With the purpose of embarking into a research and teaching career, I am applying to the PhD in French studies at XXX. French native speaker, I hold a BA in French history from Paris 1 La Sorbonne obtained in 2004 with honors. I have previously undertaken research work during my last year at University La Sorbonne and I wrote a 150 pages thesis on the origins and deportation of the Jewish community of La Sarthe between the dates of 1889 to 1945 in France with the title *La Sarthe, une communauté juive oubliée 1889-1945*, under the supervision of Denis Peschanski and Claire Andrieu. My work aimed at getting a better understanding of a small forgotten community which was massively deported during WW2 as a result of the Holocaust. Most research works until recently tended to focus on big French Jewish communities such as Paris, so the idea was to cover an untold segment of research. For this purpose, I have confronted archives from various written sources - public and personal archives - to oral sources such as testimonies from survivors and living witnesses. An extract of my research has been published by Editions Cheminements in 2006 under the title of *Shoah en Sarthe*, and I have also authored an article in *Archives Juives* in 2009, in which I attempted to define the concept of “Jewish community” over the decades from 1889 to 1945 through the example of Le Mans.

I also had the opportunity to contribute to a conference organized by Jacques Filjakow and Serge Klarsfeld in Lacaune in 2009, in which I had a 35 min panel presentation front of researchers and holocaust specialists. I have discussed the specifics of the Deportation of the Jewish community and jewish refugees from La Sarthe. My contribution has been published under the form of a chapter for the collective book *Histoire régionale de la Shoah en France*, under the direction of Patrick Cabanel and Jacques Fijalkow in 2011 at Editions de Paris.

My historical researches also gave me the opportunity a few times to discuss the Holocaust with students from high schools in partnerships with the teaching team in order for them to get a better understanding of an essential part of the French history.

Since January 2020, I am attending the MA in Romance Languages from The University of New Orleans in which I follow a mix of courses on French literature and cultural studies. I have obtained so far a GPA of 4.0 and attended the following courses: French literature from Louisiana in 19th century, French Literature in 17th century with a focus on comedy theatre with play writers such as Molière and Corneille, French Civilisation in the 20th and 21st centuries that included a mix of readings on Sociology and movie analysis, French documentary in the 20th century from 1945, Literature postcolonial in the 20th century that involved the study of novels and essays from French African writers, and Medieval Literature. I am expected to graduate in the MA in Romance Languages at UNO in Fall 2021 and I should have completed all the required coursework by Summer 2021. This should only leave me with the Comprehensive examination to take in the Fall of 2021.

As for my research interests, my primary interests are mainly Colonial and Postcolonial studies. I am very interested in French Literature from Louisiana in the nineteenth century, particularly in the role played by the American assimilation in French Literature and its impact on writer’s production.

The study of African francophone writers in the 20th and 21st centuries is also a topic I am extremely interested in, especially the Literature from the “Migritude” movement and otherness issues provoked by the emigration of African writers. The representation of the polygamy in literature and Cinema is also a topic of predilection and I am currently working on an article that depicts the different representations of polygamy in the cinema of French-Senegalese Director Maïmouna Doucouré.

 I also have a keen interest for anything related to Children Literature, especially for books that were written in the 19th century by female French writers under the wing of the French Catholic church meant to offer an educational purpose to children through carefully selected stories. My curiosity extends also to different time periods such as the Medieval age with fabliaux like “Le roman de Renart”; I am particularly interested in the contemporary representation of the fox in Children literature as there have been many reinterpretations of “Le roman de Renart” in the 20th and 21st centuries aimed at a younger audience under the forms of novels and comics.

In relation to my initial area of research, I am extremely interested in Jewish French writers evocating memory trauma from the Holocaust such as Charlotte Dalbo or Patrick Modiano. The representation of Shoah trauma in Contemporary French cinema with directors such as Martine Dugowson is also an area I would be keen on exploring further.

I am also sensible to female autobiographic work by writers such as Annie Ernault or more recently Violaine Huisman that both refer to the parental figure in the construction of their autobiographical work.

I am very keen on joining the XXX programme as I strongly believe it offers an interdisciplinary approach that would be suited for me to explore and strengthen my research interests. I have previously contacted Dr XXX in September 2020 who confirmed that my research interests would be welcomed in the French department. As XXX is currently offering additional portfolios, I would like to seize the opportunity in adding academic enrichment programmes from the Interdisciplinary European studies portfolio or exploring new interests such as Women’s and gender studies that would be both useful for the research interests I have previously mentioned. I also look forward to discovering the numerous French manuscripts and archives located at the XXX.

I am also excited at the opportunity of receiving training and support in teaching the French language and possibly other courses in the future. I am currently subbing at a French IB school in Round Rock when needed. I don’t have any formal training but I have built some experience in teaching French with student of different levels. I also currently work as a translator so I have a good grasp of the grammatical rules in French and I am able to explain them.

I also have published several short stories that received prizes or recognition from Magazines, radio or publications, so I am hoping as well that I could potentially be involved in creative writing courses or contribute to the publication of a French journal at XXX that would showcase French writing work.

My aim in short and long-term is to develop the necessary skills in order to become a leading researcher in French Studies and to contribute to the comprehension of past and future literary works. I strongly feel that the French studies programme at XXX could definitely help me to achieve my goals.