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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

01/09/2020 – 31/08/2023

Secondary School Teacher in Economics and Social Sciences (Full-time)

Lycée Autogéré de Paris, France

01/09/2019 – 31/12/2019

Course Instructor (Chargée de TD)

Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, France

Introduction to Sociology and Anthropology (36 hours)

01/09/2018 – 31/08/2019

Secondary School Teacher in Philosophy (Full-time)

Lycée Autogéré de Paris, France

01/02/2016 – 31/08/2017

Research Assistant

Burning Progeny Project, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)-funded international research project investigating the transnational development of the Burning Man network in Europe.

01/09/2016 – 31/12/2016

Course Instructor (Chargée de TD)

University of Picardy Jules Verne, France

Anthropology of Contemporary Worlds (36 hours)

01/09/2015 – 30/06/2016

Course Instructor (Chargée de TD)

Nantes Université, France

Contemporary Sociological Theory (54 hours)

Pedagogical Innovation

2020–2023

Developed an active, student-centred and supportive pedagogical approach in secondary education, notably through the co-supervision of the collective fieldwork project *Marches Utopiques*. The project combined immersive educational visits to self-governed communities, eco-villages, social movements and other alternative forms of collective organisation with ethnographic reflection, collaborative learning and student-led research.

EDUCATION

05/12/2025

PhD in Social Anthropology

École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE–PSL), Paris, France

Dissertation (in French): *Constructing and Deconstructing Burning Man: Work and Festivity within the Department of Public Works (DPW)*.

Supervisor: Professor Michael Houseman

01/07/2014

M.A. in Social Anthropology

École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris, France

Master's thesis (in French): *Encountering Burning Man*.

Supervisor: Professor Michel Agier

01/07/2013

M.A. in Philosophy

Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3 University, France

Master's thesis (in French): *Towards the Sublime: Profane Constructions and Sacred Dissolution*.

Supervisor: Professor Bernard Salignon

01/07/2012

M.A. in Psychology

Sorbonne Paris North University (formerly Université Paris 13), France

Master's thesis (in French): *Cooking: An Endless Experience*.

Supervisor: Professor Yoram Mouchenik

First-year Master's thesis (in French): *The Call of the Puppet*.

Supervisor: Professor Jean-Michel Hirt

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Doctoral Dissertation

Muguet, F. (2025). *Constructing and Deconstructing Burning Man: Work and Festivity within the Department of Public Works (DPW)*. PhD dissertation, École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE–PSL), Paris. DOI: 10.70675/e871dc7eza7d5z41c1za35fzfa67cc2453c1

<https://hal.science/tel-05682638>

Scientific contribution: Based on long-term ethnographic fieldwork, this dissertation provides the first comprehensive anthropological study of the Department of Public Works (DPW). It examines the relationships between ritual, collective work, community formation, and territorial appropriation at Burning Man, and lays the foundation for my current comparative research on transformative collective experiences.

Peer-reviewed Publications and Conference Proceedings

Muguet, F. (2016). « *Burning Man, la création d'une ville sur-mesure, condition de possibilité à l'expérience de la démesure* ». In *Actes du 2e Congrès de l'Association Française d'Ethnologie et d'Anthropologie (AFEA) : La démesure*.

Available in HAL: <https://hal.science/hal-05495276>

Scientific contribution: Examines how the spatial and organisational design of a temporary city shapes the conditions for intense and potentially transformative collective experiences.

Muguet, F. (2016). « *Le Visionary Art dans les festivals transformationnels. La place de la lumière dans le cheminement de l'œuvre à travers l'expérience perceptive visuelle et/ou visionnaire* ». *Bulletin de l'École Pratique des Hautes Études*.

Available in HAL: <https://hal.science/hal-05498260>

Scientific contribution: Explores visual perception and visionary experience in contemporary ritual environments from an anthropological and phenomenological perspective.

SELECTED RESEARCH OUTPUTS

DPW Storybook

Open-access digital ethnographic platform. Creator and scientific editor. Documents the collective memory of Burning Man pioneers and members of the Department of Public Works (DPW) through interviews and photographs.

NeoAnthropology

Open-access digital ethnographic platform. Creator and scientific editor. Dedicated to the anthropology of contemporary ritual practices, transformational festivals, and art.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Upcoming

"From 'Religious Experience' to Conditions of Self-Transformation: Towards a Relational Approach." Panel *Spiritual, Nonordinary, Transformative: New Interpretations of Religious Experiences* (Sára Eszter Heidl & Zsuzsanna Szugyczkí). **EASR Annual Conference**, Bucharest, Romania, 20–25/09/2026 (*accepted*).

« Produire la confiance globale : le darshan d'Amma comme dispositif rituel et relationnel incarné ». **4th International Congress of the French Association of Ethnology and Anthropology (AFEA)**, *Confiance / méfiance / défiance*, Marseille, France, 28–30/10/2026 (*accepted*).

« Le Death Guild Thunderdome : jouer avec le risque. Un dispositif rituel de transformation de soi à Burning Man ». **Metanoia Symposium 2026 – Risk**, FLD/C3RD, Université Catholique de Lille, Lille, France, 14–15/12/2026 (*accepted*).

"Aisthema: An Analytical Concept in Development for Understanding the Mechanisms of Transformative Experience." Panel *Ritual Experience and Meaning-Making in Euro-American Contemporary Collective Practices* (co-convened with Sára Eszter Heidl, University of Vienna). **ISSR/SISR International Conference**, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 15–20/02/2027 (*accepted*).

Presented

"From Amma's Darshan to Aisthemagenesis: Towards a New Heuristic Concept to Understand How Transformative Experiences Are Produced." **ATINER Annual International Conference on Anthropology and Demography**, Athens, Greece, 15-16/06/2026.

"Burning Man, an Alternative to Capitalism? From the 'City in the Desert' to 'a Network of Dreamers and Doers', Navigating from Full-on Corporation to Co-working Initiatives." **32nd SASE Annual Conference**, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (online), 18–21/07/2020.

« *Quelle heure est-il ? "It's Playa Time..." Quelles temporalités au Burning Man ?* » **32nd FER-EURETHNO Conference & 2nd SIEF Francophone Working Group Conference**, Łódź, Poland (online), 12–14/06/2020.

« *Le Burning Man, du festival dans le désert aux French Burners. Entre bénévolat, emploi, délégation et représentation. Quel engagement pour l'ethnographe ?* » **Ethnographies et Engagements (Ethnographies plurielles #7)**, University of Rouen, France, SEF, CETAPS, DYSOLAB & NIMEC, 08–10/11/2017.

« *Entre "Leaving No Trace" et "Leaving No Trash" à Burning Man/Black Rock City, depuis la perspective d'un participant "burner" ou d'un ouvrier "DPW"* » **34th ISSR/SISR International Conference**, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, 04–07/07/2017.

"Burning Man, a Complex Range of Dwelling from a 'City in the Desert' to 'a Network of Dreamers and Doers', Navigating from Full-on Corporation to Co-Working Initiatives." **29th SASE Annual Conference**, Lyon, France, 29/06–01/07/2017.

"Welcome Home! or Fuck Your Burn!: The Distinct Ways of Dwelling at Burning Man, from Being a Participant (Burner) or a City Builder (DPW)." **13th SIEF Congress**, Göttingen, Germany, 26–30/03/2017.

"Burning Man to Bhakti Fest: The Logic of Desire and the Logic of Ritual in the Use of Deconditioning from Customary Practices." **SIEF Ritual Year Working Group – Regulating Custom**, Findhorn, Scotland, 08-12/01/2016.

"Immediacy of Experience and Spiritual Phenomenon at Burning Man Festival." **33rd ISSR/SISR International Conference**, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, 02–05/07/2015.

« *Burning Man, la création d'une ville sur-mesure, condition de possibilité à l'expérience de la démesure* » **2nd Congress of the French Association of Ethnology and Anthropology (AFEA)**, Toulouse, France, 29/06–02/07/2015.

"Burning Man Festival: The Individual Experience of a Shift of Consciousness in a Collective Utopian Context." **12th SIEF Congress**, Zagreb, Croatia, 21–25/06/2015.

ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP

15/02/2027–20/02/2027

Co-convenor, *Ritual Experience and Meaning-Making in Euro-American Contemporary Collective Practices* (with Sára Eszter Heidl, University of Vienna), **ISSR/SISR International Conference**, *Worlds at the Brink: Religion, Performativity and Future-Making*, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

04/06/2026–Present

Board Member, French Association of Anthropologists (AFA).

Academic memberships: International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR/SISR); French Association of Ethnology and Anthropology (AFEA); European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR); International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF); European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA); Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).

SELECTED ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELDWORK

2009–Present

Ethnographic research on Burning Man and its transnational communities. Participant observation at Burning Man, United States (2009–2015); long-term fieldwork within the Department of Public Works (2016–2018); multi-sited research among the French Burners (Crème Brûlée, 2016–present) and Swiss Burners (*Burning Progeny Project*, 2016–2017).

2016–Present

Ethnographic research on Amma's European tours in France. Participant observation of Amma's *darshan* (2016–2019) and related activities (2026).

2023–Present

Ethnographic research on restorative justice (France).

2026–Present

Ethnographic research on Mullet Festivals (France and Belgium).

RESEARCH FUNDING

2017 AMID International Mobility Grant, EPHE (€4,000)

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Public Engagement

2014–2024

Co-designed, co-organised and facilitated a ten-year series of **36 public philosophy workshops** with Evelyne Gabriel for general audiences at the Maison Pour Tous and the Municipal Library of Meudon-la-Forêt (Greater Paris), fostering participatory discussions on philosophical questions in ethics, politics, aesthetics and contemporary society while promoting dialogue between academic research and wider audiences.

Open Science

Developed the open-access platforms **DPW Storybook** and **NeoAnthropology** to disseminate ethnographic research and interviews on Burning Man and transformational festivals to academic and non-academic audiences. Research outputs are deposited in HAL whenever possible. **Applicant for the 2026 French Open Science Award (Prix Science Ouverte)**