

Dr. JEAN-JACQUES DEFERT

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics. I completed a PhD in Francophone Literatures and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Before joining Saint Mary's University, I worked for a year as a full-time lecturer at Campus Saint Jean (U of A), as an Assistant Professor in the Department of French at Dalhousie University and as an Instructor of French at the University of British Columbia.

**Research**

My initial area of expertise bears on nineteenth century forms of rationalization in the broader context of the birth of the modern state and the modern subject. Entitled *Metaphors of Modernity: An Archaeology of Representations and Practices*, my dissertation was essentially an attempt to demonstrate how forms of scientific discourse migrated and permeated different domains of social discourse and informed particular logics of representation in literature.

In recent years, I have been increasingly interested in contemporary topics related to globalization, and more specifically contemporary cultural dynamics in the context of migratory experiences. This investigation has led me to explore current theories of cultural adaptation in cross-cultural psychology and sociology. My current research focuses on hybrid/complex cultural identities and cultural constructions of the Self more particularly in migration testimonies and migrant literary works in French especially in North Africa.

My interest in migratory experiences has also led me to reflect on the integration of models of experiential learning such as community service learning as pedagogical approaches in our study programs both at home and abroad.

My published work includes a monograph with Presses de l'Université Laval (PUL), the co-edition of a collection of articles with Cambridge Scholars Publishing as well as articles in several conference proceedings and journals.

Teaching

I have taught a variety of specialized courses (French Culture and Civilization, French 19th Century Literature, French 20th Century Literature, Literary Theory, Intercultural Competence and Communication, Contemporary migration literature). In addition to teaching thematic courses, I have taught a wide range of language courses at all levels. In order to support and motivate students in the production of the language, I try to use authentic cultural materials linked to their own experience so as to engage them in the learning process either as members of the community, citizens of a country, or global citizens.

I developed a range of thematic and language courses with an experiential learning component to expand the language experience of the students beyond the four walls of the classroom and foster the development of their intercultural competences. He created and coordinated a French oral course with a Community Service Learning component which involved developing partnerships with a wide range of Francophone community organizations in Halifax where students contribute their time to specific projects (radio programs, cultural events, social services).

Service to the community

Since I started my professional career, I acquired a valuable administrative experience sitting on various boards and committees at the University and in the community.

I have worked actively toward the creation of the new program in Intercultural Studies, chairing the committee that helped build the framework for both the minor and the major programs, creating a list of recommended courses and new courses for the program, organizing promotional events, and advising students on their choice of courses.

Over the years, I got involved in the community as an administrator on several committees and boards in the Francophone community (the Board of Directors of the Conseil Communautaire du Grand Havre; the Immigration Committee; the Board of Directors of the community radio station CKRH).

As a volunteer, I hosted a number of radio programs showcasing Francophone music (*La Cour des miracles*, *Raptitude*) and university scholars (*Raconte-moi un mouton*). I was also the president of the Festival des cultures francophones/Francofest between 2011 and 2015.

Selected publications

-Books-

Defert, Jean-Jacques, and Claude Couture, *Récits du 19ème siècle. Structure et contenu du discours historiographique au Canada au 19ème siècle : Garneau, Kingsford, Rameau de Saint-Père, Smith*, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, September 2010.

Defert, Jean-Jacques, Trevor Tchir, and Dan Webb, Eds., *Declensions of the Self – A Bestiary of Modernity*, Newcastle upon Tyne, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, November 2008.

-Articles-

"Les espaces hétéroglossiques comme stratégie littéraire de résistance dans *Harraga* de Boualem Sansal", *Dalhousie French Studies*, été 2020, p.53-62.

"Développement et promotion de la compétence interculturelle en milieu universitaire. Réflexions sur les pratiques d'enseignement des langues et cultures", *Transfert des savoirs; savoirs des pratiques. Production et mobilisation des savoirs pour une communauté inclusive*, Anne Boerger, Paul Dubé, Paulin Mulatris (Eds), Presses de l'Université Laval, Octobre 2014, p.337-357.

"Complexité dispositionnelle. Une heuristique au service des politiques communautaires. Étude de cas", *Impenser la francophonie : recherches, renouvellement, diversité, identité...*, Conference proceedings of CEFCO's 22nd conférence, Pamela Sing and Estelle Dansereau (Eds), 2012, p.67-86.

"Appréhender la complexité. Enjeux et resonances dans le domaine culturel", *International Journal of Canadian Studies / Revue internationale d'études canadiennes*, 2012, N.45-46, p. 307-329. <http://www.erudit.org/revue/ijcs/2012/v/n45-46/1009908ar.pdf>