

Hélène E. Bilis

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2016-present Associate Professor of French, Wellesley College
- 2017-present Campus Director, Wellesley-in-Aix Study Abroad Program
- 2008-2016 Assistant Professor of French, Wellesley College

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. **University of California, Berkeley**, French, Spring 2008. Dissertation: *Passing On: Dynastic Succession and the King's Body in French Tragedy, 1637-1749*. Chair: Prof. Nicholas Paige.
- M.A. **University of California, Berkeley**, French Literature, Fall 2002.
- B.A. **Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, N.J., *Magna Cum Laude*, French major, Spanish and Italian minor, Fall 2000.

PUBLISHED BOOKS

- 2022 Hélène E. Bilis, Jean-Vincent Blanchard, David Harrison, and Hélène Visentin. *La Princesse De Clèves by Lafayette: A New Translation and Bilingual Pedagogical Edition for the Digital Age*. Ann Arbor, MI: Lever Press, 2022. Awarded NEH grant, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.12629286>. EPUB.
- 2021 *Teaching French Neoclassical Tragedy*. Eds. Hélène Bilis and Ellen McClure (New York: MLA, 2021).
- 2016 *Passing Judgment: The Politics and Poetics of Sovereignty in French Tragedy from Hardy to Racine*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016.
- 2014 *L'Eloquence du Silence: Dramaturgie du non-dit sur la scène théâtrale des 17^e et 18^e siècles*, ed. Hélène Bilis and Jennifer Tamas. Paris: EDPS Classiques Garnier.

In Progress:

The Bérénice Moment: Corneille, Racine, and a Theatrical Rivalry for the Ages (in progress; intended for University of Delaware Press, Celebrity Series).

AWARDS and GRANTS

- 2021 Wellesley College Faculty Awards, "Dueling Drama" \$3500

2020 National Endowment for the Humanities-Mellon Digital Publication Grant
2019-2020 Newhouse Center for the Humanities Fellow, Wellesley College

May 30-31, 2019 Digital Editions in Practice, National Endowment for the Humanities
Workshop, Perseus Project, Tufts University

2018 “Using Digital Humanities Approaches to Improve Student Metacognition in an
Advanced French Course,” Mellon Evidence-Based Teaching Innovation Grant.

2015 Alliance to Advance Liberal Arts College (AALAC) Mellon Grant: “Blended
Learning Approaches to Teaching Early Modern France in a Liberal Arts
Context.” (\$15,000) With H  l  ne Visentin, Smith College.

2015 Educational Research and Development Grant, Wellesley College

2015 Knapp Instructional Technology Internship Program (\$3,500), “The Anxiety of
Competition”

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

2022

“Entre rivalit  s et alliances: Moli  re, Corneille, Racine et l’  pisode des deux *B  r  nice*”
Retours sur Moli  re. Ed. Georges Forestier, Paris, Hermann, 2022, forthcoming.

H  l  ne Bilis, “Quelle place pour Tristan L’Hermite dans la recherche et
l’enseignement en am  rique du nord?” *Cahiers Tristan L’Hermite*. 2022. n   XLIV.
Tristan L’Hermite et Am  d  e Carriat, une histoire litt  raire en Limousin, Editions
Garnier, Paris, Forthcoming, 2022.

2021

“Theatrical Competition, Age, and the Career Race: ‘Old Corneille’ Rivals
Racine,” *Early Modern French Studies*, DOI: [10.1080/20563035.2021.2004344](https://doi.org/10.1080/20563035.2021.2004344)

“La Bataille des *B  r  nice*: une concurrence repens  e,” *Racine’s Roman Tragedies, Essays on Britannicus and B  r  nice*, ed. Nicholas Hammond and Paul Hammond
(Leiden, Brill Press, 2021): pp. 263-278.

H  l  ne Bilis and Peter Mawhorter, “Mapping Social Networks in *La Princesse de Cl  ves*:
The ‘Commerce’ of Lafayette’s Court,” *French Studies*, 75.2 (April 2021).

H  l  ne Bilis and Laura M. O’Brien, “The Modern Language Classroom as DH
Laboratory,” *Language Debates: Theory and Reality in Language Learning, Teaching
and Research. Language Acts and Worldmaking Series*. Eds. Debra Kelly and Ana
Aguiar de Medeiros (University of London Press, 2021): pp. 257-271.

“*B  r  nice* on Trial: Judging Corneille Against Racine” in *Staging Justice* ed. Michael
Meere and Val  rie Dionne. *Early Modern French Studies*, 42:2, pp. 160-173.

“Reading Lafayette from the Outside: Character Interactions in the ‘Anti-Imaginative
Novel’ ”, Kelly Fender McConnell and Michael Meere (eds), *Coups de Ma  tre. Studies in*

- Medieval and Early Modern Literature and Culture, in Honour of John D. Lyons* (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2021): pp. 143-166.
- Hélène Bilis, "Neoclassical Tragedy, Distant Reading, and the Digital Sphere" *Teaching Neoclassical French Tragedy*. Eds. Hélène Bilis and Ellen McClure (New York: MLA, 2021): pp. 340-357.
- Hélène Bilis and Ellen McClure, "Introduction: Teaching Neoclassical Tragedy outside France," *Teaching Neoclassical French Tragedy* Eds. Hélène Bilis and Ellen McClure (New York: MLA , 2021): pp. 1-25.
- 2020 Hélène BILIS, « Corneille aux États-Unis, ou quel « auteur classique » pour les campus américains ? » dans *Appropriations de Corneille*, Actes du colloque organisé à l'Université de Rouen en octobre 2014, publiés par Myriam Dufour-Maître *Publications numériques du CÉRÉDI*, « Actes de colloques et journées d'étude », n° 24, 2020. URL : <http://publis-shs.univ-rouen.fr/ceredi/index.php?id=847>.
- 2018 Bilis, Hélène; Bartle, Jenifer; O'Brien, Laura M.; and Rogers, Ruth R. "Reading Her Queenly Coiffure: A Collaborative Approach to the Study of Marie-Antoinette's Hairstyles," *ABO: Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts, 1640-1830*: Vol. 8 : Iss. 2 , Article 2. <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/abo/vol8/iss2/2>
- 2017 "Between Hairstyle and History: Marie-Antoinette's Almanac," *Journal18: A Journal of Eighteenth-Century Art and Culture*, 30 May, <http://www.journal18.org/1788>
- 2017 "Solo on Stage: The Single Mother's Solitary Path to Tenure," *Staging Women's Lives: Gendered Life Stages in Language and Literature Workplaces*, eds. Nan Bauer-Maglin and Michelle Massé (SUNY Feminist Theory and Criticism Series): pp. 97-109.
- 2014 "The Silence of Subjects: Tragedy and the Refusal to Speak in Tristan's *La Mort de Sénèque*," *L'Eloquence du Silence: Dramaturgie du non-dit sur la scène théâtrale des 17^e et 18^e siècles*, eds. Hélène Bilis and Jennifer Tamas. Paris: EDPS Classiques Garnier.
- 2013 "Voir la Sorcière de Colchis d'un nouvel œil ou comment rendre visible la dignité," *Littératures Classiques* 82 (2013): pp. 233-245.
- 2013 "Corneille's *Cinna*, Clemency, and the Implausible Decision," *The Modern Language Review* Volume 108, Number 1, January 2013: pp. 68-89.
- 2010 "Poétique tragique et pensée politique: mise en scène de la souveraineté dans l'*Œdipe* de Voltaire," *Symposium*, Volume 64, Issue 4, October 2010: 258-274.
- 2010 "Corneille and the Politics of Seventeenth-Century Succession," *MLN* (French Issue) 125:4 (2010): pp. 873-894.
- 2008 "Tragic Succession in Racine's *Mithridate* and *Phèdre*." *Fortune and Fatality: Performing the Tragic in Early Modern France*, eds. Hosford and Wrightington (Oxford: Oxford Scholars Press).

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2021 *Digitizing Enlightenment: Digital Humanities and the Transformation of Eighteenth-Century Studies*. Edited by Simon Burrows and Glenn Roe. Oxford University Studies in the Enlightenment, Liverpool University Press, 2020. *H-France Review*, Forthcoming 2021
- 2020 *Tragedy and the Return of the Dead*. Lyons, John, D. Northwestern University Press, 2018. *French Studies* 74.1 (January 2020).
- 2018 *Genius in France: An Idea and Its Uses*. Jefferson, Ann. Princeton University Press, 2015. *Contemporary French Civilization*. Dec 2018, Vol. 43, Issue 3-4, pp. 503-505
- 2018 *Corneille, Pierre. Théâtre*. Tome II. Jean Guardiola, Liliane Picciola, Florence Dobby-Poirson, Laura Rescia. Paris, Classiques Garnier, Bibliothèque du Théâtre Français, n. 48, 2017. 1125 p. *Revue d'Histoire Littéraire de la France*.
- 2018 *Guilty Pleasures: Theatre, Piety, and Immorality in 17th-Century France*. Harris, Joseph, and Julia Prest, eds. *Yale French Studies* 130 (2016).
- 2015 *Pierre Corneille Théâtre*. Tome I. Eds. Claire Carlin, Jean de Guardia, Marc Vuillermoz, and Liliane Picciola (Paris: Garnier, 2014). *The Renaissance Quarterly*. Winter 2015. Vol. 68. Issue 4: 1515-1517.
- 2015 *Walter Benjamin's Hypothetical French Trauerspiel*, ed. Hall Bjornstad and Katherine Ibbett. *Yale French Studies* 124 (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2013). *The French Review*.
- 2012 *The Shock of the Ancient: Literature & History in Early Modern France* (Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press, 2011). By Larry Norman. *Papers on French Seventeenth-Century Literature* Vol. XXXIX, Number 76: 266-270.
- 2012 *The Enlightenment Past: Reconstructing Eighteenth-Century French Thought*. (Cambridge, UK: The University of Cambridge Press, 2008). By Daniel Brewer. *Eighteenth-Century Current Bibliography*, 34, 2012.
- 2011 *Figures de l'histoire de France dans le théâtre au tournant des Lumières 1760-1830*, eds. Paul Mironneau and Gérard Lahouati (Oxford: Voltaire Foundation, 2007). *Eighteenth-Century Current Bibliography* 33, 2011.
- 2010 *The Style of the State in French Theater: Neoclassicism and Government 1630-1660* (Shirey, UK: Ashgate, 2009). By Katherine Ibbett. *Renaissance Quarterly* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, Summer 2010).
- 2010 *Voltaire Comic Dramatist* (Oxford: Studies in Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century, 2006). By Russell Goulbourne. *Eighteenth-Century Current Bibliography*: 32: 289-90.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

January 2020-present Chief Editor, H-France Forum

- Spring 2019* PhD. Dissertation committee, Ashley Voeks, University of Texas, Austin, "Pourquoi me persecutes-tu? Martyrdom and Religious Violence in French Literature, 1554-1643." April 10, 2019 Defense.
- 2016-2019* Literary editor, H-France Forum, Middle Ages to 17th Century
- 2018-present* SE17 Prize Committee Member
- 2018* ASECS Graduate Student Prize Committee
- 2018* French Department Promotional Film Director
- 2017-2019* Co-director, Medieval/Renaissance Program, Wellesley College
- 2017* Boston College Digital Scholarship Incubator Presenter and Participant
- 2015* Assistant Visiting Professor of French, Harvard University (Spring)
- 2013-2014* Co-director, Medieval/Renaissance Program, Wellesley College
- 2012-2017* MLA French Seventeenth-Century Division Executive Committee Officer (2012-2017), Division Chair
- 2012* President, Conference Organizer: 31st Annual Conference of The Society for Interdisciplinary French Seventeenth-Century Studies, Wellesley College (Nov. 8-10, 2012)