

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Antoine G. Traisnel, assistant professor of comparative literature, and assistant professor of English language and literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for associate professor of comparative literature, with tenure, and associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2013	Brown University
Ph.D.	2009	Université Lille 3
M.A.	2005	Université Lille 3
B.A.	2004	La Sorbonne, Paris

Professional Record:

2015-present	Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan
2015-present	Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
2013-2015	Assistant Professor, Comparative Literature Department, Cornell University
2008-2010	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, Université Paris 8

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Traisnel is a deeply thoughtful and versatile teacher who has taught successfully at all levels of the curriculum, including undergraduate survey courses and upper-level writing classes, as well as graduate seminars at the introductory and advanced level. He is committed to inclusive pedagogy and teaching for social justice, and has taught a course in the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. He is also in high demand as a graduate student mentor, currently serving on thirteen dissertation committees.

Research – Professor Traisnel is an exceptionally productive scholar with four books to his name, three in French and a fourth which has just appeared in English; published or forthcoming are fourteen peer-reviewed essays and five book chapters. He is preparing a translation of five essays by Sylvia Wynter and a new book project on “the Biopolitics of Solitude.” He is recognized as a leading scholar of American literature, with a broad comparative range.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Capture: American Pursuits and the Making of a New Animal Condition. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2020. (English)

Ravindranathan, Thangam and Antoine Traisnel. *Donner le change: l'impensé animal*. Paris: Hermann, 2016. (French) Reviewed in *Miranda: Revue pluridisciplinaire du monde anglophone* (2018) and *The French Review* (2018)

Hawthorne: Blasted Allegories. Bussy-Saint-Martin: Aux Forges de Vulcain Press, 2015.
(French) Reviewed in *Transatlantica: Revue d'études américaines* (2017)

Bird, Robert Montgomery. Sheppard Lee: Written by Himself. Translated and with a critical afterword by Antoine Traisnel. Bussy-Saint-Martin: Aux Forges de Vulcain Press, 2017.
(English to French)

Diran, Ingrid and Antoine Traisnel. "The Birth of Geopower." *Diacritics* 47, no. 3 (Special issue, 2019): 32-51. (English)

Service – Professor Traisnel has taken on a leading role as the director of graduate studies in Comparative Literature, and he has been generous in service to the English department. He has also been actively involved in organizing interdisciplinary initiatives and interdepartmental events with guest speakers, and he is committed to public service as well as teaching in prison.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "It is a rare book that has an intriguing title that the entire book systematically elucidates, but it is even rarer to find such a book drawing its material from several disciplines and synthesizing these insights in a prose style that is at once so lucid and so distinctively that of its author. This is in every respect an important book, that itself eludes capture by the category of animal studies."

Reviewer (B): "In moving across discourses and disciplines, *Capture* represents an ambitious and highly successful book. By detecting the operation of the biopolitical through the management of animal life, Traisnel's work will make an extraordinarily relevant contribution to fields such as animal studies, biopolitics and 19th-century American literary studies. I have no doubt that the book will remain influential in all of those fields for many years to come."

Reviewer (C): "Each of the individual chapters that constitute *Capture* is a small masterpiece in its own right: sustained searching readings of individual figures align with the ways in which animal are presented and represented in various states of capture. Among the clear strengths of the book are Professor Traisnel's distinct erudition and expertise in American studies, his theoretical rigor and originality, and an elegant writing style throughout...I have no doubt this work, only recently published, will be met with great enthusiasm in the fields of American studies and literature, animal studies, comparative literature, and critical theory. It portends more quality work to come."


Reviewer (D): "What is striking about Professor Traisnel's dossier (in addition to its breadth) is the consistent rigor of his scholarship and the newness of his thinking. This work is all the more impressive, in my view, for being collaborative. Although in the humanities, scholars are sometimes given half as much credit for co-authored works as for single-authored ones, they demand, in my experience, nearly twice as much work if done right. And as many environmental humanists argue, this is precisely the kind of scholarship we should be fostering; in its emphasis on making connections and thinking together, co-authorship models the kind of collaboration that we need to foster to meet this historical moment."

Reviewer (E): “Not only is Traisnel an excellent close reader of literary and critical texts; he’s also a scholar who consistently and convincingly explores the implications of particular word choices and even grammatical inflections within a theoretical itinerary. A second feature of Traisnel’s scholarship (not unrelated to the first) is the intellectual generosity evident in his dialogue with other scholars: the care with which he summarizes the ideas of others even when he disagrees with them, the comprehensiveness of his citations, and his commitment to collaboration.”

Reviewer (F): “His research and publications point to a very talented scholar who, I expect, will have many inspired readers...[*Capture*] will have great interest for those in animal studies and American studies, as well as for those with interest in the intersections of these fields with French natural history, post-coloniality, and matters of race. His current book project on *The Biopolitics of Solitude* also seems perfectly timed for our current pandemic and the ways our experiences of solitude are also combined with the recognition of our necessary entanglement with all forms of life.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Traisnel exemplifies a model of interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching that is welcome in both units of his appointment. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Antoine G. Traisnel be promoted to the rank of associate professor of comparative literature, with tenure, and associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Anne Curzan, Dean
Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor
of English Language and Literature, Education
and Linguistics
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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