

## MIRANDA FRANCES SPIELER

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### Education

Ph.D. Columbia University, PhD with distinction in May 2005.  
 M.Phil. Columbia University, M. Phil with highest honors, May 1998.  
 A.B. Harvard College, magna cum laude in History and Literature, May 1994.

### Employment

2024-present	Full professor, Dept. of the History and Politics, American University of Paris.
2013-2024	Associate Professor, Dept. of History and Politics, American University of Paris
2011-2013	Associate Professor, Dept. of History, University of Arizona
2005-2011	Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, University of Arizona
Fall 2004-Spring 2005	Lecturer, Committee on Degrees in History and Literature, Harvard University
Winter-Spring 2004	Visiting Instructor in Modern Intellectual History, Wesleyan University
2003-4	Teaching Assistant, Harvard University, Committee on Degrees in History and Literature
2002-3	Instructor in Contemporary Civilization, Columbia University
2001-2	Teaching Assistant, Harvard University, Committee on Degrees in History and Literature
2000-1	Instructor in Contemporary Civilization, Columbia University
1995-1998	Assistant to Susan Sontag

### PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

David H. Pinckney Prize awarded for "most distinguished work of French history," Society for French Historical Studies, 2026.  
 External Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center, Sept. 2017-June 2018.  
 Faculty Fellow, George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention, 2016-present.  
 J. Russell Major Prize from the American Historical Association for the best book in English related to France, 2013.  
 George L. Mosse Prize for a book of "extraordinary scholarly distinction, creativity and originality in the intellectual history of Europe since 1500" from the American Historical Association, 2013.  
 Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Fellow, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University, 2007-8.

Comargo Foundation Fellowship, Spring 2007-8 (declined).  
 Social and Behavior Sciences Research Institute Grant, Univ. Arizona, Spring 2006.  
 Whiting Fellowship, 2001-2.  
 Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2000.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Slaves in Paris: Hidden Lives and Fugitive Histories*. Harvard University Press, June 2025. Translation forthcoming from *La Découverte*.  
*Empire and Underworld: Captivity in French Guiana*. Harvard Historical Series, Harvard University Press, April 2012. French translation by Alma Éditeur (2016). Awarded the J. Russell Major Prize (2013) and the George Mosse Prize (2013), from the American Historical Association. Finalist for the Wylie Prize in French Cultural Studies.

### Articles in Academic Journals

"Slavery and the fetish." *History of European Ideas*, 50(4), 659–662.  
 "The Right to Come and Go." *Law and History Review* 38, no. 3 (2020): 555-570.  
 "Slave Flight, Slave Torture and the State: Nineteenth Century French Guiana." *French Politics, Culture and Society*, vol. 33, no. 1 (Spring 2015): 55-74.  
 "The Destruction of Liberty in French Guiana: Law, Identity and the Meaning of Legal Space, 1794-1830." *Social History* 32, no. 3 (August 2011): 260-279.  
 "The Structure of Colonial Rule during the French Revolution 1789-1802." *The William and Mary Quarterly* 66, no. 2 (April 2009): 365-408.

### Book Chapters

"Ourika and the Chevalier de Boufflers." In *French Revolutionary Lives*. Edited by David Bell and Colin Jones. War Culture and Society. Series editor Rafe Blaufarb et al. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2024, 29-47.  
 "L'Enlèvement des esclaves de Paris des Lumières." In *Colonisations: notre histoire*. Edited by Pierre Singaravélou. Paris: Seuil, 2023, 120-122.  
 "Viande de barbecue," *L'Épicerie du monde*, ed. Pierre Singaravélou. Paris: Fayard, 2022, 17-21.  
 "Être esclave dans une capitale impériale: Paris XVIIIe siècle." In Paulin Isnard, Benedetta Rossi, and Cécile Vidal, *Histoire mondiale de l'esclavage*. Paris: Seuil, 2021, 245-252.  
 "Slave Voice and the Legal Archive: Freedom Suits before the Paris Admiralty Court." In Sophie White and Trevor Burnard, eds., *Hearing Enslaved Voices: African and Indian Slave Testimony in British and French America 1700-1848*; London: Routledge, 2020, 165-187.  
 "Mobility." In *A Culture History of Western Empires*, vol. 5, ed. Kristin McKenzie. Bloomsbury, 2019, 109-130.  
 "The Vanishing Slaves of Paris: The *Lettre de Cachet* and the Emergence of an Imperial Legal Order in Eighteenth-Century France." In *The Scaffolding of Sovereignty: Global and Aesthetic Perspectives on the History of a Concept*, edited by Zvi Ben-Dor Benite, Stefanos Geroulanos, and Nicole Jerr, 230-245. New York: Columbia University Press, 2017.

“Abolition and Reenslavement in the Caribbean: The Revolution in French Guiana.” In *The French Revolution in Global Perspective*, edited by Lynn Hunt, Suzanne Desan, and William Nelson. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013, 132-147.

“France and the Atlantic World.” In Peter McPhee, ed., *Blackwell Companion to the French Revolution* (2012), 57-72.

### **Book Reviews**

Review of Edenz Maurice, *La Guyane: la promesse républicaine: faire France outre-mer 1920-1980* (2022). H-France 24, no. 68 (December 2024).

Review of Cecile Vidal, *Caribbean New Orleans: Empire, Race, and the Making of a Slave Society*. In *Annales: Histoire, Sciences Sociales* 4 (2023): 828-831.

Forum comment on David Todd, *Velvet Empire* (2022), H-Diplo Roundtable, March 2023.

“Peasant Resistance in Postrevolutionary Haiti.” In *Reviews in American History* 49, no. 3 (2021), 413-421.

Review of Sophie White, *Voices of the Enslaved: Love, Labor, and Longing in French Louisiana* (2019). In *Slavery and Abolition*, 42, no. 3 (2021): 653-654.

Review of Brandon Byrd, *The Black Republic: African Americans and the fate of Haiti* (2019), in *Slavery and Abolition*, vol. 42, no. 2 (2021): 415-417

Comment on Patrick Boucheron, *France in the World: A New Global History*. In H-Diplo Roundtable XXII-1, 6 Nov. 2020.

Review of Edward Rugemer, *Slave Law and the Politics of Resistance in the Early Atlantic World*. In *The William and Mary Quarterly* 77, no. 4 (2020): 711-715.

Review of Pascal Firges, *French Revolutionaries in the Ottoman Empire*. In *The Journal of Modern History* 91, no. 3 (2019): 677-678.

Review of Jennifer Palmer, *Intimate Bonds*. In *French History* 31, no. 3 (2017): 380-382.

Review of Jeremy Popkin, *You Are All Free: The Haitian Revolution and the Abolition of Slavery* (2011). In *Annales. Histoire, Sciences sociales* 67 (2012): 516-518.

Comment on Ian Coller, *Islam and the Making of Modern Europe 1798-1830*. In H-France Forum, vol. 7 (winter 2012).

Review of Benjamin Claude Brower, *A Desert Named Peace: The Violence of France’s Empire in the Algerian Sahara, 1844-1902*. In *The Journal of Modern History* 83, no.4 (December 2011): 905-907.

Review of Lynn Festa, *Sentimental Figures of Empire in Eighteenth-Century Britain and France* for H-France 8, no. 107 (Aug. 2008).

## **PROFESSIONAL PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **Invited Talks**

Roundtable on *Slaves in Paris*, Maison Française, Columbia University, 2 March 2026.

Book talk, *Slaves in Paris*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 23 February 2026 (hosted by Jennifer Boittin).

Book talk, *Slaves in Paris*, Bowdoin College, 27 October 2025.

"Rethinking France's Age of Abolition through the Prism of Family History," History Department Faculty Workshop, Harvard University, 29 October 2025.

Keynote for plenary, ‘The Enlightenment, racial slavery, and people of color in

- eighteenth-century France: Miranda Spieler's *Slaves in Paris* (2025) in light of new scholarship', Global Consortium Paris 2025, 17 July 2025.
- Keynote about *Slaves in Paris* for "Displacement and the French Revolution," UCL Social & Historical Sciences, Center of Transnational and Global History, 29 May 2025.
- Roundtable with Chloe Ireton and Richard Taws, UCL Social and Historical Sciences, 29 May 2025.
- "Adonis." Policer les présences noires en Europe dans le long 18<sup>e</sup> siècle/Policing Black Presence in the Long Eighteenth Century, Abbaye de Royaumont 25-28 June 2023, organized by Ian Coller and Vincent Dénis.
- "Faire de l'histoire sur le terrain." L'écriture, L'enseignement; et l'Esclavage en l'honneur de Jean Hébrard, (23 June 2023).
- "Esclaves domestiques et la police parisienne." *Policer la présence noir en Europe*, Paris-Sorbonne I, Paris-Sorbonne I, Centre Malher, organized by l'Institut d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine (Paris I-CNRS-ENS) and the University of California (Irvine), 16 June 2022.
- "The Rise and Fall of André Lucidor, an African Swordsman in Paris (c.1718-1771): Race, Sexual Deviance, and the Problem of Freedom in the Eighteenth Century Capital." Center for Critical Democracy Studies, American University of Paris, 14 November 2022.
- "The Case of Ourika: Children, the French Slave Trade, and the End of the Rights of Man." Center for Critical Democracy Studies, American University of Paris, 2 May 2022.
- "The Chevalier de Boufflers between Senegal and Paris: Slavery and the Man of Feeling." French Revolutionary Lives Conference, Princeton University, co-sponsored by the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies and the Eighteenth Century Seminar, organized by David Bell and Colin Jones, 9 April 2022.
- "The Julian Affair." Precirculated paper for the Age of Revolutions E-Seminar, co-sponsored by USC and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Clement Thibaud and Nathan Perl-Rosenthal), 22 February 2022.
- "Le fardeau des vieilles chaînes: travail et citoyenneté aux Antilles et en Guyane après les abolitions." Séminaire Colonisation Pénitentiaire de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes, 3 December 2021.
- "The Julien Affair." New York French History Group, 21 October 2020 (zoom talk).
- "On the Lam in Global History." Mellon Seminar on Genealogy and Kinship, Tufts University, 10 March 2020.
- "L'Italie et l'Antiquité : imaginaire et voyage au siècle des Lumières." Final comment. Sorbonne Journée d'Étude, 21 June 2019. Organized by Giovanna Cesarani, Jean-François Dunyach, and Simon MacDonald.
- "Slaves before the Paris Admiralty Court." Miami Law School, 25 February 2019.
- "Between Slavery and Freedom in Eighteenth-Century France: A Tale of Two Cities." Indiana Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Annual Workshop, 10 May 2018. Organized by Rebecca Spang.
- "Slavery in Imperial Paris." Legal Histories of Slavery, Stanford Law School, 15 March 2018. Organized by Amalia Kessler and Elizabeth Katz.
- "Droit et justice." Colloque international formation et transformation des sociétés nouvelles en situation coloniale aux Amériques du XVI<sup>e</sup> au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle, 18 décembre 2017, EHESS, Paris. Organized by Cécile Vidal.

- “Slave Voice and the Legal Archive: The Case of Freedom Suits before the Paris Admiralty Court.” *Slave Narratives in British and French America, 1700–1848*, Notre Dame London Global Gateway, 14 July 2017. Organized by Sophie White and Trevor Burnard.
- “Les esclaves sur le sol libre: relecture de Paris comme ville impériale, v. 1760 – v. 1790.” Invited talk for “Pour une histoire transnationale et globale de la France,” faculty seminar organized by Nicolas Delalande, 21 June 2016.
- “The Slaves of Paris: Revelations from the Archives de la Bastille.” Beyond France, Columbia University faculty seminar, co-chaired by Gregory Mann and Emmanuelle Saada, New York, 10 April 2015.
- “Slave Flight, Slave Torture, and the State: Nineteenth Century French Guiana.” The Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Ohio, 24 February 2014.
- “The lettre de cachet and the operations of sovereignty in Ancien Régime France.” *Sovereignty: Stages and Frontiers*, New York University, May 3-4 2013.
- “The Vanishing Black Children of Paris.” Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, Law and the French Atlantic, Newberry Library, 5 October 2012.
- “Revisiting the Free Soil Principle.” In Faculty Seminar on Colonial Courts in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Centuries, organized by Fredrik Thomasson, Uppsala University Sweden, 21 September 2012.
- “The Perils of Pluralism in the French Atlantic: The Erosion of Revolutionary Liberty and the Transition back to Slavery in French Guiana 1794-1809.” Symposium on Comparative Early Modern Legal History, New Perspectives on Legal Pluralism, Newberry Library, Chicago, 23 April 2010.
- “Slaves, Strangers, and the Limits of Revolutionary Citizenship: The Jacobin Structure of Colonial Rule.” *Membership in Communities and States in the Early Modern Atlantic World: Legal Rules, Social Judgments, and the Negotiation of Citizenship*, Newberry Library, Chicago, 14 October 2005.
- “Slaves, Freed People and the Revolutionary Rights Tradition 1789-c. 1799.” Harvard Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, 10th Anniversary Conference, August 2005.
- “Dying to the Law.” *Death in the Eighteenth Century*, Bloomington Eighteenth-Century Studies Workshop, Indiana University, May 2003.

### **Papers, Comments, Roundtables at Professional Meetings**

- “Tracking Families between Slavery and Freedom in the French Colonial Empire.” Annual meeting of the Society for French Historical Studies, Philadelphia, 7 March 2026.
- “Rethinking Race, the Colonial and the Postcolonial in Contemporary France,” December 13-15, 2022. Commentator, University of Chicago (Paris).  
Commentary on Cécile Vidal et al., *Une histoire sociale du nouveau monde*.  
Journée Mondes Américaines, 11 March 2022, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Campus Condorcet.
- “Slavery and the Enlightened Self: The Correspondence of the Chevalier de Boufflers from Africa.” SSFH Annual Conference, 28 June 2021.
- “Marrons de la Guyane Française: la loi et la violence 1830-1870.” Annual meeting of the Caribbean Studies Association, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 6 June 2016.

- “Law and the Humanities.” Roundtable discussion, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York City, 4 January 2015.
- “What is the Age of Revolutions? The Transnational Perspective.” Roundtable discussion, Consortium on the Revolutionary Era Annual Meeting, Oxford, Mississippi, 21 Feb. 2014.
- “The Unmaking of Free Soil in French Guiana: Land and Law During the Transition Back to Slavery.” Invited talk in mini-conference organized by Lynn Hunt on the French Revolution in Global Context, Consortium on Revolutionary Europe Annual Meeting, Tallahassee, 3-5 March 2011.
- “The Leblond Affair (1812-1830): Land, Law, and Fictions of Identity in the New Regime.” Western Society of French History Annual Meeting, Lafayette, Louisiana, 23 Oct. 2010.
- Comment for panel on civil law and society with Judith Surkis, Sylvia Schaffer, and Camille Robcis. Society for French Historical Studies Annual Meeting, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 4 April 2008.
- “The Legal Framework for Convict and Ex-Convict Life in French Guiana 1852-1870.” American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Tempe, Arizona, 27 October 2007.
- “Maroons and Colonists in French Guiana.” French Colonial History Society Annual Meeting, La Rochelle, 8 June 2007.
- “French Guiana between the Two Emancipations.” Society for French Historical Studies Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, 16 March 2007.
- “Commissarial Dictatorship and the Overseas Empire.” Consortium on the Revolutionary Era Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA, 2 March 2007.
- “Estranged Dominion: The Structure of Colonial Rule during the French Directory 1795-1799.” Society for French Historical Studies Annual Meeting, Champaign-Urbana, IL, March 2006.
- “Leaving the Republic? Legal fictions of absence and revolutionary Terror: the case of the émigrés.” Society for French Historical Studies Annual Meeting, Stanford, CA, April 2005.
- “The Dry Guillotine.” Harvard Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, August 2002.
- “Myths and Realities of the Guillotine Sèche.” Society for French Historical Studies Annual Meeting, Toronto, April 2002.
- “Civic deviance and National Frontiers: The Clergy and the Legislative Assembly.” Consortium on Revolutionary Europe (Auburn), February 2001.

### **OUTREACH & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

- “Les romanciers peuvent-ils être témoins du passé ? l’histoire de l’esclavage à travers les archives, ses lacunes, et la question du témoignage.” Mediathèque Malakoff (25 May 2024).
- Roundtable about slavery, colonialism, and public memory at the centre d’art de Malakoff (24 mai 2024).
- “Violence létale, violence raciale, dans les sociétés esclavagistes.” Round-table, Rendez-vous de l’Histoire, Blois (7 Oct. 2023).
- One of three historians to speak at “Patrimoines déchaînés, un atelier professionnel à Nantes.” Workshop for museum curators at the Musée de Nantes, co-sponsored by the Fondation pour la mémoire de l’esclavage (19 Sept. 2023).

- Speaker at “Marroner la légende : Napoléon et l’esclavage.” La Villette, Fondation pour la Mémoire de l’ Esclavage. Public conversation about reenslavement with Florence Aléxis (1 July 2021).
- One of three discussants at filmed memorial roundtable on H-France, “Remembering Dominique Kalifa, 1957-2020,” organized by Stephane Gerson.
- Speaker at "Napoléon et l'outre-mer : quel bicentenaire ?" Conversation about the reestablishment of slavery in 1802 with Jean-Pierre Le Glaunec, event sponsored by the Association des Professeurs d’Histoire et de Géographie and La Fondation pour la Mémoire de l’Esclavage, 6 May 2021.
- Radio interview about colonial history with host Shelly de Vito for *Vocable Magazine*, 12 Sept. 2017.
- Solo guest on French and English-language versions of *Focus*, long format (20 minute) TV news program, 10 April 2017.
- Television interview in English about uprising in French Guiana for *France 24*, 4 April 2017.
- Television interview with Mohamed Kacim for “64’: l’essentiel du monde en français,” TV5 Monde, Paris, 11 July 2016.
- Radio interview with Emmanuel Laurentin, host of “La Fabrique de l’histoire,” France Culture, 11 April 2016.
- Citoyenneté et Esclavage: aux marges de l’empire au XIXe siècle. Public lecture/interview, Rendez-vous de l’histoire (book festival), Blois (France), 9 October 2015.
- Français ici et là-bas? Citoyenneté, Colonies et Décolonisation. Public conversation with Cécile Vidal and Bernard Trepied, Pompidou Museum, Paris, 3 Nov. 2014.

### **COURSES TAUGHT AT AUP**

HI1002/GE110	Western Civ. (9X)
HI1091	Firstbridge: Western Civilization survey (1X)
HI1091/GE110	Firstbridge: Truth, Error, and the Art of Lying (1X)
HI1091	Firstbridge: Introduction to the History of the Body (1X)
HI2001	French Revolution and Napoleon (3X)
HI2030	Intro to History Law and Society (2X)
HI/LW2020	Historical Foundations of Law (14X)
HI/LW2020/3WK2	Historical Foundation of Law (1X)
HI/LW2091	Topics: Becoming Free (1X, with Michelle Kuo)
HI2091:	Topics: History of Lying (1X)
PO2091-3WK1	Human Rights and History (1X)
ES3004/GE100	History of Paris (1X)
ES3091/GE100	Topics (Sorbonne) (6X)
HI3050	History Workshop (5X)
HI3091	Comparative Study of Slavery in a Global Context (3X)
HI3091D	Topics: Lying and History (1X)
HI4050CCC	History, Law, and Society Capstone (1X)
HI4095	Senior Project (6X)
HI3091	Topics: French Overseas Empire 1670-1970: Conquest, Expansion Decolonization (1X)
HI5091	Historical Reflections on Human Rights. Three-week Intensive

graduate lecture course (1X)

### **Recent undergraduate theses advised at AUP**

- Eliza Schwartz “Indigenous Land Title in Pos-Mabo Australia” (ongoing)
- Vanessa Noye, “The Abolition of Slavery in Ghana” (ongoing)
- Ensi Higgins, “Globalizing Norwegian Rural History: A revisionist approach to Norwegian Folk Art” (spring 2023)
- Alexandre Chauvel, “Hallmarks of Transformation & Continuity in Ataturk’s Legacy (fall 2021)
- Leigh Lucassen, “The Genesis of the Tiananmen Square Massacre” (spring 2022)
- Alessandra Campbell, “In the Shoes of the Afro-German” (spring 2020)
- Chloe Fearey, “The Role of Development Banks in the Río Negro, Guatemala Massacres in 1979-1983” (spring 2020)

## **SERVICE**

### **Service to the University**

Curriculum Committee Chair  
Jan. 2023 to present

Institutional Review Board  
Chair, spring 2022 to present

AUP Executive Committee  
Chair fall 2018-spring 2020  
Member spring 2016-spring 2017

### **Service to the Department**

History Law and Society Program Coordinator, fall 2021 to spring 2023  
Search Committees 2021-2022 for HLS and History

### **Service to Professional Associations**

Western Society for the Study of French History:  
Member of Executive Board (elected spring 2022), Millstone Prize Committee (May 2022)

American Society for the Study of Legal History:  
Burbank Prize Committee 2021-spring 2023

### **Peer Review**

Yale University Press manuscript review (Dec. 2025); *William and Mary Quarterly* (November 2025); *French Historical Studies* (March 2025); *French history* (October 2025); *French Historical Studies* (Sept. 2024); *French Colonial History* (May 2024); *Law and History Review* (Sept. 2023); *Journal of Social History* (Aug. 2023); *Histoire et Mesure* (Aug. 2023); *Slavery and Abolition* (Aug. 2023); Oxford UP proposal review (May 2022); *American Historical Review* (March, July 2020), Yale UP Ms. review (July 2020), *Law & History Review* (June 2020), *William and Mary Quarterly* (January 2019, August

2017, April 2016), *Journal of Social History* (Sept 2016), Cambridge University Press Ms. review (June 2016)

### **Service to Other Universities**

École des hautes études en sciences sociales:

Oral critique of masters students' works in progress (2 June 2022)

Paris I/ENS : Comité de suivi de thèse, Shandiva Banerjee, principal advisor Vincent Denis, (May 2022-present)

EHESS, Comité de suivi de thèse, Noémie Marie-Rose, principal advisors Céline Flory and Myriam Cottias (Sept. 2022-present)

### **Outreach within AUP**

Organized and chaired book discussion of *La savante et le politique* with authors Eric Fassin and Caroline Ibos, 14 April 2023. Sponsored by the Schaeffer Center for the Study of Human Rights and Conflict Prevention (hereafter Schaeffer Center).

Sponsored and chaired "Le réformisme et la place de la femme dans l'islam contemporain/ Reform and the Role of Women in Contemporary Islam," with Kahina Bahloul, 10 March 2022. Sponsored by Schaeffer Center.

Organized and chaired all sessions of Symposium on Race, Law, and Social Justice (26 February, 9 March, 15 March, 22 March, 29 March, 12 April, 7 December 2021). Sponsored by the AUP Center for Critical Democracy Studies.

Discussant at event, Colonial Mass Violence and/or Colonial Genocide? Re-interpreting Colonial History, 28 March 2017, with Philip Golub and Olivier Lecour Grandmaison. Sponsored by Schaeffer Center.

Organized and chaired public conversation about music composed in concentration camps (followed by concert). With Helios Azoulay, 27 April 2017. Sponsored by Schaeffer Center.

Co-organized inaugural conference on genocide of the Schaeffer Center (October 2016).

Organized and chaired "Three Lectures on Terror," with Ronald Schechter, 17-19 March 2014.