

**POSTGRADUATE DAY**  
**The Australian Society of French Studies (ASFS)**  
**Annual Conference**

1-4pm Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
Abercrombie Business School (ABS) Seminar Room 2250

Event open to all delegates

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**1.00-1.45pm**

*Roundtable #1*

How to get the most out of the PhD?

This roundtable will be a discussion on the diversity of activities that you can partake in during your PhD programme (beyond writing your thesis) and the benefits that these opportunities may offer. What can teaching bring to your skillset and portfolio? Why is it beneficial to participate in conferences and symposia (within and beyond Australia and New Zealand)? What other opportunities are available to assist with networking (with both peers and academics)? For what reasons would you consider getting involved in different disciplines and departments beyond the languages and cultures department?

**Chairpersons:** Beaudicea Smith-Davies and Josephine Goldman (The University of Sydney)

**Panellists:**

- Dr Alexis Bergantz (RMIT University)
- Dr Antonia Wimbush (The University of Melbourne)
- Dr Frances Egan (Monash University)

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**1.45-2.15pm**

*Short break for afternoon tea (provided) and chatting*

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**2.15-3.00pm**

*Roundtable #2*

Grant writing and seed funding:

Where to find and how to get the money!

Writing grants and seeking out other forms of funding are skills that generally sit beyond the purview of postgraduate training. This roundtable will be an informative discussion on the kinds of funding available for a variety of different projects. It will also provide insight into what prospective candidates need to keep in mind when preparing a competitive application for funding, including the kinds of details to include and the ways that this information can be presented.

**Chairperson:** Dr Clara Sitbon (The University of Sydney)

**Panellists:**

- A/Prof Valentina Gosetti (The University of New England)
- Dr Léa Vuong (The University of Sydney)
- Dr Nathalie Ségeral (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa / The University of Sydney)

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**3.00-3.15pm**

*Short break for more chats or to stretch our legs*

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**3.15-4.00pm**

*Roundtable #3*

Demystifying the post-PhD job market

For this roundtable, the panellists will offer insight into the different employment options available to early career researchers and tertiary-level educators who have just completed their PhD. This discussion will assist postgraduates in understanding how they can leverage their teaching and research skills to identify employment opportunities immediately following graduation (including casual, fixed term, and postdoctoral opportunities). The panellists will also share their experience on the global job market.

**Chairperson:** Beth Kearney (The University of Queensland)

**Panellists:**

- Dr Antonia Wimbush (The University of Melbourne)
- Dr Amy Hubbell (The University of Queensland)
- Dr Nick Strole (The University of Melbourne)
- Dr Felicity Chaplin (Monash University)

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**END**

**Sonia Marks Memorial Lecture @ 4.30pm**

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# USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

A huge thanks to all the panellists for sharing their advice. Special shout out to Antonia Wimbush, Léa Vuong, Nick Strole, and Emilie Dotte-Sarout (who was unable to participate in the roundtables but has contributed to this page of resources) for sharing the below information.

## Resources relating to Roundtable #1

### How to get the most out of the PhD?

- [Society for French Studies](#). The Society for French Studies is an active society which promotes research in French studies in all areas. There is an annual conference and various postgraduate study days and networks throughout the year, at which postgraduates from Australia would be most welcome. The society runs two journals – *French Studies* and the *Bulletin* (the *Bulletin* publishes shorter pieces and often encourages postgraduates to publish).
- [Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France](#). Conferences and events are organised every year. The Society also has its own journal, *Modern and Contemporary France*.
- [Society for Francophone Postcolonial Studies](#). This is an international organisation which promotes, facilitates and otherwise supports the work of all scholars and researchers working in colonial/postcolonial studies in the French-speaking world. The society runs an annual conference and postgraduate study days. There is a monthly mailing list which gives details about events, conferences and publications. The society runs its own [journal](#) and [book series](#). The journal is often looking for postgraduates to write book reviews so this could be a good opportunity!

## Resources relating to Roundtable #2

### Grant writing and seed funding: Where to find and how to get the money!

#### Funding Categories in Australia

##### Category 1:

Australian Competitive Grants.

##### Category 2:

Other Australian public sector research income which is not eligible for inclusion as Category 1, and is sub-categorised as Commonwealth (own purpose); Commonwealth (other); State/Territory (own purpose); State/Territory (other).

##### Category 3:

Consists of research income received from the private sector, philanthropic and international sources that are not eligible as Category 1 or Category 2.

##### Category 4:

Research income derived from Australian Government grants to CRCs; research income derived from non-HEP members of CRCs; research income derived from external parties contributing to CRCs.

#### Links:

- [The Australian Academy of the Humanities Travelling Fellowships.](#)
- [The Australian-French Association for Research and Innovation \(AFRAN\) Call for Initiatives.](#)
- [‘Conference and Workshop Grant’](#) of up to \$20,000 from the Wenner Gren Foundation for an archaeological project.
- Seed funding of up to \$5,000 from the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia for the [‘Australia-France Collaborative Research Program’](#).
- [Fundit](#)

#### Tips:

- Note that it is sometimes possible to include in your applications costs for any dependents that you may have (some funding schemes support travel for young children)
- Note also that some schemes listed above do not cover a salary, so it is important to gain these grants while working as research assistant (for example) on other projects. Emilie again emphasises the importance of supportive mentors!

### Resources relating to Roundtable #3

#### What happens after the PhD?

##### Post-doc opportunities

- [British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowships:](#) 3-year fellowship to pursue an independent research project at an institution in the UK. To be eligible you have to be a British citizen or have a PhD from a UK institution, but there are some exceptions if you can show ‘strong prior association’ to the UK academic community.
- [Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowships:](#) 3-year postdoctoral fellowships to undertake a significant piece of publishable work at an institution in the UK – again, you have to be a British citizen but there are some exceptions to this.
- [Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowships:](#) 1-year posts to pursue publication of the thesis following a doctorate/2-year fellowships to develop a new project. These fellowships have to be undertaken in the Republic of Ireland.
- [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions European Postdoctoral Fellowships:](#) These last for 1 or 2 years and are open to researchers moving within Europe or coming to Europe from another part of the world to pursue their research career. You can also apply for the Global Postdoctoral Fellowships which last for between 2 and 3 years and involve moving between different institutions across the world.
- [McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellowships Program:](#) 3-year fellowship to pursue an independent project at the University of Melbourne. Prospective applicants must discuss their interest in the Program with the relevant Faculty at the University of Melbourne, prior to submitting their application.

- [Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowships](#): This 1-year program is intended for scholars in the humanities to work on problems that interest them most, at an appropriately advanced level of study. In addition to facilitating the work of individual faculty members, these awards should benefit scholarship in the humanities more generally by encouraging the highest standards in cross-disciplinary research.
- [Humanities and Social Sciences Postdocs](#)

#### Job application websites

- [Times Higher Education](#): Advertises jobs in higher education around the world.
- [Jobs.ac.uk](#): Mostly advertises jobs in UK institutions but does include international posts too.
- [MLA Job List](#): Advertises academic jobs in the United States
- [H-Net](#)
- [French and Francophone Academic Jobs](#)

### PANELLIST BIOS

**Dr Alexis Bergantz** coordinates the French program at RMIT University where he is a Senior Lecturer in Global & Language Studies. He is also co-Chair, with Elizabeth Rechniewski, of the Research Committee of the Institute for the Study of French Australian Relations (ISFAR). His research focuses on Australia's entanglements with France and the French Pacific. His first book, *French Connection: Australia's Cosmopolitan Ambitions* (NewSouth, 2021), won the 2022 NSW Premier's Australian History Award. In 2023 Alexis co-edited, again with Elizabeth Rechniewski, a Special Issue of the Australian Journal of French Studies on Australia's connections with New Caledonia: *Australia and New Caledonia: Connectivity, Cooperation and Competition*.

**Dr Antonia Wimbush** is Lecturer in French Studies at the University of Melbourne. She has just completed a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at the University of Liverpool. Her current research project investigates cultural responses to post-war migration from the French Caribbean to mainland France. Her research interests include memory studies, migration, and French Caribbean literature and culture.

**Dr Frances Egan** is an early career researcher and lecturer in Monash University's Intercultural Lab, teaching in the Bachelor of Global Studies. Her teaching and research interests include social movements (especially feminisms), migration, nationalism, feminist pedagogies and identity studies. She has published widely on representations of gendered and cultural identities, particularly in Francophone literature, Franco-Maghrebi, and

transnational contexts, and on the stories we tell about feminism and intersectionality. Frances is also a practising French-English translator.

**A/Prof Valentina Gosetti** is a poetry translator and Associate Professor in French at the University of New England in Australia, where she holds a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award from the Australian Research Council ('Provincial Poets and the Making of a Nation'). She authored *Aloysius Bertrand's 'Gaspard de la Nuit': Beyond the Prose Poem* (2016), co-edited *Still Loitering: Australian Essays in Honour of Ross Chambers* (2021) with Alistair Rolls and co-edited/co-translated the bilingual anthology *Donne: Poeti di Francia e oltre* (2017) with Andrea Bedeschi and Adriano Marchetti. With Patrick McGuinness, she is Co-Editor of the book series 'Romanticism and After in France' (Peter Lang). She is now writing a monograph entitled *Poetry in the Provinces* for Liverpool University Press. With Daniel A. Finch-Race, as #TeamFinchetti, they edited a double issue of *Dix-neuf* on 'Ecoregions', as well as publishing in *Human Geography*, *Cultural Geographies*, *L'esprit créateur*, *Revue Bertrand* and *Remembering Paris in Text and Film* (Intellect). Together, they are under contract to write *The Cambridge Introduction to Women's Poetry in French* (Cambridge University Press).

**Dr Léa Vuong** is Senior Lecturer and Chair of French and Francophone Studies at the University of Sydney. She works on modern and contemporary literature and visual arts, and is particularly interested in word and image interactions. Her first monograph (*Legenda*, 2016) is on contemporary writer Pascal Quignard. Her two upcoming publications focus on her current research projects: a collaborative volume on Francophone Oceania (Liverpool University Press, 2024, co-edited with Nathalie Ségeral and Michelle Royer) and a monograph on the artist Louise Bourgeois (Penn State University Press, 2025).

**Dr Nathalie Ségeral** received a PhD in French and Francophone Studies from UCLA in 2012 and has since held appointments at Virginia Tech, the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the University of Sydney. She is the co-editor of *Trauma and Motherhood in Contemporary Literature and Culture* (Palgrave, 2021) and of *Francophone Oceania Today: Literature, Visual Arts, Music and Cinema* (forthcoming with Liverpool University Press, February 2024). She is also the French translator of David Chappell's *Le Réveil kanak: la montée du nationalisme en Nouvelle-Calédonie* (Presses universitaires de Nouméa, 2017).

**Dr Amy Hubbell** is Senior Lecturer and Deputy Associate Dean Academic at the University of Queensland. She researches French autobiographies of trauma and is author of *Hoarding Memory: Covering the Wounds of the Algerian War* (2020), *Remembering French Algeria: Pieds-Noirs, Identity and Exile* (2015) and co-editor of *Places of Traumatic Memory: a Global Context* (2020).

**Dr Nicholas Strole** received a PhD in French with a minor in Cinema Studies from the University of Illinois in 2020. He has held appointments in French Studies at the University of Illinois, The University of Technology Sydney, and The University of Melbourne. His research and teaching interests centre around Theatre and Performance Studies, Media and Cinema Studies, Migration Studies, Postcolonial Studies, Digital Humanities, and Translation Studies. His work has been published in *The Australian Society for French Studies* and *French Cultural Studies*. In his current book project, *Performing Dépaysement*, he analyses how French and

Francophone playwrights adapt myths and origin stories to reflect and critique issues of postcoloniality and migration.

**Dr Felicity Chaplin** is Lecturer in European Languages (French and Francophone Studies). She is the author of two books, *Charlotte Gainsbourg: transnational and transmedia stardom* (Manchester UP 2020) and *La Parisienne in cinema: between art and life* (Manchester UP 2017) and is a contributor to the edited collections *Refocus: The films of François Ozon* (Edinburgh UP 2021) and *Remembering Paris in Text and Film* (Intellect 2021). Her work appears in *Australian Book Review*, *Australian Journal of French Studies*, *Celebrity Studies*, *French Screen Studies*, *Imaginaires*, and *Screening the Past*. She is currently working on her third monograph on actress/screenwriter/director Julie Delpy (Manchester UP forthcoming).

## CHAIRPERSON BIOS

**Beau Smith-Davies** is a second year PhD student in the department of French and Francophone studies at the University of Sydney. Her research interests include contemporary French and Francophone literature and cinema, and contemporary French culture and society. Her PhD thesis focuses on an investigation of the monstrous and the grotesque in the bodies of work of Paul B. Preciado, Julia Ducournau, and Virginie Despentes.

**Josephine Goldman** is a final-year PhD candidate at the University of Sydney. Her PhD project, "Diving into heavy waters: Water and gender in contemporary francophone Caribbean and Oceanian art and literature" explores the portrayal of human-water relationships in contemporary literature and art of six women from across the francophone Caribbean and Oceania. In particular, she explores how cultural and gender identity, history and spatiality shape individual expressions of this human-water relationship across a range of media, and the transnational mappings that are present in these local imaginaries of water.

**Dr Clara Sitbon** is a Senior Lecturer in French and Francophone Studies at the University of Sydney. She is a literary comparatist, a specialist of Vernon Sullivan, literary hoaxes, and has worked extensively on Crime Fiction in French. Her monograph *Boris Vian faiseur de hoax*;

*pour une démystification de l’Affaire Vernon Sullivan* (Brill, 2018) establishes the first extensive theory of literary hoaxes through a poststructuralist lens. Her most recent work is situated in the Digital Humanities, where she is examining the literary fingerprint of pseudonymous authors using Natural Language Processing methods and stylometry, and in regional crime fiction in French, where she examines Corsican Crime Fiction as a transnational tool to challenge the status quo of Crime Fiction in French.

**Beth Kearney** is a final year PhD candidate at the University of Queensland, writing a thesis on phototexts by contemporary women authors from across the francophone world. She has published on this topic and others, most recently in *The Australian Journal of French Studies* (2023), *Francosphères* (2022), *La Revue internationale de Photolittérature* (2021), *Sociopoétiques* (2020), and *Postures* (2020). In 2022, she was Lecturer in French Studies at the University of New England and now a casual academic teaching in French language and literature at the University of Queensland.