

CURRICULUM VITAE

Jeff Persels
Associate Professor of French

Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
Messages (803) 777-4881 Fax (803) 777-0454
E-Mail perselsj@sc.edu

333 Waccamaw Ave
Columbia, SC 29205-3056
(803) 933-9195
(803) 361-1858

EDUCATION

- 1991 Ph.D. in French Literature. Major field of concentration: Renaissance. University of Virginia.
1986 Master of Arts in French Literature. University of Virginia.
1984 Bachelor of Arts. Major: French Literature. Minor: Latin. University of California, Davis.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Anthologies and Collective Volumes

Itineraries in French Renaissance Literature. Essays for Mary B. McKinley. Edited by Jeff Persels, Kendall Tarte & George Hoffmann. *Studies in Medieval and Reformation Traditions* 208. Leiden: Brill, 2018.

<http://www.brill.com/products/book/itineraries-french-renaissance-literature>

FLS 39. *The Environment in French and Francophone Literature and Film.* Rodopi, 2013.

EMF *Early Modern French Studies* 13. *Spectacle.* Guest-edited. Rookwood Press, 2010.

Fecal Matters in Early Modern Literature and Art. Studies in Scatology. Co-edited with Russell Ganim. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2004.

Book Chapters

“The World in Pantgruel’s Gut.” In *A Companion to François Rabelais.* Edited by Bernd Renner. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2021. 515-39.

“Reduced Molière: Rebooting the Master for a Twenty-First-Century Audience.” In *Molière re-envisioned / Renouveau et renouvellement moliéresques: Twenty-first century retakes / Reprises contemporaines.* Edited by M. J. Muratore. Paris: Éditions Hermann, 2018. 479-500.

“Blasons, seigneurie du cul,” in *Anatomie d’une anatomie. Nouvelles recherches sur les blasons anatomiques du corps féminin.* Coordination éditoriale de Julien Goeury, Thomas Hunkeler. Cahiers d’Humanisme et Renaissance, No. 154. Geneva: Droz, 2018. 361-69.

“Bearding the Pope, circa 1562.” In *Itineraries in French Renaissance Literature. Essays for Mary B. McKinley.* 228-44. Edited by Jeff Persels, Kendall Tarte & George Hoffmann. *Studies in Medieval and Reformation Traditions* 208. Leiden: Brill, 2018.

“Teaching Rabelais’s Backside” in *Approaches to Teaching the Works of François Rabelais.* Ed. Todd W. Reeser and Floyd Gray. The Modern Language Association of America, 2011. 110-14.

“‘The Mass and the Fart are Sisters’: Scatology and Calvinist Rhetoric against the Mass, 1560-63,” in *Fecal Matters in Early Modern Literature and Art*, ed. Jeff Persels and Russell Ganim. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2004: 38-55.

Journal Articles

“Through a Glass Darkly: Dominion and the French Wars of Religion,” *French Ecocriticism. From the Early Modern Period to the Twenty-First Century.* Vol. 1, No. 1. 2016. Ed. Daniel A. Finch-Race and Stephanie Posthumus 25-41.

- “Boucher et le premier *Sermon de la simulée conversion* (1594)” *Œuvres & Critiques*, XXXVIII, 2 (2013): 71-81.
- “A Curious Case of Ethnographic Cleansing: The First French Interpretations of the Japanese, 1552-1555” *Esprit créateur* 48.1 (2008):45-57.
- “Stefan Zweig and Montaigne,” *Montaigne Studies* 20.1-2 (2008): 5-15.
- “Taking the Piss out of Pantagruel: Urine and Micturition in Rabelais” in *Meaning and Its Objects: Material Culture in Medieval and Renaissance France* (Yale French Studies N°110), ed. Margaret Burland, David Laguardia and Andrea Tarnowski, 2006: 137-51.

Encyclopedia Entries

- “Noël Bédar.” “Noël Bédar.” [The Literary Encyclopedia](#). August 2019.

RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS / INVITED LECTURES

Performance / Discuss of excerpt from theatrical adaptation of Montaigne’s *Essays*.

- University of Kansas, September 23, 2025 (invited / paid)
- University of Iowa, September 25, 2025 (invited / paid)
- Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Portland OR, November 1, 2025
- Renaissance Society of America Conference, San Francisco, February 19, 2026

Atelier Montaigne. (Presentation of theatrical adaptation of I.31 On cannibals.) Paris / Sorbonne, June 13, 2025.

“Conversations with People Who Read Montaigne,” NYU / Maison française. November 27, 2023
<https://wp.nyu.edu/artsampscience-montaigne/>

Atelier Montaigne. (Presentation of theatrical adaptation of Montaigne.) Paris / Sorbonne, June 17, 2023.

“Staging Montaigne” Sixteenth Century Studies Society, Minneapolis, MN, October 28. 2022.

“Reducing French Classics for the Stage: Molière, Perrault, Voltaire” Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC (USA). October 26, 2018

“Domain and Dominion : The Environment and the French Wars of Religion” (Invited Keynote address) Seiziémistes of the Mid-Atlantic. Washington College, Chestertown, MD. December 9, 2017

“Blasons, Farces and the Body Politics of Farting” Renaissance Society of America. Chicago, IL. April 1, 2017

“Through a Glass Darkly: *Le Miroir des François* and Reflections on a French State in Disarray (circa 1582).” Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. Lexington, KY. April 23, 2015.

“Froumentau’s Death Map of France, circa 1580.” Sixteenth Century Society and Conference. New Orleans, LA. Oct. 18, 2014.

“Saints, Millers, Faith and Farce in Andrieu de la Vigne’s *Mystère de Saint Martin*.” Renaissance Society of America. New York, NY. March 29, 2014.

“*Tableaux vivants, tableaux parlants* : Using Art as Inspiration for French-Language Classroom Dramaturgy.” Southern Conference on Language Teaching. Memphis, TN. March 14, 2014.

RECENT COURSES

CPLT 703. Ecocriticism. *English-language graduate seminar on the history of environmental writing.*

EURO 300. Introduction to European Studies.

FREN 209. Reading and Written Expression. *Intermediate composition course and grammar review based on Gilles Paris’s Autobiographie d’une courgette and film adaptation. Uses only e-materials.*

FREN 309. Reading French Texts. Reformulated reading and writing course based on the popular

writings of Pierre Bellemare.

FREN 311. Advanced French Composition. *Recently revised as a preparatory course for the DELF B2 French proficiency examination.*

FREN 330 The French Theatre Experience. *Most recently, 2018 production of Voltaire's Candide, 2019 production of Thomas/Ozón's 8 Femmes, 2020 Amuse-gueules ! (see www.amateurfrenchtheatre.org), 2023 Grand Guignol, 2024 Ça va péter des flammes : 3 Farces, 2026 Freeman/Goldstein, Oups ! Trop de mariées !*

FREN 400. La Civilisation française. *Survey from « Nos ancêtres les Gaulois » to the French Revolution.*

FREN 501. La France contemporaine. *Political, social cultural institutions and critical events of the Fifth Republic.*

FREN 595. Special Topics: Le Beau & le laid. *Chronological survey of French canon focusing on representations of beauty.*

FREN 595. Special Topics: La Grande Guerre sur grand écran. *Seminar on major World War I accounts and works of fiction including nine films from 1919-2017.*

FREN 795. Pièce et Anti-Pièce. *Survey of French Theatre from La farce du pet to Le Père Noël est une ordure. MA-level seminar.*

SCHC 363S How the French Discovered America. Honors College seminar on 16th-century French travel narrative.

RECENT UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Director of European Studies, November 2006-2013

Francophone Studies Program Director, June 2014-2015, 2018-2023

Faculty Senate Standards and Petitions Committee, 2005-2008, Chair 2007-8

Faculty Senate Bookstore Committee, Chair 2005-6

French Undergraduate Major Advisor, 2007-present

Fullbright Faculty Advisor, 2003-2004, 2009-present

French Graduate Advisor, 2002-2003

University Committee on Courses and Curricula, 1999-2002, Chair 2001-2002

UofSC Faculty Senate Steering Committee, 2001-2002 and 2007-2008

UofSC in Tours, France, Director, 2000, 2002, 2008, 2012

Director, USC DELF examination center, 2022-present

RECENT COMMUNITY SERVICE AND OUTREACH

French Theatre Performances, with the Columbia Chapter of the Alliance Française, for which I also serve as Executive Vice-President. Full-scale annual productions. *Knock, ou le triomphe de la médecine* (2007, actor); *Le bal des voleurs* (2008, actor and co-director); *Le bourgeois gentilhomme* (2009, director and actor), *Candide* (2010, adapter, director and actor), *La cantatrice chauve* (2011, director), *Une Soirée Théâtre de Boulevard* (2012, director and actor), *Tableaux vivants, tableaux parlants* (2013, co-author, director, actor), *Le dîner de cons* (2014, director, actor), *Molière 2.0* (2015, author, director, actor); *Farces médiévales* (2017, adaptation, direction, acting); Original adaption of La Fontaine's fables (2019, author, director, actor). See my website: amateurfrenchtheatre.org

French Day at UofSC Director, 1998-2015. Coordination of annual UofSC-sponsored event for an average of 100 SC high school students and their teachers. Includes workshops, lunch and performance of annual French Play.

French puppet show. *Le petit chaperon rouge* (2005 & 2010), *Les trois petits cochons* (2006 & 2011), *Boucle d'or et les trois ours* (2007), *Les trois boucs bourrus* (2008), *Anansi le fûté et la roche à barbe* (2009).

Numerous performances in SC elementary and middle schools, workshops in South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

CinéCola and Tournées Film Festivals. Grant-funded fall festivals of recent French-language cinema.

Co-director since 2008.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Sixteenth Century Society and Conference

Renaissance Society of America

Société Française d'Etudes du Seizième Siècle

Alliance Française

DELF, certified *examineur-correcteur* A1-B2