



Conférence sur la Francophonie

March 22, 2017

1pm – 3pm

Florida International University

Salle SASC 160
1401 SW 108 Ave.
Modesto Maidique Campus
Miami, Florida 33199



Subject: The French language in the digital age: new language, new spaces, new cultures?

Context and discussion:

Inspired by the national French contest “Dis-moi dix mots”, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in partnership with the Consulate of Haiti and the Consulate of Canada launched a contest for elementary, middle, high school and universities in Florida. The subject this year is the French language in the digital age.

This theme questions the evolution of the French language in a world marked by Anglophone software tools and concepts: “cloud”, “e-mail”, “post” ... Do these words keep their meaning when they are translated into French? Do their French expression bring a new dimension to the digital lexicon?

In the same way, we could question the francophone geopolitical perception in the digital age: From a social, cultural or geopolitical perspective, does the digital world bring together francophone spaces around the world? Can we strengthen these links within the digital world? What is the position that francophone countries have online? What role do francophone countries play regarding the development of new technologies?

Conference Schedule

1pm-1.15pm: Opening by the Consul General of France in Miami, Mr. Clément Leclerc

- Opening Speech:
« *Francophonie and diplomacy* ».
- Presentation of the speakers.

1.15pm-2pm: Interventions about « The French language in the digital world: new spaces, new language, new culture ? »

- Mr. Peter Machonis (USA), Professor of French and Linguistics at Florida International University:
“*How have the Francophonie and the digital world changed the French language?*”
- Ms. Jessica Fièvre (Haiti), Author:
“*Modernity and Reinvention: How to stay faithful to the French language in North America?*”
- Ms. Geraldine Blattner (Switzerland), Professor of French and Linguistics at Florida Atlantic University:
“*Tweetsmart: A new way of complementing the lack of sociopragmatic elements in language’s textbooks.*”
- Mr. Yvan Sinotte (Canada), Journalist :
« *The francophone press in the social media: challenges and opportunities.*”

2pm – 2.45 pm: Questions and Answers.

2.45 pm – 3pm: Conclusion and Announcement.

- Closing comments by the Consul general of France, Mr. Clément Leclerc.
- Announcement of results of the Florida Contest « Dis-moi dix mots » by the General Consul of France in Miami, Mr. Clément Leclerc.

Thank you to our generous donors for the gifts for the contest:
French Embassy Cultural Services, General Consulates of Haiti and Canada
As well as Club Med Miami and Books&Books



Biographies

Clément LECLERC (France), General Consul of France in Miami.

Clément Leclerc assumed office as Consul General of France in Miami on September 2016, he served as First Counselor, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of France in Mexico (2012-2016). After his services as First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New-York (2006-2009), he joined the Office of the President of the French Republic as Advisor for Sub-Saharan Africa in 2009. Clément Leclerc, who holds a Master in International Law, is also a graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Studies and of the French National School of Government (ENA).

Peter MACHONIS (USA), Professor of French Linguistics at Florida International University.

Peter Machonis is a French and Linguistics professor and Honors Fellow at Florida International University. Author of two books on the history and evolution of the French language, Professor Machonis is currently focusing on the diversity of socio-linguistic situations where French is spoken outside of France. In addition, he builds databases of English idiomatic expressions used in Lexicon-Grammar and Natural Language Processing (NLP).

Jessica FIEVRE (Haïti), Writer and Publishing Manager of *Sliver of Stone Magazine*. She is a novelist with a Master Degree in Creative Writing that was born in Port-au-Prince. Michèle Jessica Fièvre is the Publishing Manager of *Sliver of Stone Magazine* in the United States. Several magazines and anthologies have published her poems and short stories, including *Haïti Noir*, issued by Edwidge Danticat and *Une journée haïtienne*, issued by Thomas Spear. M.J. is the author of *A Sky the Color of Chaos* (Beating Windward, 2015).

Géraldine BLATTNER (Suisse), Associate French and Linguistics Professor at Florida Atlantic University.

Géraldine Blattner is a Swiss native who has obtained her Ph.D. (2007) in French and Applied Linguistics from Pennsylvania State University. She also holds a master's degree in TESOL and in French literature from the University of Mississippi (2002). Her interests are new technologies as tools for communication and for language learning and teaching, electronic French discourse, sociolinguistics, SLA and psycholinguistics. At FAU, she has been teaching a variety of undergraduate classes, including *Culture et Société*, Structure of Modern French, French Sociolinguistics, French Phonetics and Pronunciation, and Introduction to Linguistics. She also teaches different graduate seminars about Linguistics' principles, history and dialectology of French. In 2011 she received one of the eight awards for Excellence and Innovation in Undergraduate Teaching from FAU.

Yvan SINOTTE (Canada), Journalist.

M. Yvain Sinotte carried out his professional career in Quebec, before engaging syndicalism with the Fédération nationale des communications of CSN as Managing Director of Radio-Canada (SCRC-CSN). He served as Advisor and Director of Information for the CSN. Nowadays, Yvan Sinotte is retired, but he continues to study the American, Caribbean and Antillean socio-political context.

