

Name: Ruth Amar

Date: 25.1.2017

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### 1. Active Participation in Scholarly Conferences

#### a1. International Conferences - Held Abroad

Date	Name of Conference	Place of Conference	Subject of Lecture	Role
March 2002	Romance	University of Chapel Hill- North Carolina	J.M.G Le Clézio's non communicative dialogue	<b>Invited Lecturer</b>
June 2004	The Francophone Congress	University of Liege- Belgium	Jean Echenoz's Minimalist Writing	<b>Invited Lecturer</b>
December 2004	Le Clézio- Here and Everywhere	University of Toulouse- France	Alienation and dis-communication in Le Clézio's Novels	<b>Invited Lecturer</b>
June 2006	CIEF-The International Francophone Congress	University of Sinaia - Romania	The Design of masculinity in the Contemporary French Novel	Lecturer
*October 2007	The World of Houellebecq	University of Amsterdam	The Era of "In-Between" in Michel Houellebecq's Novels	Lecturer
*March 2008		University of Lyon 2- France	Le Tone of Patrick Modiano: From the Ironic Novel to the Affective Novel	<b>Invited Lecturer</b>
*October 2008	The Existential Emptiness in the 21st Century Novel	University of Amsterdam	"Each One of Us is a Desert": multiple solitudes in the 20th Century Novel	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> (invited as a specialist of the Theme of

				Solitude in the Contemporary Novel)
*April 2010	In the forest of Paradoxes : Le Clezio's Work	University of Mississippi	Thematic Evolution in Le Clezio's Work: Paradox or Mutation?	Lecturer
*April 2011	Philippe Delerm	University of Savoie	"Philippe Delerm or The Anxiety behind Happiness"	Lecturer
*April 2012	The Work of Jean-Philippe Toussaint	University of St Etienne	"The Minimalism in Jean-Philippe Toussaint's Novels"	Invited Lecturer
*February 2013	Sexual Feminine spaces	University of Lille 2	The Spatial Metaphor in three novels by Tahar Ben Jelloun	<b>Keynote Speaker</b>
*March 2015	Hope and Happiness	University of Lisbon	The Pursuit of Happiness in the French Novel of the 20th -21st centuries	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> (invited as a specialist of the Theme of Happiness in the Contemporary Novel)
*August 2015	Violence in Le Clezio's writing	University of Johensuu	Emptiness and Fullness in Le Clézio's Urban Spaces	Lecturer

## **a2. International Conferences - Held in Israel**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of Conference</b>	<b>Place of Conference</b>	<b>Subject of Lecture/Discussion</b>	<b>_Role</b>
May 2000	The Image of the Shoreline in Literature	University of Haifa	The quest of the Shore in Le Clézio's Novels	Lecturer
May 2001	The work of Andree Chedid	University of Haifa	The Structures of Solitude in Andrée Chedid's <i>Les marches de sable</i>	Lecturer
May 2002	Writing the Body in Literature	University of Haifa	The Writing of the Body in Tahar Ben Jelloun's Work	Lecturer
May 2003	The Male Design in Contemporary Literature	University of Haifa	The Masculine Design in Le Clézio's Novels	Lecturer
*March 2006	Sylvie Germain and her Work	University of Haifa	The Salt metaphor in <i>Éclats de Sel</i> by Sylvie Germain	Lecturer

*March 2007	The Reticence in Contemporary Poetry and Prose	University of Haifa	Writing in order to Say Nothing... : Between Minimalism and Reticence in Jean-Philippe Toussaint's Novels	Lecturer
March *2008	Utopia : Memory and Imagination	University of Haifa	"Utopia in the insular novel of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Michel Tournier's <i>Friday</i> "	Lecturer
*December 2008	To express the Shoah: new Perspectives	University of Bar Ilan	"Patrick Modiano: a Tone and a Voice to Express the Shoah"	Lecturer
*March 2008	The Art of decentralizing in Contemporary Literature	University of Haifa	" Olivier Rolin : The Lack of a Narrative Centre"	Lecturer
*March 2009	Satire and Engagement in the Contemporary Novel	University of Haifa	Satire and Engagement in Olivier Rolin's <i>Paper Tiger</i>	Lecturer
*May 2010	The Writing of Happiness in the Contemporary Novel	University of Haifa	The Pursuit of Happiness in the French Novel of the 20th -21st centuries	Lecturer

### a3. Local Conferences

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of Conference</b>	<b>Place of Conference</b>	<b>Subject of Lecture/Discussion</b>	<b>Role</b>
*2011	The four Elements in Literature	University of Haifa	Psychological Images of the Water according to Gaston Bachelard	Lecturer
*2013	"Home" in Literature	University of Haifa	"Standing at the Window" the Function of some windows in Literature	Lecturer

**b. Organization of Conferences or Sessions**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of Conference</b>	<b>Place of Conference</b>	<b>Subject of Lecture/Discussion</b>	<b>Role</b>
May 2000	The Image of the Shoreline in Literature	University of Haifa	The quest of the Shore in Le Clézio's Novels	<b>Single organizer</b> of the conference
May 2001	The work of Andrée Chedid	University of Haifa	The Structure of Solitude in <i>Les marches de sable</i> of Andrée Chedid	<b>Organizer</b> (board member of scientific committee) of the conference
May 2002	Writing the Body in Literature	University of Haifa	The Writing of the Body in Tahar Ben Jelloun's Work	<b>Single organizer</b> of the conference
May 2003	The Male Design in Contemporary Literature	University of Haifa	The Masculine Design in Le Clézio's Novels	<b>Single Organizer</b> of the Conference
*August 2007	The Reticence in Poetry and Prose	University of Haifa	Writing in order to Say Nothing... : Between Minimalism and Reticence in Jean-Philippe Toussaint's Novels	<b>Organizer</b> (board member of scientific committee of GRPC) of the conference
*March 2008	Utopia : Memory and Imagination	University of Haifa	Utopia in the insular novel of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century: Michel Tournier's <i>Friday</i>	<b>Organizer</b> (board member of scientific committee of Center of French Civilization with Ilana Zinguer) of the conference
*March 2008	The Art of Decentralization in Contemporary Literature	University of Haifa	Olivier Rolin : Lack of a Narrative Centre	<b>Organizer</b> (board member of scientific committee of GRPC) of the conference
*May 2010	The Writing of Happiness in the Contemporary Novel	University of Haifa	The Pursuit of Happiness in the French Novel of the 20 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> centuries	<b>Single Organizer</b>

*May 2017 (forthcoming)	The Representation of the Relationship between Center and Periphery in the contemporary Novel	University of Haifa in partnership with University of Lille 3	Center and Periphery in the Contemporary French Novel: Introduction to some Philosophical Ideas	Organizer (with Françoise Saquer-Sabin)

## 2. Invited Lectures (Other than in Scholarly Conferences)

### Abroad

Year	Name of Forum	Place of Lecture	Subject of Lecture
March 2002	University of Queensland-Australia. Two days seminar - International concourse for lecturer candidate (after which I was offered a position for 5 years which I finally did not take as I was offered a position in Haifa)	University of Queensland-Australia. Faculty of humanities	-The Glance in Le Clezio's Work -Solitude in Le Clezio's Work - Dialogue Issues in Le Clezio's Work
*August 2010	University of Liège	French Literature Department	Jean Echenoz and minimalism
*March 2013	University of Sorbonne 3	French Literature Department	Happiness in the Novel of the 20th -21 <sup>st</sup> Centuries: Quest and Representation

## 8. Colloquium Talks

Year	Name of Forum	Place of Lecture	Subject of Lecture
Nov. 2005	"Tzohorei Dekan"	Faculty of humanities University of Haifa	Minimalism in the French Novel

*May 2007	The French Civilization Center-	Haifa	The quest for identity in T. Ben Jelloun 's Novels
*May 2008	The French Civilization Center-Haifa	Haifa	Antisemitism in Patrick Modiano's Novels
*April 2010	University of Haifa-	Hebrew and Comparative Literature dept. University of Haifa- (Before becoming member of the Hebrew and Comparative Literature dept.)	The Nobel Prize Laureate of 2008: Le Clezio

## 9. Teaching

### a. Courses Taught in Recent Years

<b>Years</b>	<b>Name of Course</b>	<b>Type of Course</b> Lecture/Seminar/ Workshop/ Online Course/ Introduction Course (Mandatory)	<b>Level</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>
1998	Guided Reading and Composition (French)	Course	BA	20
1999	French civilization Linguistics- The Simple sentence	Course	BA	22
2000	Linguistics -The Complex sentence	Course	BA	15
2000	Oral and written expression	Course	BA	17

2001	The French novel of the 19th century	Course	BA	15
2002	The French civilization in the 20th Century	Course	BA	12
2003	Literary genres in 18th, 19th and 20th Centuries	Course	BA	15
2004	Poetry of Circumstances in the 20th Century	Seminar	BA	15
2004	Intermediate level French Language The French Contemporary novel	Seminar	MA	14
2005	Advanced level French Language	Course	MA	15
2005	The Nineteen Century French Novel	Seminar	MA	10
2006	Contemporary French Poetry	Seminar	MA	14
*2007	Baudelaire and Rimbaud's Poetry	Seminar	MA	15
*2007	The Contemporary Minimalist Novel	Course	MA	13
*2008	Medieval France	Course	MA	15
*2008	The Existentialist Novel	Seminar	MA	11
*2009	The Francophone Novel	Seminar	MA	13

*2009	Poetry of Protest	Seminar	MA	15
*2010	The Theme of Happiness in the French Contemporary Novel	Seminar	MA	13
*2011	Issues in the French Novel: From Existentialism to Postmodernism	Seminar	MA	15
*2012	The development of the Solitude Theme in the 20th Century Novel	Seminar	MA	13
*2013	The Development of French Novel The French Novel- between Romanticism and Realism	Seminar	MA	15
*2014	Love and Conjugality in the French Novel: From <i>Madame Bovary</i> to <i>The Lover</i> of M. Duras	Seminar	MA	10
2015	Issues in the French Novel: From Sartre to Houellebecq		MA	15
*2015	The Postmodern French Novel	Seminar	MA	13

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **A. Ph.D. Dissertation**

**Title:** *Les structures de la solitude dans l'œuvre de J.M.G Le Clézio.*

**Date of submission:** 2000

**Number of pages:** 215

**Language:** French

**Name of supervisor:** Prof. Jacqueline Michel

**University of Haifa**

**Publications:**

### **B. Scientific Books (Refereed)**

#### **Authored Books – Published**

**1. Ruth Amar**, *Les structures de la solitude dans l'œuvre de J.M.G Le Clézio*, Paris, Publisud, 2004, 240 pages. (The book is to be distinguished from the thesis as it has been transformed and undergone many modifications)

*Reviews on the book*

a. by Murielle Lucie Clément, University of Amsterdam in *Fabula- Research in Literature* site : [Le Clézio. Architecture d'un malaise existentiel](http://www.fabula.org/revue/document3728.php), : <http://www.fabula.org/revue/document3728.php>

b. Book Review by Thierry Leger, *Les Structures de la solitude dans l'œuvre de J.M.G. Le Clézio*, by Ruth Amar, in *Nouvelles Études Francophones*, Vol. 20:2, Automne 2005: 248-250.

**2. Ruth Amar**, *Tahar Ben Jelloun : Les Stratégies narratives*, Edwin Mellen Press, New New York/ Wales; 2005. 150 pages

Review of the book (**in English**): Isabelle Roussel Gillet, in *Le Maghreb Littéraire*, Volume X N. 19, La Source, Canada, 2006, pp. 185-187. [Tahar Ben Jelloun : Les stratégies narratives, Edwin Mellen Press, New New York/ Wales](#)

Foreword by Helene Stafford- Oxford (in English)

\*3. **Ruth Amar**, *Bonheur : Quête et représentation dans le roman français contemporain*, Paris, Classiques Garnier, (Head of literary edition and referees: Prof. Didier Alexandre from the Sorbonne and Prof. Dominique Rabaté from the university Paris VII - Diderot) **300 pages**

**Authored Books - Accepted for Publication**

**Edited Books and Special Journal Issues – Published**

\*1. Ilana Zinguer & **Ruth Amar**, *Utopie : mémoire et imaginaire*, actes du colloque, Verlag Die Blaue Eule, 2008, 305 pages.

\*2. Robert Elbaz & **Ruth Amar**, *Le monde d'Alain Bosquet*, Publisud, 2009. 150 pages

\*3. **Ruth Amar**, *L'Écriture du bonheur dans le roman contemporain*, textes réunis et édités par Ruth Amar, Cambridge, CSP, 2011, 290 pages.

a. Article on the research on Happiness in *Le Magazine Littéraire* ( *the most prestigious journal concerning French Literature*)

<http://www.magazine-litteraire.com/content/homepage/article?id=18112>

**b. Book Review:** [Bonheur-RuthAmar-French Studies-2012-Williams-589-90.pdf](#)

(by Russell Williams, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON INSTITUTE IN PARIS)

\*4. Jacqueline Michel, **Ruth Amar**, Jeannine Horowitz, Annette Shahar *Une écriture en exil*, Sylvia Baron-Supervielle, Paris, Caractères, 2012, 150 pages.

\*5. Annette Shahar (GEF : Jacqueline Michel, **Ruth Amar**, Jenny Horowitz,) *Satire Socio-politique et engagement dans la fiction contemporaine, Littérature de langue française*, vol. 20, Peter Lang, Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt, Ney York, Oxford, Wien, 2013., 183 pages.

## **D. Articles in Refereed Journals**

### **Published**

1. **Ruth Amar**, « De l'oralité dans le récit ben jellounien », in *Le Maghreb Littéraire, Revue canadienne des Littératures maghrébines*, Vol 1, Numéro 1, 1997, pp. 35-53.
2. **Ruth Amar**, « De la clôture à l'évaporation du récit benjellounien », in *Bulletin of Francophone Africa*, University of Westminster, Francophone ACP Research Group, 1998, pp. 66-74.
3. **Ruth Amar**, « Silence, mutisme ou naissance du récit ben jellounien », in *Le Maghreb Littéraire, Revue Canadienne des littératures maghrébines*, Vol 3, Numéro 5, 1999, pp. 33-47.
4. **Ruth Amar**, « Le Désert ou la dissémination du récit benjellounien », in *Bulletin of Francophone Africa*, University of Westminster, Francophone ACP Research Group, 2001, pp. 36-46.
5. **Ruth Amar**, « Harrouda : le postmodernisme de Tahar Ben Jelloun », in *Nouvelles Études Africaines*, Volume 17, Numéro 1, 2002. Version numérique, <http://www.limag.refer.org/Textes/Amar/BenJelloun.PDF> .
6. **Ruth Amar**, « Le postmodernisme de Tahar Ben Jelloun », *Etudes francophones*, n°17, Printemps, 2002, p 21-33.
7. **Ruth Amar**, « Du regard *autre* et de la solitude dans l'œuvre de Le Clézio »; in *Les Lettres Romanes*, Tome LV- N. 3-4, Université Catholique de Louvain, 2001, pp. 309-318.
8. **Ruth Amar**, « Harrouda : le postmodernisme de Tahar Ben Jelloun », in *Études Africaines*, Volume 17, Numéro 1, Louisiana, 2002, p. 21-33.

9. **Ruth Amar**, « L'imaginaire du rivage leclézien », in *Francographies, Bulletin de la Société des Professeurs Français et Francophones d'Amérique*, (SPFFA), n.6, Vol. 60, Jan. 2003, pp. 57-69.

10. **Ruth Amar**, « L'œuvre de J.M.G Le Clézio ou l'écriture du vide » *Australian Journal of French Studies*, Vol. XLI, number 1, Australia, 2004, pp. 25-36. V

11. **Ruth Amar**, « La quête du rivage leclézien ou *Un Voyage de l'autre côté*, in *Francographies, Bulletin de la Société des Professeurs Français et Francophones d'Amérique*, (SPFFA), Nouvelle Série, n. 13 2004-2005, pp. 17-23.

12. **Ruth Amar**, «Du minimalisme de Jean Echenoz », *Les Lettres Romanes*, Tome LIX - n. 1-2, Université Catholique de Louvain, 2005, pp.113-121.

\*13. **Ruth Amar**, «Jean Echenoz : de « l'art de la fugue », *Dalhousie French Studies*, Vol. 76 (Fall 2006), pp. 85-91.

14. **Ruth Amar**, «Olivier Rolin : Une poétique de l'absence», *Écho*, Croisement des langues et des cultures, A polyglot and cross cultural journal, Déc 2005 - n° 4, 12 pages. [www.echopolyglot.com](http://www.echopolyglot.com)

15. **Ruth Amar**, «Olivier Rolin : les fluctuations d'une écriture transgressive», *Le Crin* (Cahiers de Recherche des Instituts Néerlandais), n. 49, Rodopi, Amsterdam, New York, 2008, pp. 51-61. (\* this journal is very prestigious in the field of French literature)

16. **Ruth Amar**, «*Le bonheur dans le crime* de Jacqueline Harpman: *le système de dissimulation* », in *Nouvelles Études francophones, Revue du Conseil International d'Études Francophones*, Volume 22.2, Automne 2007, pp. 93-102.

\*17. **Ruth Amar**, «L'ère *entre-deux* selon Michel Houellebecq », *Les Lettres Romanes*, Louvain-la neuve, Belgique, Tome LXI- n. 3-4, 2008. (\* this journal is very prestigious in the field of French literature)

\*18. **Ruth Amar**, «Patrick Modiano : du roman *sonore* au roman *chuchoté*, *Lectures de Modiano*, Ed. Cécile Defaut, 2009, pp. 289-306.

\*19. **Ruth Amar**, « Le ton de Patrick Modiano: du roman ironique au roman affectif » in *@Analyses Revue de Critique et de Théorie Littéraire*, 6, n° 1, hiver 2011. <http://www.revue-analyses.org:80/>

\*20. **Ruth Amar**, « "Tu es heureux, tu es en faute "... à ne pas croire ! Le bonheur selon Philippe Delerm», in *Bibliothèque Digitale de la FLUP* <http://ler.letras.up.pt/>

\*21. **Ruth Amar**, « D'une complicité entre objets et stratégies narratives dans le récit de Tahar Ben Jelloun », in *Hikrei Mararav U-Mizrah, Studies in Language, Literature and history, Volume B*, ed. Yosef Tobi and Dennis Kurson, Carmel, Jerusalem, 2011, pp. 1-15.

\*22. **Ruth Amar**, "The Fiction of Le Clézio, a Postcolonial reading", *French Studies*, 2015 69 (2): doi: 10.1093/fs/knv040. pp 264-268. (in English) V

\*23. "The Pursuit of Happiness in the French Novel of the 20<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> Centuries" (Paper No. JMC20150429-1) in *Journalism and Mass Communication*, ISSN 2160-6579, USA. 2015, pp. 279-293, Impact Factor :0.797 | Ranking : Communication 38 out of 76 | 5-Year Impact Factor:1.244 (in English) V

\*24. **Ruth Amar**, « La vieillesse dans l'œuvre de Michel Houellebecq: aspect de la "société du spectacle" » in *Les Lettres romanes*, vol. 70 n° 3-4 (2016), pp. 433-452.

#### Accepted for Publication

« La représentation du bonheur dans le roman français contemporain », *Cahiers du CERRAC*, Sorbonne- Paris 3, (forthcoming) (\* this journal is considered good in the field of the French contemporary novel)

### E. Articles or Chapters in Scientific Books (Refereed)

#### Published

**1. Ruth Amar**, «Écrire pour ne rien dire ou ...presque : entre minimalisme et réticence chez Jean-Philippe Toussaint », in *Actes du colloque «La Réticence dans l'écriture poétique et romanesque contemporaine* », EST, 2007, pp. 131-139.

\***2. Ruth Amar**, « L'évolution thématique dans l'œuvre de Le Clézio : Paradoxe ou mutations » *J.M.G. Le Clézio dans la forêt des paradoxes*, éd. Bruno Thibault et Keith Moser, Harmattan, 2012, pp. 203-211.)

\***3 Ruth Amar**, «Philippe Delerm ou l'angoisse du bonheur» *Philippe Delerm*, ed. Claude Cavallero, Université de Savoie, 2013, pp. 71-80.

\***4. Ruth Amar**, «Le statut de la femme dans *Harrouda, L'Enfant de sable* et *La Nuit sacrée* de Ben Jelloun», *Les espaces intimes féminins dans la littérature maghrébine d'expression française*, ed: Robert Elbaz et Françoise Saquer-Sabin, Harmattan, Collection « Des idées et des femmes », Paris, Harmattan, 2014, p 279-292.

\*5. **Ruth Amar**, «L'œuvre de Toussaint : Récits minimalistes ou réticents ? »  
*L'œuvre de Jean-Philippe Toussaint*, Presses Universitaires de St Etienne,  
Avril, 2015, pp. 137-145.

#### Accepted for Publication

\*1. **Ruth Amar**, «Yasmina Khadra: écrivain engagé (à la condition humaine)»  
in *Roman 2050*, (Forthcoming) (\* this journal is very prestigious in the field of  
the contemporary French novel) 2016, 10p.

### F. Articles in Conference Proceedings

#### Published

1. **Ruth Amar**, « Les structures de la solitude dans *Les Marches de sable* d'Andrée  
Chédid », *Andrée Chédid et son œuvre : une quête de l'humanité*, Ed. Jacqueline  
Michel, Publisud, 2003, p. 143-153.

\*2. **Ruth Amar**, « La communication orale dans le roman le clezien », in *Le Clézio,  
Ailleurs et origines, parcours poétique*, Actes du colloque international tenu à  
Toulouse, dir. Bernadette Mimoso-Ruiz, Editions Universitaires du Sud, 2006, pp. 97-  
107. (Refereed)

3. **Ruth Amar**, « Le sel comme métaphore de l'écriture dans *Éclats de sel* », in *Actes  
du colloque Sylvie Germain et son œuvre*, EST, 2006, pp. 38-47.

\*4. **Ruth Amar**, «L'utopie dans le roman insulaire du 20<sup>e</sup> siècle : le cas de *Vendredi  
ou les limbes du pacifique* de Michel Tournier », in *Les actes du colloque Utopie :  
Mémoire et Imaginaire*, Verlag Die Blaue Eule, 2008, pp. 71-79.

\*5. **Ruth Amar**, «Olivier Rolin : l'absence d'un centre narratif, in *Actes du  
colloque* » :*L'art du décentrage dans la poésie et le roman contemporains*, Textes  
réunis par Jacqueline Michel, Marlène Braester, Isabelle Dotan, Publisud, 2009, pp.  
71-84.

\*6. **Ruth Amar**, « Alain Bosquet : Introduction », *Le monde d'Alain Bosquet*, in  
*Actes du colloque*, ed. Publisud, 2009, pp. 3-9.

\*7. **Ruth Amar**, «La nouvelle ère socio-affective selon Houellebecq », in *Actes du  
colloque Michel Houellebecq à la une*, ed. Murielle Lucie clément et Sabine van  
Wesemael , Faux titre, 360. 2009, pp. 335-345. (Refereed)

\*8. **Ruth Amar**, « Chacun de nous est un désert : Solitudes multiples au vingtième  
siècle » : in *Actes du colloque : Le malaise existentiel dans le roman français de*

*l'extrême contemporain*, ed Murielle Lucie clément et Sabine van Wesemael, Editions Universitaires Européennes, 2011, pp. 12-33. **(Refereed)**

\*9. **Ruth Amar**, «Présentation» in *L'écriture du bonheur dans le roman contemporain*, textes réunis et édités par Ruth Amar, Cambridge, CSP, 2011, pp. VII-XX.

Including forewords to the five sections of the book :

a. «Les diverses approches du bonheur en Europe aux 20<sup>e</sup> et 21<sup>e</sup> siècles» pp. 1-3.

b. « Le bonheur des 'petits riens'», pp. 51-55.

c. «Bonheur et Malheur : antagonisme et / ou concordances», pp.117-121.

d. «Bonheur et Modes de vie», pp. 193-197.

\*10. **Ruth Amar**, « *Tigre en Papier* d'Olivier Rolin : un engagement revisité », in *Satire Socio-politique et engagement dans la fiction contemporaine, Littérature de langue française*, vol. 20, Peter Lang, Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt, Ney York, Oxford, Wien, 2013, pp. 87-100.

### **Accepted for Publication**

\*13. **Ruth Amar**, “Childhood in Le Clezio’s Novel” in *Dapim*, (In Hebrew Forthcoming) **(Refereed)** V

\*14. **Ruth Amar** “The question of Happiness in the French Novel” in *Happiness 1 & Hope 7 Post-Conference eBook; Inter-Disciplinary Press 2015 Publications* (Forthcoming) **(Refereed)**

## **G. Entries in Encyclopedias (refereed)**

### **Accepted for Publication**

1. \***Ruth Amar**, « *Solitude* », in *Le Dictionnaire Le Clezio*,(forthcoming)
2. \***Ruth Amar**, « Le Hartani » in *Le Dictionnaire Le Clezio*,(forthcoming)
3. \***Ruth Amar**, « *Mydriase* » in *Le Dictionnaire Le Clezio*,( forthcoming)

## **H. Other Scientific Publications**

### **Published**

- \*1. **Ruth Amar**, Essay Review on Lectures d'une œuvre, J.M.G. Le Clézio, by Sophie Jollin-Bertocchi, Bruno Thibault», in *Dalhousie French Studies*, Vol. 77 (Winter 2006), pp. 146-150.
- \*2. **Ruth Amar**, Essay Review on *Houellebecq sous la loupe*, in *Les lettres Romanes*, Revue Internationale consacrée à l'étude scientifique des littératures romanes, n3-4 du tome 61, 2007, Études réunies par Murielle-Lucie Clément et Sabine VAN Wesemael. Amsterdam-New York, Rodopi, 2007, pp. (\* this journal is very prestigious in the field of French literature)
- \*3. **Ruth Amar** Essay Review on *La Langue de Sylvie Germain*. « *En mouvement d'écriture* », Cécile Narjoux et Jacques Dürrenmatt (dir.), Dijon, Éditions universitaires de Dijon, coll. « Langages », Dijon, Éditions universitaires de Dijon, coll. « Langages », 2011, <https://uottawa.scholarsportal.info/ojs/index.php/revue-analyses/article/viewFile/927/799>, pp.1-7.



## **K. Summary of my Activities and Future Plans**

### **A. The research I have done till present**

My research is in the field of the contemporary French novel.

#### **1. The first stage of my research dealt with:**

- *The Structures of Solitude in the Work of J.M.G. Le Clezio*. When I started the research, Le Clézio was not so well known. In 2008, he won the Nobel Prize of Literature and nowadays, he is considered one of the most famous French Writer. The theme of solitude is also one of the most projected and estimated in the field of contemporary research. My research innovated this field of research in the postmodern era and I was invited as a keynote speaker in the conference on the “existential Malaise” in Amsterdam as a specialist in the field.

-the second step of this first research was to consider a large number of authors in connection with the postmodern period and the “Era of emptiness” : Michel Tournier, Jean Echenoz, Sylvie Germain, Amelie Nothomb, Marilynne Desbioles, Michele Desbordes, Michele Gazier, Michel Houellebecq, J.M.G, J-P Toussaint, François Bon, Philippe Delerm, and more.

#### **2. The second stage of my research:**

I moved on to another field still related to the first stage and dealt with the Maghrebian Literature written in French. It has been since its inception a literature of polemics. Written in French it has become a controversial scene between the archaic (identity) and the post-modern (difference).

My study focused on the well- known writer Tahar Ben Jelloun, on cultural, literary and critical knowledge, and centered around two main themes:

- a. the collective unconscious, through the restoring of traditional and oral materials.
- b. the postmodern esthetics and the epistemology of the future.

These two themes served as a basis to explore Maghrebian literature written in French. This literature, because it makes use of the Other's alphabet, is faced with a challenge: the alliance of the archaic and the post-modern. Finally, my second book focused on *The Narrative Strategies of Ben Jelloun*.

#### **3. The third stage of my research:**

Another aspect of the Extreme Contemporary Novel is related to Happiness in the contemporary novel.

This research started in 2009 when I organized an international conference on Happiness in the Contemporary novel, which was attended by 22 researchers from different parts of the world: France, USA, Belgium, England. Finally, a first book was published in 2010 in Cambridge SCP.

#### **Book Review in *French Studies***

[Bonheur-RuthAmar-French Studies-2012-Williams-589-90.pdf](#)

I went on to the next step of the research on the theme of Happiness. My last book has been published by the Parisian edition Classiques Garnier (Head of literary edition

and referees: Prof. Didier Alexandre from the Sorbonne and Prof. Dominique Rabaté from the Sorbonne Paris VII - Diderot.) This edition is well-known in France. It is a famous and refereed edition used by a large number of university researchers and students. Since 1896, Classiques Garnier is famous and has been publishing literary works of from around the world, French and foreign, ancient and modern, in refereed editions. The edition works with these partners:

National Distance learning Center, National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Swiss National Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS), Ministry of Education, University of Saint-Étienne

The book is the result of a research in the field of the Contemporary novel in general and in the French novel in particular. It includes an analysis of the work of a considerable number of French authors and deals with the theme of Happiness which has not been explored until now in regard with the contemporary French novel.

Happiness, as much a poetic as a philosophical, sociological and psychological concept, has been, through the ages, at the heart of the needs each individual seeks to fulfil. Today, in a world dominated by technology, driven by productivity and dictated by efficiency, I asked the question of Happiness: did it feature in works of fiction in any significant way? The purpose of the research was to explore the French Novels (of the 20th-21th centuries) that are devoted to or associated with Happiness in a direct or indirect manner. It contextualized and analyzed the transformation of Happiness, within the context of the historical and social events that influenced that period: the Holocaust, consumerism, postmodernism, structural social changes, the various as yet unarticulated new modes of life they created, and so on.

To that end, the research explored the discursive philosophical concept of happiness and its influence on the formation of the French novel. In so doing it focused on the explicit discourse behind the motifs, the choices made in the process of writing, and the attitudes taken, considering the theme of happiness. Doing so, a significant discussion was included regarding the paths of happiness, its agents, and the nature of the motifs and metaphors linked to the theme of happiness.

I also addressed the dialectical role of Happiness as an essential theme in the constitution of an emerging literary discourse reflected in the French novel. By exploring the manifestation of the dogmas, ideas of the intellectual leaders of the 20th century (e.g. Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone De Beauvoir, Albert Camus) as well as the ones of the 21th century (e.g. Pascal Bruckner, André Comte-Sponville, Gilles Lipovetsky) new insights concerning the hybrid nature of the supposedly 'authentic happiness' were revealed.

The theme of Happiness was inspected around five dialectical axes as a relevant ethical basis for delimiting the various fields of research: 1. Love, passion and conjugality, 2. Crime and morality, 3. Ageing, 4. 'The experience of everydayness' 5. 'The era of emptiness'. Focusing on the narratives, the research took into account the specificity in the five distinct fields, all connected to existential and ethical issues. Finally, the research attempted to analyze the assumed role of literature as a conduit of cultural awareness.

## **B. Description of present research**

### **In Preparation**

The notion of the relationship between center and periphery, like that of physical space, which derives from the geographical domain, has entered the literary field. Difficult to define, these terms are relative concepts distinguishable by the gap between them. It is this gap that I intend to explore in its representation in the contemporary novel, based on a comparative perspective through various cultural and linguistic lenses.

In recent decades, the relationship between center and periphery has been strongly represented in literatures of various linguistic and cultural roots. Writers "travel" in the urban periphery in spaces that are often omitted from the city community, the 'polis'. In doing so, they strengthen the opposition between the center and the suburbs that become, in fact, the agents of a symbolic redefinition of the contemporary city. The standpoint of this research will not be limited to the urban space or to the simple opposition of central location versus peripheral location, but to all forms of representation of social hybridity. I intend to analyze the subcategories of their interdependent relationships, including power and domination between hegemony and marginality.

The concepts of restricted areas and intermediate spaces will be questioned. The perception of the human being in his spatial dimension, or even his definition in relation to space is related to the question of otherness, one of the major subjects of contemporary philosophy.

### **Some routes of inquiry**

While focusing on works in the light of center-periphery relationship, I will examine the fluctuations between hegemony and marginalization, loneliness and otherness, omission and denial, vacuum and excess.

How is the solitude of peripheries expressed? Often used as a synonym for isolation but also for abandonment and exclusion, solitude is inherent to thought. However, it is not only the solitude of the reclusive genius, it is also that of the rootless, the wandering, both gone and eager to return to reside among their fellow human beings.

How is marginality manifested? Defined as a deviation from a center, its position generally refers to a center from which it is banned, it always relates to a specific society as a figure of lack and absence or loss.

I will focus on an identification and classification of spaces in order to try to understand their function in relation to the thematic strategy of the novel. It would be useful, for example, to define the function of certain symbolic sites in urban spaces such as the café, the restaurant, the street; or private spaces such as the apartment or the kitchen; or some meeting places for "marginal" people - places generally reserved for women, nursing homes, psychiatric hospitals, etc. The passageway, the transitional place from a peripheral area, whether geographic, communal, sociological or other, to a more or less hospitable central space, is always dangerous. It inevitably leads to a change, evidenced by the concepts of emptiness, forgetfulness, excess, that produce particular rituals or confined or institutionalized behaviors, consequences of a refusal to face reality.

The main objective will be to identify the textual representation of the challenge of Center and Periphery as well as their role and significance in the diegesis. Thus, a new light on the contemporary novel could be offered to literary specialists.

