

Citation: Associate Professor Markus ARNOLD, School of Languages and Literatures (French)

Markus Arnold holds a prize-winning **bi-national German-French doctorate on Comparative and Francophone literatures**, where he investigated in questions of violence and interculturality in contemporary novel writing of the Indian Ocean Islands. From his early studies in Romance and English philology, he was attracted to interdisciplinarity within the humanities and the arts, as well as the complex identities emanating from literary and creative production of postcolonial or “Global South” locations.

He has taught at the *Ecole Normal Supérieure* in Lyon (France), where he developed his expertise on comparative literary theory and film studies; at the **University of La Réunion**, where he worked in a research group dedicated to creolization and vernacular cultures; at the *École supérieure d’Art* of La Réunion, where he engaged with visual culture, graphic literature, and contemporary art, and headed the lab “Image, Anthropology, Interculturality”. In 2018, he joined UCT’s **School of Languages and Literatures** as **Associate Professor of French and Francophones Studies**, lecturing on modern and contemporary literature, literary and postcolonial theory, intertextuality, intermediality, and film.

Dr Arnold has contributed substantially to the emerging field of **Indian Ocean Literary studies**, by investigating into the complex inscriptions of postcoloniality of these so-called “peripheral” writers, their multiple ways of representing intersectional and diasporic processes of belonging. Beyond numerous chapters and journal articles, his most innovative scholarly work is his **2017 monograph** on contemporary Mauritian literature (*La littérature contemporaine mauricienne*), which has been described by one reviewer as “the go-to publication for anyone engaging in research on this multilingual and multicultural Indian Ocean island”.

His commitment to **interdisciplinary research** can be seen in recent publications on migration, slavery, and the colonial archive in graphic literature, but also on the circulation of “Global South” literature in the “World republic of letters”. Arnold’s expertise connecting both Indian Ocean locations and larger intercultural and postcolonial ‘contact zones’ also shows in two coedited volumes: *L’image et son dehors* (2017), which sheds new critical light on questions of iconicity and (non-)representation, and the newly released *Borders and Ecotones in the Indian Ocean: Cultural and Literary perspectives* (2020). The same interdisciplinary spirit animates his participation in the international research project “**Thanatic Ethics: The circulation of Bodies in Migratory Spaces**” (2020-21), and his co-organization of the International Conference “**Reconfiguring, Repurposing the City. Urban Ecotones in the Global South**” (to be held at UCT in Oct. 2021).

Next to his active membership to several scholarly societies and his regular reviewing activities for academic journals and publishers, Dr Arnold is currently **President of the Scientific Board** of the **Fine Art School of La Réunion** as well as **Board Member** of the literary associations ‘APELA’ (France) and ‘CIEF’ (US). He has recently become the new **editor-in-chief** of the DHET journal *French Studies in Southern Africa*, and he currently works on the co-publication of a **special issue on African literary and artistic manifestoes**, and the crossing of cultural paradigms such as Creolization and Afropolitanism. To disseminate his research on Indian Ocean literature, he has been invited to hold the position of a **Visiting Professor** at the **University of Paris III (Sorbonne Nouvelle)** in Spring 2021.