

# MICHELLE ZERBA

Maggie B. Martin Professor of Rhetoric and Classical Studies

---

Departments of English; World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Comparative Literature

Affiliated Faculty Member of LSU Cyber Center

Section Head: Classics

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

mzerba@lsu.edu

225-578-4086

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Comparative Literature
- M.A. University of California, Berkeley, Comparative Literature
- B.A. (Double) University of California, Irvine, English and Classics

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND TITLES

- Louisiana State University
  - Professor, English, Classics, Comparative Literature, 2013-
  - Maggie B. Martin Professor of Rhetoric and Classical Studies, 2014-
  - Erich and Lea Sternberg Professor, Honors College, 2013-2014
  - Associate Professor, English, Classics, Comparative Literature, 1986-2013
  - Director and Producer, *Southern Crossroads: An Intersection of Diverse Artistic Expressions*, 2002-2005, Louisiana State University (with Ellis Marsalis and Wole Soyinka)
  - Associate Chair of English, 2003-2004
  - Director, LSU Study Abroad Program in Greece and Turkey, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2016
  - Director, Program in Comparative Literature, 1988-91
- University of Michigan, Assistant Professor, Classical Studies, 1982-86

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- LSU Provost's Research Funding for Big Ideas, The Mystery Project Collaborative Phase 1, December 2022
- Partnership University Fund (funded by French government), Grant, LSU-University of the Antilles Martinique, December 2017-January 2018 (teaching and research collaboration)
- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, September 2016-January 2017, Athens, Greece (held in conjunction with Senior Associate Membership, American School of Classical Studies at Athens), September 2016-May 2017)
- Distinguished Research Master Award, 2017
- LSU Regents' Research Grant, 2007, 2014, 2018
- LSU ORED Travel Grants, 2014, 2016-2017
- LSU HSS Travel Grant, 2014, 2016-2017
- Manship Summer Research Grant, 2021, 2013, 1999
- LSU Teaching Enhancement Fund Grant, 2013
- ATLAS Research Grant, 2010-2011
- Phi Beta Kappa

**PUBLICATIONS**Books (Monographs)

- *Modern Odysseys: Cavafy, Woolf, Césaire, and a Poetics of Indirection*
- 
- 
- 
-

- “Modalities of Tragic Doubt in Homer’s *Odyssey*, Sophocles’ *Philoctetes*, and Shakespeare’s *Othello*.” *Comparative Literature* 61 (2009): 1-25.
- “The Frauds of Humanism: Cicero, Machiavelli, and the Rhetoric of Imposture.” *Rhetorica* 22 (2004): 215-240.
- “Love, Envy, and Pantomimic Morality in Cicero’s *De Oratore*.” *Classical Philology* 98 (2003): 299-321.
- “Medea *Hypocrites*,” *Arethusa* 35.2 (2002): 315-37.

#### Work in Progress

- Book Manuscript, *Lightning in the Soul: Mystery, Secrecy, and the Occult in the Afterlives of the Ancient Mystery Cults*.
- Book Manuscript, “Aimé Césaire and Caribbean Postclassicisms,” for Bloomsbury’s Studies in Classical Reception series.

#### CONFERENCES, LECTURES, READINGS

- Paper, “Sacred Silence, Unspeakability, and the Recursivity of Mystery in the Eleusinian Rites,” Conference of Society for Classical Studies, New Orleans, January 2023.
- Co-Organizer of Conference Panel, “

- Invited Paper, “*La Dialectique Méditerranée d’Édouard Glissant*,” International Transdisciplinary Colloquium, University of the Antilles, Martinique, March 20-23, 2018.
- Paper, “The Return Tale in Woolf’s *Orlando* and Homer’s *Odyssey*,” International Virg(C)- Tw 3.91 0 Td -ia2.8

---