGELF), Département de langue et littérature françaises, McGill University. 2008-09.

Teaching experience

Columbia University

Instructor, Literature Humanities ("Masterpieces of Western Literature and Philosophy") (Fall 2019, Spring 2020), Center for the Core Curriculum.

Instructor, Introduction to Literary Studies I (Spring 2017, Spring 2019), Department of French and Romance Philology.

Instructor, Rapid Reading and Translation (French for academic research) (Summer 2017, Summer 2019, Summer 2020). Department of French and Romance Philology.

Instructor, Third-Year Conversation (Fall 2016), Intermediate French II (Spring 2015), Intermediate French I (Fall 2015), Elementary French II (Winter 2015), Elementary French I (Fall 2014), Department of French and Romance Philology.

Université de Montréal

Course lecturer, English Composition 4 (Winter 2013), Département d'études anglaises, Université de Montréal.

Facilitator, English conversation workshop (Summer 2012), Activités culturelles – Service aux étudiants, Université de Montréal.

Teaching assistant, English Composition 3 (Fall 2011), Département d'études anglaises, Université de Montréal.

Languages

Native: English. *Fluent:* French. *Advanced:* German, Portuguese. *Read:* Latin.