

# MICHELLE ZERBA

Maggie B. Martin Professor of Rhetoric and Classical Studies

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

Affiliated Faculty Member of LSU Cyber Center

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## 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
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- “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.

**CONFERENCE**

- 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 Virginia Woolf Society, University of Reading, July 2017.
- Paper, “Renaissance Homer: Reception at the Crossroads of Humanist Learning, the Visual Vernacular, and the Socializing of Female Bodies,” American Comparative Literature Association, Utrecht, The Netherlands, July 2017.
- Paper, “Homer’s *Odyssey*, Humanist Learning, and Renaissance Painting: Rethinking Reception,” Renaissance Society of America,” Boston, March 2016.
- Invited Lecture, “Homer’s *Odyssey*, Humanist Learning, and Renaissance Painting: Rethinking Reception,” UC Berkeley, December 2015.
- Invited Lecture, “Renaissance Homer and the Limits of Reception Theory,” Interdisciplinary Faculty Humanities Seminar, LSU, November 2015.
- Invited Lecture, “Skepticism in Homer’s *Odyssey*,” Philosophy Salon, LSU April 2015.
- Co-director, Panel, “From Nostalgia to Dystopia,” American Comparative Literature Association, Seattle, March 2015.
- Paper, “‘At the End of Daybreak’: Homecoming and the Journey into Memory in Homer’s *Odyssey* and Aimé Césaire’s *Cahier d’un retour au pays natal*,” American Comparative Literature Association, Seattle, March 2015.
- Invited Lecture, “Why the Humanities Matter,” LSU Academic Showcase for Honors College, February 2015.
- Invited Lecture, “Reflections on Skepticism in Homer’s *Odyssey* and the Poetry of C.P. Cavafy,” Institute for Cultural Inquiry and the Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany, 2013.
- Invited Lecture, “Homer’s *Odyssey*: Exile and Homecoming,” Department of Classics, Yale University, November 2013.
- Paper, “Odyssean Comparatims: Women, Sites of Passage, and Concepts of Home in Homer’s *Odyssey*,” International Comparative Literature Association, Paris, July 2013.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

- American Comparative Literature Association
- Modern Language Association
- Association for Literary Scholars and Creative Writers
- International Comparative Literature Association
- International Society for History of Rhetoric
- Renaissance Society of America
- American Political Science Association