

Aparna Nayak, Ph.D.

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Research Interests

Dr. Nayak's main area of interest is France in World War II, and the inter-relations between literature, memory, history, and politics. Her work on immediate post-war writings engages with questions of remembrance and forgetting. She is also interested in the immediate pre-war period, specifically the cultural politics of the Popular Front government. More recently, she has also turned her focus on research projects on Moroccan Francophone literature and culture.

Education

2006 University of Pittsburgh, Ph.D., French
1998 Université de Paris VII-Denis Diderot, D.E.A, French literature
1993 University of Pittsburgh, M.A., French
1989 University of Bombay, B.A., French

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles

- (with J. Tatro) "Gender Fluidity, the Crisis of Care, and Eco-criticism in George Sand's *François le champi*." In: Martin, C.E., Donato, C. (eds). *The Palgrave Handbook of Transnational Women's Writing in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Palgrave Macmillan (2024), p. 535-548. . https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-40494-8_29
- "Tahar Ben Jelloun's *La Punition*, or the (re)presentation of incarceration as lived experience" in *International Journal of Francophone Studies*. Volume 23, Numbers 1-2, 1 July 2020, pp. 31-47.
- "From Essay to Novel: Echoes of Tahar Ben Jelloun's *Hospitalité française*(1983) in *Le Mariage de plaisir* (2016)." *Journal of the African*

Literature Association (JALA) Special Issue on the Maghreb: Beyond the Francophone Maghreb. Fall 2020, vol. 14 issue 3, pp. 420-434.

- “Le droit d’étaler ses blessures”: Survival and Testimony in Guy Kohen’s *Retour d’Auschwitz*” in *The French Review*, vol. 93 no. 2. pp. 147-158 (2019).
- “De rive en rive: exile, space, and memory in Nancy Huston’s *L’empreinte de l’ange*” in *Paris and the Marginalized Author: Treachery, Alienation, Queerness and Exile*. Eds. Pamela Pears and Valerie Orlando. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2019, pp. 81-93.
- “*Les Nuits de Strasbourg* d’Assia Djebar: la ville et les espaces historiques croisés.” in *Les Espaces intimes féminins dans la littérature maghrébine d’expression française*. Eds. Robert Elbaz (University of Haifa) and Françoise Saquer-Sabin (University of Lille-3). Paris: L’Harmattan, 2014. pp. 245-256.
- “Ambiguous identities: myth and self-reinvention in *Un héros très discret*.” *The French Review*, vol. 86.4 (2013), pp. 32-42.
- “Aux armes, citoyens!” The role of French newspapers in the call to insurrection and unity, June – October 1944.” *Francopolyphonies*, 10.2 (December 2012), pp. 195-204.
- “Wir sind doch keinen Barbaren”: Music, Musicality and Cultural Politics in Aragon’s ‘Le droit romain n’est plus’,” *French Forum*. Fall 2009. Vol. 34, no. 3. pp. 21-38.
- “The project of Liberation and the projection of national identity. France, literature and politics, 1944-1945” in *Sites / Contemporary French & Francophone Studies*. “French Studies Today”. Vol. 10. no. 2. Spring-Summer 2006, pp. 195-204.

Other publications

- Book review: *Through the Morgue Door. One Woman’s Story of Survival and Saving Children in German-Occupied Paris*, by Colette Brull-Ullmann and Jean-Christophe Portes. Translated by Anne Landau and Margaret Sinclair. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2024. xviii + 236 pp., ill. Forthcoming in *French Studies* (Oxford Academic, OUP) 79.2 (April 2025).
- “Editors’ Introduction” as guest editor, *SITES Contemporary French and Francophone Studies*. Eds. Roger Celestin and Eliane Dalmolin. Vol. 17.4 (2013), pp. 373-377.

- Bibliographic consultant for a critical volume on Louis Aragon's work by LP Publishers, Fall 2013.
- Book review: *A Parisienne in Chicago. Impressions of the World's Columbian Exposition*. Madame Léon Grandin. Mary Beth Raycraft, trans. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2010. xliii + 150 pp. In *Women's Studies*, 2010, Vol.39 (7), p.790- 793.
- Author Interview: "DJ Zaïfe: Remix de la cité du paradis: interview avec Faïza Guène, écrivaine". Laura Ceia-Minjares, written in collaboration with Aparna Nayak. *Contemporary French & Francophone Studies*. Vol. 11. no. 1, January 2007, pp. 93-97.

Teaching

French Composition and Syntax, French conversation, French phonetics, French for the Professions, French literature survey, 19th and 20th century French literature, Self & Society, Research Methods & Critical Theory, Contemporary European Society (with study abroad), West African Francophone literature, French and Italian Translation.

Links

- [fabula – la recherche en littérature](#)
- [Bibliothèque nationale de France](#)