Jean Barré

Department of Literature and Language
École Normale Supérieure – PSL University
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PhD candidate in Computational Literary Studies, combining literary theory with NLP and machine learning to study how narrative forms emerge, circulate, and change across time.

PhD thesis (working title): *Modeling Genre Fiction: Computational Methods and Generic Dynamics in French-Language Fiction.*

Focus on detective and adventure fiction; methods include large-scale corpora, vector-space models, and character-network analysis.

Born: 11.12.1999
Languages: French, English, some German, some Spanish

Programming: Python, R, SQL, bash, slurm, LaTeX
Skills: text mining, data engineering, ML, LLM finetuning

Research interests: computational literary studies, literary history, literary theory, stylometry, cultural evolution

Professional and Educational History

from Oct 2025	**Research Software Engineer** (fixed-term) CNRS – LaTTiCe, Paris
from Oct 2022	**PhD Candidate** in Computational Literary Studies LaTTiCe, École Normale Supérieure-PSL, Paris
2021–2022	**Student Research Assistant** to T. Poibeau CNRS – LaTTiCe, Paris
2020–2022	**MSc in Digital Humanities** École nationale des Chartes, PSL University
2017–2020	**BA in French Literature** Sorbonne University
2017–2020	**BSc in Computer Science** Sorbonne University

Grants & Awards

2025	**Young Researcher Visiting Grant** (€2,000) DFG Priority Programme "Computational Literary Studies" – Research stay at Würzburg DH Lab under Prof. Fotis Jannidis

Publications

Journal Articles

Bourgois, A.; **Barré, J.**; Seminck, O.; Poibeau, T.
"Toward an Ontological Representation of Fictional Characters."
Journal of Computational Humanities Research, no. 1, Feb. 2026. doi:10.1017/chr.2026.10025

Mélanie-Becquet, F.; **Barré, J.**; Seminck, O.; Plancq, C.; Naguib, M.; Pastor, M.; Poibeau, T.
"BookNLP-fr, the French Versant of BookNLP. A Tailored Pipeline for 19th and 20th Century French Literature."
Journal of Computational Literary Studies, Nov. 2024. doi:10.48694/jcls.3924

Barré, J.; Camps, J.-B.; Poibeau, T.
"Operationalizing Canonicity: A Quantitative Study of French 19th and 20th Century Literature."
Journal of Cultural Analytics, vol. 8, no. 1, Oct. 2023. doi:10.22148/001c.88113

Conference Articles

Barré, J.; Seminck, O.; Bourgois, A.; Poibeau, T.
"Modeling the Birth of a Literary Archetype: The case of the Detective Figure in French Fiction."
CHR2025, Dec. 2025, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg. arXiv:2511.00627

Brottrager, J.; **Barré, J.**; Bizzoni, Y.; Feldkamp-Moreira, P.
"Patterns of Canon: A Multilingual Network Study."
CHR2025, Dec. 2025, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg.

Gabay, S.; **Barré, J.**; Cafiero, F.
"The times are a-changin': présent vs passé simple in French novels (1811-2020)."
Digital Humanities Benelux, Jun. 2025, Amsterdam. hal-04984105

Barré, J.
"Latent Structures of Intertextuality in French Fiction."
CHR2024, Dec. 2024, Aarhus, Denmark. arXiv:2410.17759

Chen, N.; Mélanie-Becquet, F.; **Barré, J.**; Poibeau, T.
"Network Analysis, Plot Theory: Revisiting French Literature through Character Networks."
DH2024, Jul. 2024, Washington. hal-04855204

Barré, J.
"Détection automatique de l'architextualité dans le roman d'aventures. Une tentative d'opérationnalisation."
Humanistica 2024, May 2024, Meknès, Morocco. hal-04559749

Barré, J.; Poibeau, T.
"Beyond Canonicity. Modeling Canon/Archive Literary Change in French Fiction."
CHR2023, Dec. 2023, Paris. CHR | hal-04279087

Vianne, L.; Dupont, Y.; **Barré, J.**
"Gender Bias in French Literature."
CHR2023, Dec. 2023, Paris. CHR

Barré, J.; Cabrera-Ramirez, P.; Mélanie-Becquet, F.; Galleron, I.
"Pour une Détection Automatique de l'Espace Personnage dans les Romans."
Humanistica, Jun. 2023, Geneva, Switzerland. hal-04105537

Grunspan, C.; Mélanie-Becquet, F.; **Barré, J.**; Chardon, L.; Galleron, I.; Naguib, M.; Plancq, C.; Seminck, O.; Poibeau, T.
"Event Annotation for Literary Corpora Analysis."
DH2022, Jul. 2022, Tokyo. hal-03738806

Teaching

As Course Instructor

Fall 2025	**Récit et Argumentation - 24h**,	
	L1 Lettres Modernes (LLFL), Sorbonne Nouvelle	
Fall 2025	**Applied NLP for Computational Literary Studies - 20h**	
	CPES - Data, art and cultures, Lycée Louis le Grand, PSL	
Fall 2025	**Python for Computational Humanities - 24h**	
	École Nationale des Chartes, Master Humanités Numériques	
Spring 2025	**Applied NLP for Computational Literary Studies - 20h**	
	CPES - Data, art and cultures, Lycée Louis le Grand, PSL	
Fall 2024	**Python for Computational Humanities - 24h**	
	MSc in Digital Humanities, École nationale des Chartes	
March 2024	**Using Large Language Models to Study Fiction - 20h**	
	DH meet AI - PSL University intensive week	
Fall 2023	**Python for Computational Humanities - 24h**	
	MSc in Digital Humanities, École nationale des Chartes	

Nov 2022	**A Computational Literary History of Gender in French Fiction - 20h**
	DH meet AI - PSL University intensive week

As Teaching Assistant

Spring 2025	**Introduction to Computational Literary Studies**, with F. Cafiero
	Department of Literature and Language, École Normale Supérieure
Fall 2024	**Introduction to Natural Language Processing**, with T. Poibeau
	MSc in Digital Humanities, École nationale des Chartes
Spring 2024	**Introduction to Computational Literary Studies**, with F. Cafiero
	Department of Literature and Language, École Normale Supérieure

Scientific Activities

Reviewer for: Computational Humanities Research (Journal and Conference), Humanistica Conference

Events Organized:

- *Le texte de l'autre. Dialogue interdisciplinaire autour de l'intertextualité et du discours rapporté*, Conference, July 1-3, 2025, Paris. intertextualite.sciencesconf.org

- *AI and Large Language Models (LLMs) for the Analysis of Large Literary Corpora*, Workshop, December 5, 2023, Paris. workshop-llms4cls.github.io

- *Lattice PhD Presentation Day*, PhD Workshop, June 2023 - 2024 - 2025, Montrouge.

Other responsibilities: Organization for "Digital Humanities" Master Degree – Participation in building the pedagogical model, Member of the admissions panel; Representative of doctoral students at the Lattice laboratory committee.