

Daniel Desormeaux

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Research Interests:

French and Caribbean literature and thought of the “long” 19th century; Haitian Revolution, race, and slavery; comparative analysis of Caribbean literature and religion; history of the book and French literary history; *Fin-de-Siècle* literature and transatlantic anthropology

Biography

Daniel Desormeaux is the William D. and Robin Mayer Professor of Arts and Sciences. Prior to his appointment at Johns Hopkins in 2019, Daniel Desormeaux held tenured positions at the University of Chicago and the University of Kentucky, which he joined after beginning his teaching career at Dartmouth College. He has been a Visiting Professor of French & Francophone Literature at Université du Mans (France) and has received numerous research awards, including a National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) Fellowship (2008-2009) and a residential fellowship at the Franke Institute for the Humanities (2016-2017).

Research

As a scholar in French who is tapping into the Caribbean cultural archipelago he was raised in, Daniel Desormeaux works as a comparatist primarily on French and Francophone literatures and cultures of the long nineteenth century. His versatile research agenda addresses a range of global issues and texts, in particular the historical and anthropological link between French and Caribbean literature and culture after the Haitian Revolution.

Professor Desormeaux’s first book, *La Figure du bibliomane: histoire du livre et stratégie littéraire au XIX^e 19e siècle* (Nizet, 2001) dealt with the history of rare-book collection in the nineteenth century. Collecting was not only a legitimate intellectual occupation but also the front line of defense in the battle against the cultural amnesia provoked by the French Revolution of 1789. The book analyses the rise of bibliomania as a well-accepted tradition within cultural institutions from the early 19th century to the beginning of the twentieth. A second monograph, *Alexandre Dumas, fabrique d’immortalité* (Classiques Garnier 2014), examines the many ways Dumas both embraces and displaces the borders of

archival discourse, the popular novel, collections, history, and memoirs. It explores the literary and artistic strategies that Dumas used in his infinite quest for eternal recognition and success as a writer.

Professor Desormeaux has played a key role in disseminating crucial historical and literary documents in Haitian thought and letters. His critical edition of the *Mémoires du général Toussaint Louverture* (Classiques Garnier, 2011), should be understood as a secret bibliophilic effort to exhume long-lost documents from the colonial archives and to bring into view the global implications of 19th-century Haitian political thought and its contrasting legacies.

More broadly, Daniel Desormeaux is interested in transatlantic history of ideas, comparative analysis of history and literature, the development of new Francophone cultural institutions in the 19th century, eyewitness accounts of the Haitian Revolution, slavery in Haiti, literature and spirituality (voodoo). Currently, he is completing a collection of essays on contemporary French Caribbean novelists, as well as a book-length essay on Haitian history.

Teaching

Undergraduate:

- Alexandre Dumas's *The Count of Monte Cristo* and its Avatars
- Introduction to French Literature (from late 18th to 20th centuries)
- The Year '93: Terror and Literature
- Les Lieux de la Création: l'Atelier Imaginaire
- Narratives of class, race, and culture in French and Francophone Literature
- *Le génie français*: Between Nation and Colonization
- Les Revenants: la littérature entre la vie et la mort

Graduate:

- Honoré de Balzac : étranges figures balzaciennes
- Exotic Narrative: Texts and Contexts of Caribbean Culture
- Romantisme and Indigénisme
- Baudelaire and Flaubert
- L'Ordre du temps : Mémoires, Histoire et Autobiographie
- Victor Hugo : romancier romantique
- Égalité des races dans la Francophonie
- Le Livre antillais : culture, écriture et politique
- L'Historien antillais au 19^e siècle
- Fin-De-Siècle Haïtien : Frédéric Marcelin (1848-1917)

Publications

Monographs

- *Alexandre Dumas: Fabrique d'immortalité*. (Paris : Classiques Garnier, 2014).

• *La Figure du bibliomane : histoire du livre et stratégie littéraire au XIX^e siècle* (Flaubert, Barbey d'Aurevilly, Nerval, Stendhal, Anatole France) (Saint-Genouph : A.-G. Nizet, 2001).

Critical Editions

• *Thémistocle-Épaminondas Labasterre* (Frédéric Marcelin), Critical Edition with Introduction. (Paris: Société des Textes Français Modernes, 2017).

• *Mémoires du général Toussaint Louverture*, Critical Edition with Introduction (Paris : Classiques Garnier, 2011).

Edited volumes

• *Les Biographies littéraires : théories, pratiques et perspectives nouvelles*. Edited by Philippe Desan & Daniel Desormeaux (Paris: Classiques Garnier, 2018).

• Special Issue on *Haiti Beyond commemorations, Politics, and History*. Journal *L'Esprit Créateur* 56.1 (2016).

• Special Issue on *Race et Littérature à la fin du XIX^e siècle*. Journal *Nineteenth Century French Studies* (in preparation).

Selected Articles

"Alexandre Dumas: écrivain immoral," in *L'immoralité littéraire et ses juges*, eds. Jean-Baptiste Amadiou, Jean-Charles Darmon and Philippe Desan (Paris: Éditions Hermann, 2019)

"Építaphe d'esclave en Léonidas dans *Le Système colonial dévoilé* (1814) de Pompée Valentin de Vastey," Claudie Bernard et Claude Millet (Textes réunis par), *L'Histoire építaphe*, « Publications du centre Seebacher », Université Paris Diderot, 2018. <http://seebacher.lac.univ-paris-diderot.fr/bibliotheque/items/show/42>. (2018)

"Lire les biographies d'Alexandre Dumas," in *Les Biographies littéraires : théories, pratiques et perspectives nouvelles*, eds. Philippe Desan & Daniel Desormeaux. (Paris: Classiques Garnier, 2018) 167-186.

"Introduction," (with Philippe Desan) in *Les Biographies littéraires : théories, pratiques et perspectives nouvelles*, eds. Philippe Desan & Daniel Desormeaux. (Paris: Classiques Garnier, 2018) 7-11.

"Introduction : Haïti par-delà les commémorations," *L'Esprit Créateur* 56. 1 (2016) : 1-8.

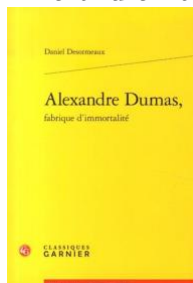
"Le facteur littéraire dans de *L'égalité des races humaines* d'Anténor Firmin," *L'Esprit Créateur* 56. 1 (2016) : 24-39.

Books

- *Thémistocle-Épaminondas Labasterre* : (Frédéric Marcelin), A Critical Edition with Introduction. (Paris : Société des Textes Français Modernes, 2017).



- *Alexandre Dumas : Fabrique d'immortalité*. (Paris : Classiques Garnier Éditions, 2014).



- *Mémoires du général Toussaint Louverture*, Critical Edition with Introduction (Paris : Classiques Garnier Éditions, 2011).



• *La Figure du bibliomane : Histoire du livre et stratégie littéraire au XIX^e siècle* (Flaubert, Barbey d'Aurevilly, Nerval, Stendhal, Anatole France) (Saint-Genouph : A.-G. Nizet, 2001).

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**LA FIGURE
DU
BIBLIOMANE**



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*Histoire du livre
et
stratégie littéraire au XIX^e siècle*

LIBRAIRIE NIZET
37510 SAINT-GENOUPH