

Dr. Baba Badji  
[baba.badji@rutgers.edu](mailto:baba.badji@rutgers.edu)

**EDUCATION & TRAINING:**

---

2021-2022 Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ

**Postdoctoral Associate with The Institute of Global Racial Justice (IGRSJ) and Comparative Literature**

**Mentors in The Institute of Global Racial Justice:**  
Erica Armstrong Dunbar  
Gregory Pardlo

**Mentors in Comparative Literature:**  
Ousseïna Alidou  
Nelson Maldonado-Torres

2015-2021 **Ph.D. in Comparative Literature**

Washington University in St. Louis, MO  
Chancellor's Graduate Fellow (2015-2021)  
Translation Certificate (granted spring 2018)

**Dissertation: The Narrative History of Négritude: Black Poetic Imagination in Anglophone and Francophone Cultures**

Unlike the Négritude originators' methods of framing Africa as one unified place, this dissertation pursues a new understanding of Négritude that allows for a recognition of the dissimilarities of peoples, cultures, and systems of colonization within Africa and across its diaspora. Investigating underappreciated archival sources as well as Négritude's highly charged critical history, the dissertation demonstrates how Négritude, from its inception, was multisided and dynamic, thus suggesting that we should not disregard its commitments as a concept of freedom that still holds for the Black diaspora today.

Committee: J. Dillon Brown (chair); Vincent Sherry; Ignacio Infante; Ayo A. Coly, Tabea Alexa Linhard, Rafia Zafar

2013-2015 **MFA in Poetry, Translation French**

Columbia University School of the Arts, New York City  
Degree granted May 15, 2015  
Thesis: *Owls of Senegal* a manuscript of poems  
(Thesis readers: poets, Roger Reeves & Alan Gilbert)

*Translation Thesis:* translated Makenzy Orcel's *A L'Aube des Traversées et autres poèmes* in English  
(Thesis readers: poets, Cole Swensen & Richard Howard)

2008-2013                      B.A. in French and English, Creative Writing, Francophone Studies  
  
The College of Wooster Wooster, OH  
Degree granted May 13, 2013  
  
Thesis: *Memories of a Senegalese Boy, Souvenirs D'Un Fils Sénégalais* manuscript of poems  
(Thesis readers: Carolyn A. Durham & Daniel Bourne)

Fall, 2011                      Université Paris-Sorbonne IV, Paris, France  
19, 18 and 17 Century French Literature: successfully completed five  
courses in French literature

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

---

Postcolonial literature and theory; Black poetry, literary criticism, translation in Anglophone and Francophone cultures.

**TEACHING INTERESTS:**

---

Course taught/to be taught: Négritude and its Discontents; Black Poetry & Politics; Sub-Saharan Poetry; Bricolage, Decolonization, Modern Migration and Displacement; Creativity & Exile; Globalization, World Literature, and Translation Studies

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

---

2014-2015                      Assistant to Poet and translator Richard Howard on his translation projects  
  
Columbia University, New York City  
  
5 hours a week reading over translated text by Professor Howard  
Compared and questioned his translation and discussed his choices

2011-2012                      Project Manager, compiling data for Professor Herminio Martinez, Executive  
Director of the Bronx Institute of Lehman College  
  
Lehman College, New York City  
  
Participated in academic writing  
Read final drafts for Dr. Herminio Martinez  
Revised drafts of proposal

2009-2010                      Assistant Project Manager, compiling data for Professor Ibra Sène  
Department/Affiliation: History, Global and International Studies, West Africa  
  
The College of Wooster, Ohio  
  
Assistant for Archival research to Prof. Ibra Sène  
I researched books and articles on African Studies, European Colonialism and  
Imperialism and Postcolonial Studies for Prof. Ibra Sène

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

---

### *Ghost Letters*

(published **January 1, 2021** with Parlor Press, Free Verse Editions)

<https://www.nationalbook.org/2021-national-book-awards-longlist-for-poetry>

*Ghost Letters* explores the intimacy of private experience while focusing on the personal awareness of belonging. In ruptured storylines, it investigates networks of people in different registers across mortalities, experiences of violence and hospitality, exile, history, and African myth. The Ghost Mother is a presiding presence throughout.

<https://complit.wustl.edu/news/doctoral-student's-converging-themes-chaotic-beauty>

<https://graduateschool.wustl.edu/news/congratulations-2021-bouchet-society-inductees>

<https://electricliterature.com/baba-badji-poetry-collection-ghost-letters-poems>

<https://arts.columbia.edu/news/alumnus-baba-badji-15-publishes-ghost-letters>

<https://artsci.wustl.edu/ampersand/poetry-and-exile>

<https://www.europenowjournal.org/2018/02/28/four-poems-by-leopold-sedar-senghor/>

<https://www.europenowjournal.org/2018/02/28/five-poems-by-mohammed-kair-eddine/>

<https://complit.wustl.edu/news/articles/587>

[http://backup.freeversethejournal.org/Archives/2017/poems/B\\_Badji.html](http://backup.freeversethejournal.org/Archives/2017/poems/B_Badji.html)

<https://www.snapdragonjournal.com/2017.html>

<https://frenchandthecitynyu.wordpress.com/tag/baba-badji/>

<https://issuu.com/alltheartstl/docs/summer2016finalupload>

<https://arts.cgu.edu/foothill-journal/foothill-vol-7-no-1/>

<http://www.transversejournal.org/poetry-16/momma-baba-badji/>

<http://www.transversejournal.org/poetry-16/the-meaning-of-restraint-revenge-baba-badji/>

<http://www.transversejournal.org/poetry-16/in-permanent-exile-from-a-clock-inaccessible-neck-baba-badji/>

## **TEACHING AND RELATED EXPERIENCE:**

---

### **Washington University in St. Louis, MO**

- Spring, 2020  
Course Name: Department of International and Area Studies  
Blackness, Exile in Global French & Francophone Cultures: Senegal, Algeria, & the Caribbean  
Instructor
- Spring, 2019  
Course Name: Department of African and African-American Studies  
Négritude, Translation, Culture, Politics, and Society in Francophone Africa  
Mentored Teaching Experience
- Spring, 2018  
Course Name: Department of Comparative Literature  
Voices: Refugees, Displacement and Asylum in World Literature  
Mentored Teaching Experience
- Spring, 2017  
Course Name: Department of African and African-American Studies  
Introduction to African Literature: African Women's Poetry  
Mentored Teaching

### **The Bronx Institute of Lehman College, Bronx, New York City**

- Summer, 2015  
Course Name: Advanced Poetry Writing & Translation Theory  
Instructor
- Summer, 2013  
Course Name: Advanced Poetry and Prose Writing III  
Instructor

### **CONFERENCES AND LECTURES:**

---

- Fall, 2021 **University of Rochester, NY**  
  
The Frederick Douglass Fall Symposium & Inaugural Celebration: Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies  
A **Provost Conference Fellow** for the "We Have Nothing to Lose But Our Chains, Black Study and its Futures," a conference hosted by the Frederick Douglass Institute for African & African American Studies (FDI)
- Summer, 2020 **Oxford University, UK**  
  
Oxford University Translation Day, 13 June 2020 St Anne's College, Oxford, UK  
Invited to Oxford University to give a talk and read poems from *Ghost Letters*.
- Summer, 2019 **Universidad de Chile, Santiago**  
  
Conference for the CHCI Mellon Global Humanities Institute (GHI) Challenges of Translation (Theoretical Issues, Practical Densities: Violence, Memory, and the Untranslatable)

Paper title: The Rise of Negritude's Extolled Pioneers: Frantz Fanon, Aimé Césaire and Fodéba Keita: Transnational Black Cultures

Spring, 2018

**Washington University in St. Louis**

Conference Crossing the Borders of Creation and Critique

Paper I title: On Translating Moroccan Poet Mohammed Khair-Eddine's *Soleil Arachnide*

Paper II title: Poetic Imagination of Négritude, Creativity, and Exile: Impact in the Black Diaspora

Spring, 2107

**Washington University in St. Louis**

Chancellor Fellows *Arts & Letters Colloquium*:

Paper title: "Creativity and The Francophone African Text and the Art of Exile"

Read poems from *Museum of Exile* (full-length poetry manuscript in progress) and from *Ghost Letters* (2021)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

---

Postgraduate Member of ICLA Research Development Committee (International Comparative Literature Association)  
Association Internationale de littérature comparée Comité de recherche et de projets

Member of American Poetry Society  
Member of American Translation Association  
Member of Wash U. Translator's Collective  
Associate of Maison Auriolles, Bias, France

**SERVICE EXPERIENCE:**

---

Spring, 2018

**Washington University in St. Louis**

**Mentor and Teacher to The YMCA Scholars**

Helped YMCA Scholars develop:  
Writing and communication skills  
Weekly writing assignments  
Weekly phone calls with participants  
Weekly comparative essay analysis

Spring, 2017

**Washington University in St. Louis**

**Target Hope Conference**

Helped study profiles of marginalized students  
Offered advice for recruitment activities  
Co/coordinated campus visits for marginalized students

Member of the men's soccer team at (*The College of Wooster*)  
Assistant soccer Coach at (*The College of Wooster*)

#### **AWARDS AND HONORS:**

---

<https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/the-2021-national-book-awards-longlist-poetry>

Edward A. Bouchet Honor Society Fellow, Washington University in St. Louis

Chancellor 's Fellow (2015-2020), Washington University in St. Louis

*Owls of Senegal* (2015) finalist for The Seattle Review Chapbook contest, judged by Claudia Rankine

#### **TRAVEL AND RESEARCH:**

---

Maison Auriolles, Bias, France Summer 2019. Writers Accommodation, writing and research in French poetry and Négritude. Worked on lyric novella *Madame Diawara*. Worked on *Ghost Letters* (2021). Dissertation research.

Paris, France, Summer 2019 visits at the Library of Archives Nationales. Dissertation research.

Dakar, Senegal, Summer 2019 daily visits at The Intitut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire in Dakar. Dissertation research.

Dakar, Senegal, Île de Gorée, Summer 2019  
Dissertation research.

#### **LANGUAGES:**

---

French, English, Wolof, Diolla, Mending (excellent in speaking and writing, I call upon these languages in my writing.)

#### **REFERENCES:** (*contact information available upon request*)

---

##### **Washington University in St. Louis**

J. Dillon Brown, Associate Professor of Anglophone Literatures, Department of English (Dissertation-committee director) [[will submit a recommendation letter on my behalf](#)]

Lynne Tatlock, Director, Comparative Literature, Hortense and Tobias Lewin Distinguished Professor in the Humanities

Ayo A. Coiy, Chair of Program in African and African American Studies, Professor, Comparative Literature and African and African American Studies (**Dartmouth College**) [[will submit a recommendation letter on my behalf](#)]

Ignacio Infante, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Spanish, Acting Director, Center for the Humanities, Comparative Literature Undergraduate Study Abroad Coordinator [will submit a recommendation letter on my behalf]

Rafia Zafar, Professor of English, African and African American Studies, and American Culture Studies [will submit a recommendation letter on my behalf]

Vincent Sherry, Chair of English Department, Howard Nemerov Professor in the Humanities