

Khouloud (Lou) Gargouri

Research Interests

Contemporary French and Francophone Theater and Performance Studies,
Race and Gender Studies, Maghrebi Theater, Immersive Theater and Digital Performance

Education

2019–2026 **The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.**

JOINT PH.D. in (i) FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES, RLL Department, and
(ii) in THEATER AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES, TAPS, Modern and Contemporary French Theater

- **Dissertation:** *Female Solo Performance in France: Embodiment and Narratives of Empowerment*
- **2022–2023** Exchange Program: École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France, Literature Department

2018–2019 **Tufts University, Medford, MA.**

MASTER OF ARTS: French and Francophone Studies, courses in Theater (18th century Drama) and Film Studies

2017–2018 **Bates College, Lewiston, ME.**

NON-DEGREE STUDIES: Courses in Theater, Acting, Playwriting and Directing

2013–2017 **École Normale Supérieure de Tunis (ENS), Tunis, Tunisia.**

BACHELOR AND MASTER OF ARTS: French Language, Literature and Civilization

- *Teaching Internship:* Lycée Supérieur de Omrane, Tunis (1 year)
- *Academic Internship:* École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France (1 month)

Publications

2025 **Francosphères, Interview with Mohamed Amin Boudrika.**

“Tisser l'intime et le collectif: Scénographie et transformation sociale dans *Il était une fois . . . LA JUPE!* de Mohamed Amin Boudrika”

2025 **Critical Stages, Issue #31, June 2025.**

Review of Pluta and Sermon's “*Quels rôles pour le spectateur à l'ère numérique?*”

2024 **Africultures Journal, Interview with Penda Diouf.**

“L'écriture théâtrale est un art artisanal” (Theatrical writing is a craft)

2024 **Africultures Journal, Interview with Essia Jaïbi.**

“Le théâtre doit toujours se questionner, c'est la condition essentielle à son renouvellement”
(Theatre must always question itself, this is the essential condition for its renewal.)

Articles and work in progress

2025 **LiCARC, issue 13, University of Lorraine, Article in preparation.**

“Métamorphose #2: Seul en Scène Tunisien ou les Échos de l'Identité Mouvante de Jalila Baccar”

2025 **Femmes et tissage: (ré)appropriations littéraires et artistiques du XIXe siècle à nos jours, ENS Lyon, Submitted.**

“Tricoter au féminin: Transmission intergénérationnelle et résistance dans Gardiennes de Fanny Cabon”

Teaching and Work Experience

- 2021–2024 **University of Chicago, Lecturer and Teaching Assistant, Chicago, IL.**
- **2024 Research Assistant:** Symposium on the Geopoetics of Urban Rivers, In collaboration with the Committee on Environment, Geography, and Urbanization (CEGU)
 - **2023 Lecturer - Stand-Alone:** Empowering the Solo Voice: A Feminist Exploration of Francophone Theater Performance, Joint TAPS/RLL
 - **2022 Teaching Assistant:** Khalid Lyamlahy's Class Introduction to Maghrebian Theater
 - **2021-2022 Language Lecturer:** Elementary French I & II
- 2021–2025 **University of Chicago, Student Leadership, Chicago, IL.**
- Member, Dean's Student Advisory Board (DSAB), 2024-2025
 - Working Group Coordinator, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality (CSGS), 2024-2025
 - Humanities Division Graduate Student Council, representative for the RLL department, 2023-2025
 - TAPS Season Committee Member: Volunteer in the selection of artistic works for TAPS production, 2023-2024
 - Organizer of the UChicago Francophone Theater Workshop, 2021-2022
- 2018–2019 **Tufts University, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Lecturer, Medford, MA.**
- Taught a four sessions seminar: "Introduction to French drama in performance"
- 2017–2018 **Bates College, International French Teaching Assistant, Lewiston, ME.**
- Taught five courses: Elementary French I & II, Oral French, Intermediate French, French Drama in Performance
- 2016–2017 **Lycée Supérieur de Omrane, French Teacher, Nefza, Tunisia.**
- Taught French classes to high school students (~ 4×25 students)

Awards and Honors

- 2025-26 **The University of Chicago, Provost Dissertation Completion Fellowship.**
- 2025-26 **The University of Chicago, AHD Dean's Internship, Arts and Humanities Division.**
- 2024-25 **The University of Chicago, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Doctoral Fellowship.**
- 2024-25 **The University of Chicago, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality Dissertation Research Grant.**
- 2024 **The University of Chicago, Finalist, Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition.**
- 2021, 23, 24 **The University of Chicago, TAPS Supplemental Funds, TAPS Department.**
- 2023 **The University of Chicago, Pavel Award, RLL Department & Travel Grant, Division of Humanities.**
- 2023 **The University of Chicago, Dissertation Research Travel Grant, Division of Humanities.**
- 2022 **France Chicago Center, François Furet Travel Grant Program.**
- 2020 **The University of Chicago, Backus Prize for academic excellence, RLL Department, French.**
- 2018-19 **Tufts University, Full Tuition Remission Scholarship & Academic Scholarship.**
- 2013-16 **L'École Normale Supérieure de Tunis, Full Tuition Scholarship.**

Selected Conferences

- Mar 2025 **University of North Carolina, Greensboro, 42nd Annual 20th and 21st Century French & Franco-phone Studies International Colloquium. Presentation: Staging Intersectionality and Racial (In)Justice: Immersive Performance and Storytelling in Tania de Montaigne's Noire.**
- Feb 2025 **University of Chicago, Gender and Sexuality in/and the Romance Languages, Conference Organizer.**
- Dec 2024 **ENS Lyon, Multidisciplinary Seminar for Early-Career Researchers: Women and Weaving Communication: Weaving Female Legacy: Intergenerational Transmission and Resistance in Gardiennes by Fanny Cabon.**

- Nov 2024 **CUNY, New York City**, *International Multilingual Creative Writing Conference*
Presentation: Teaching and Performing the Solo Voice.
- Nov 2024 **University of Lorraine**, *History of the Emergence and Evolution of Arab Performing Arts*
Communication: Métamorphose #2: Seul en Scène Tunisien ou les Échos de l'Identité Mouvante de Jalila Baccar.
- Mar 2024 **University of Toronto**, NMCGSA 24th Annual Graduate Symposium on 'DIS/CONNECTIONS: Interactions with the Past in West Asia and North Africa,' held at Hart House.
Paper: Mother-Daughter Dramaturgy: Exploring (Dis)connections Across Generations in 'Métamorphose #2'.

Other articles on Lou's work

- Apr 2023 **University of Chicago**, *Tableau: The Magazine of the Division of the Humanities "The page and the stage: Lou Gargouri studies women on stage and fictional characters in the French-speaking world"*, by Maureen Searcy.
- Jan 2018 **Bates College**, *The Bates Student, "Foreign Language Spotlight: Khouloud Gargouri"*, by T. Crimmins.

Theater and Acting

- 2024 **University of Chicago**, *To Future Self*, 45-minute original solo performance developed during The September Lab in Performance as Research (SLIPAR), a 3-week required practicum (Final showing: October 4, 2024).
- 2024 **Avignon, France**, *FestiFLE Training Program: Intensive theater and language pedagogy workshops.*
- 2024 **Second City, Chicago, IL, US**, *Stand-up 2: Advanced stand-up comedy training.*
- 2023 **Cours Florent, Paris, France**, *Training in solo performance & stand-up comedy.*
- 2015–2017 **El Teatro, Tunis, Tunisia**, *Training in theater acting.*
- 2011–2016 **IPELSHT-ENS, Tunis, Tunisia**, *Student Theater Production.*

Languages

Trained Translator, (Arabic ↔ French).

Arabic and French, Native.

English, Fluent.

Spanish, Intermediate (B1 level).

Italian, Intermediate (A2 level).