

Kenneth Loisel

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History Department
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Education

Yale University, Ph.D. in History, May 2007. Awarded the Hans Gatzke Prize for the outstanding dissertation in European history.

Yale University, M.A. in French literature, May 2001.

Middlebury College, B.A. in French literature and history, May 1998. Departmental honors in both departments.

Books and Edited Volumes

Brotherly Love: Freemasonry and Male Friendship in Enlightenment France (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2014).

Reviewed in *H-France*, *French History*, *American Historical Review*, *IHR Reviews*, *Francia: Forschungen zur westeuropäischen Geschichte*, *Journal for Research into Freemasonry and Fraternalism*, *Journal of Modern History*, *Gender & History*, *English Historical Review*, *Annales: Histoire, Sciences Sociales*, *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*

Co-editor, *Diffusions et circulations des pratiques maçonniques, XVIII^e–XIX^e siècle* (Paris: Editions Garnier, 2012).

Current and Future Research Projects

Co-author with Pierre-Yves Beaurepaire, “The Masonic Experience: Secrecy, Selfhood, and Society in Eighteenth-Century France.” Completed manuscript (c.103,000 words) under review. Wrote 4.5 chapters (out of 7) and translated all other material from French to English.

A History of Pet Keeping in France, 1500 to the Present.

Refereed Articles

“Alcohol and Its Discontents in Eighteenth-Century France: The Case of Freemasonry,” revise and resubmit to *The Social History of Alcohol and Drugs: An Interdisciplinary Journal (SHAD)*.

“Freemasonry and the Catholic Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century France,” in *The Journal of Modern History* (September 2022). Accessible online at: <https://doi.org/10.1086/721027>

“Living the Enlightenment in an Age of Revolution: Freemasonry in Bordeaux, 1788-1794,” in *French History* (March 2010). Accessible online at: <http://fh.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/crp067>

“‘Nouveaux mais vrais amis’: la Franc-maçonnerie et les rites de l’amitié au dix-huitième siècle,” in *Dix-huitième Siècle* 39 (2007): 303-318. Accessible online at: <http://www.cairn.info/revue-dix-huitieme-siecle-2007-1-page-303.htm>

Refereed Chapters in Edited Volumes

“L’expérience maçonnique à l’épreuve de la Révolution,” in [*Title not yet determined*], eds. Jérôme Jambu et Bernard Michon (Rouen and Le Havre: Presses Universitaires de Rouen et du Havre, 2028).

“Friendship,” in *A Cultural History of Love in the Age of Enlightenment*, eds. Katie Barclay and Sally Holloway (London: Bloomsbury, 2025).

“Franc-maçonnerie et culte de l’amitié en Angleterre et en France,” in *La fabrication de la franc-maçonnerie française: Histoire, sociabilité et rituels, 1725-1745*, ed. Thierry Zarcone (Paris: Dervy Livres, 2017).

“Friendship and Loyalty in Early Modern Europe,” in *Binding and Breaking: Creating Communities of Friendship and Patronage* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2014).

“De l’honnête homme à l’homme sensible: l’évolution de l’amitié maçonnique au siècle des Lumières,” in *L’Amitié dans les écrits du for privé et les correspondances, du Moyen Âge à 1914*, ed. Maurice Daumas (Pau: Presses Universitaires de Pau, 2014).

With Gilles Montègre and Charlotta Wolff, “Autoreprésentation et partage affectif dans les correspondances européennes de l’âge classique aux Lumières,” in *Circulations, territoires et réseaux en Europe de l’âge classique aux Lumières*, ed. Pierre-Yves Beaurepaire (Paris: Belin, 2014).

“‘Un nœud d’amitié’ entre un curé et un médecin botanistes. Amitié et circulation du savoir en Dauphiné prérévolutionnaire,” in *Circulations, territoires et réseaux en Europe de l’âge classique aux Lumières*, ed. Pierre-Yves Beaurepaire (Paris: Belin, 2014).

“To Enter into Communication is to Uphold a Friendship: Affectivity and the Communication of Knowledge between Dominique Chaix and Dominique Villars, 1772-1799,” in *Entrer en communication de l’âge classique aux Lumières*, eds. Pierre-Yves Beaurepaire and Héloïse Hermant (Paris: Classiques Garnier, 2013).

“Just Friends: Freemasonry, Women and the Culture of Male Friendship in Eighteenth-Century France,” in *Diffusions et circulations des pratiques maçonniques, XVIII^e – XIX^e siècle*, eds.

Pierre-Yves Beaurepaire, Kenneth Loiselle, Jean-Marie Mercier and Thierry Zarcone (Paris: Classiques Garnier, 2012).

“La correspondance entre francs-maçons au siècle des Lumières: témoignage sur l’histoire de l’amitié,” in *Colloque: Archive épistolaire et Histoire*, eds. Mireille Bossis and Lucia Bergamasco (Paris: Editions Connaissances et Savoirs, 2007), 189-202.

Dictionary and Encyclopedia Entries

“Amitié,” in *La Franc-maçonnerie au quotidien*, ed. Pierre-Yves Beaurepaire (Paris: Armand Colin, 2014).

“Bertin du Rocheret,” in *La Franc-maçonnerie au quotidien*, ed. Pierre-Yves Beaurepaire (Paris: Armand Colin, 2014).

“Révolution française,” in *La Franc-maçonnerie au quotidien*, ed. Pierre-Yves Beaurepaire (Paris: Armand Colin, 2014).

“French Revolution,” in *France and the Americas: Culture, Politics and History. A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia*, ed. William Marshall (Santa Barbara: ABC-Clio, 2005), 482-88.

“Jean-Baptiste du Tertre,” in *France and the Americas: Culture, Politics and History. A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia*, ed. William Marshall (Santa Barbara: ABC-Clio, 2005), 1118-19.

Book Reviews

Pamela A. Popielarz, *Order of Business: The Golden Age of Fraternity and Its Legacy of Inequality* (UNC Press, 2026), for the *Society for US Intellectual History*, 2026.

Reva Wolf and Alisa Luxenberg (eds.), *Freemasonry and the Visual Arts from the Eighteenth Century Forward: Historical and Global Perspectives* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2019), for *H-France Review*, 2023.

Chloë Duflo-Ciccotelli, *La franc-maçonnerie en Guadeloupe, miroir d’une société coloniale en tensions (1770-1848)* (Bordeaux: Presses Universitaires de Bordeaux, 2021), for *Francia-Recensio*, 2023. Accessible online at: <https://journals.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/frrec/article/view/94368/89243>

Nina Rattner Gelbart, *Minerva’s French Sisters: Women of Science in Enlightenment France* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2021), for *H-France Review*, 2022. Accessible online at: https://h-france.net/vol22reviews/vol22no148_Loiselle.pdf

Charles Walton, ed., *Into Print: Limits and Legacies of the Enlightenment. Essays in Honor of Robert Darnton* (University Park: Penn State University Press, 2011), for *H-France Reviews*, 2014. Accessible online at: <https://www.h-france.net/vol14reviews/vol14no140loiselle.pdf>

Maurice Daumas, *Des Trésors d'Amitié: De la Renaissance aux Lumières* (Paris: Armand Colin, 2011), for *Revue historique*, 2014. Accessible online at: <https://www.cairn.info/revue-historique-2014-3-page-675.htm#pa51>

Harry Liebersohn, *The Return of the Gift: European History of a Global Idea* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011), for *H-France Reviews*, 2011. Accessible online at: <https://www.h-france.net/vol11reviews/vol11no217Loiselle.pdf>

Siméon-Prosper Hardy, *Mes Loisirs, ou Journal d'événemens tels qu'ils parviennent à ma connoissance (1753-1789)*, Vol. I (1753-1770), eds. Pascal Bastien and Daniel Roche (Presses de l'Université de Laval, 2008), for *H-France Reviews*, 2010. Accessible online at: <https://www.h-france.net/vol10reviews/vol10no19loiselle.pdf>

Richard R. Yeo, *Encyclopaedic Visions: Scientific Dictionaries and Enlightenment Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), for *The Eighteenth Century: A Current Bibliography*, 2005.

Public Outreach Pieces

“Regeneration not Revolution: Freemasonry in Enlightenment France,” in *Fraternal Review* (forthcoming 2026).

Expert Interviewee, “Dans les secrets des Francs-Maçons.” 80-minute documentary for RMC Story (Televised on 25 January 2022): <https://vimeo.com/643613644> (password: FM)

“From Enlightenment to Revolution,” in *California Freemason* (May/June 2017).

“Conspirators or Patriots?” in *California Freemason* (September/October 2016).

“Le triomphe du complot,” in *Le Magazine Littéraire* 560 (October 2015): 92-3.

“Lumières, Révolution et franc-maçonnerie : le cas de l'Anglaise de Bordeaux,” in *Renaissance Traditionnelle* 156 (2009): 249-266.

Other

Co-translation of Spanish into English: Gisela Heffes, *Sophie La Belle and The Miniature Cities/ Sophie La Belle y las ciudades en miniatura* (Houston: Literal Publishing, 2016).

Invited Lectures (Academic)

“La Franc-maçonnerie face aux conspirations pendant la Révolution française.” Conference: State of International Research on Freemasonry. Lyon, 2028.

“The Catholic Enlightenment in a Critical Mode: Freemasonry and the Wider Associational World in Eighteenth-Century France.” Conference: The Catholic Enlightenment in Europe,

the Americas, and Australia (1700-1840). Washington University in Saint Louis, 20-21 September 2024.

Keynote lecture: "The Ritual Process in Eighteenth-Century France." Conference: Freemasonry and Civil Society, UCLA, 3-5 March 2017.

"Christianity and the Masonic Ritual Journey in Eighteenth-Century France." Enlightenment Science and Religion Symposium, Washington University in St. Louis, 4 December 2015.

"L'amitié masculine. Frontières de l'altérité et rapport au monde dans la France des Lumières." Maison des Sciences de l'Homme et de la Société Sud-Est, 27 April 2015.

"De l'honnête homme à l'homme sensible: l'amitié maçonnique au siècle des Lumières." Conference: L'amitié dans les écrits du for privé du Moyen Age à 1914, Université de Pau (France), 31 May 2013.

Keynote lecture: "Friendship and Loyalty in Early Modern Europe." Conference: *Gemeinschaften: Freundschaft und Patronage zwischen Bindungen und Brüchen*, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg (Germany), 4-6 October 2012.

Invited Lectures (Public Outreach/Undergraduate Audiences)

"The Enlightenment and the French Revolution." Syracuse University (HST 122 (Global History: 1750-Present)), 26 January 2022.

"Freemasonry in the Age of Revolution, 1775-1800." Bozeman Lodge #18, Bozeman, MT, 4 October 2019.

"Tradition and Assimilation in Modern Times: Kashrut and the Question of Citizenship in France, from the Eighteenth Century to the Present." United Orthodox Synagogues, Houston, TX, 9 June 2019.

"Jews and Eighteenth-Century Freemasonry: Toleration Revisited." United Orthodox Synagogues, Houston, TX, 20 May 2018.

"Masonic Political Thought in France from the Enlightenment to the Revolution." Doric Lodge No. 420, 27 October 2017.

"Masonic Friendship in Eighteenth-Century France: From Enlightenment to Revolution." Pennsylvania Academy of Masonic Knowledge, Elizabethtown, PA, 17 October 2015.

Conference Papers (selected)

"15 lodges in the Revolution." Society for French Historical Studies, Philadelphia, PA, 2 March 2026.

“The Masonic Response to Conspiracy in the French Revolution.” Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, Auburn, AL, 28 February 2025.

“Revolutionary Transformations and Continuities in the Christian Enlightenment: The Case of Freemasonry in France, 1789-94.” Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, Atlanta, GA, 28 February 2019.

“The Masonic Signature in Eighteenth-Century France.” Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, Philadelphia, March 2018.

“Letter Writing and Masonic Sociability in Eighteenth-Century France.” Annual Conference of the American Historical Association, Denver, CO, 6 January 2017.

“Adoption Lodges and the Specter of Sodomy in Old Regime Freemasonry.” Annual Conference of the Western Society for French History, Atlanta, GA, 25 October 2013.

“Masonic Friendship in the French Revolution.” Reappraising Revolution: France and Haiti, Rice University, Houston, 20 April 2012.

“Classical Republicanism in the Old Regime Freemasonry.” Workshop of the Humanities Research Center, Rice University, Houston, 26 January 2012.

“Freemasonry and the Problem of Secrecy in Enlightenment France.” Annual Conference for the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, 15 March 2010.

Honors and Awards (selected)

Cultures and Languages Across the Curriculum (CLAC) Course Development Grant, 2026.

Fellow-by-Courtesy, History Department, Johns Hopkins University, from 2025.

Research Grant, Princeton University Library, 2023.

Fulbright Research Award, J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, 2021.

Summer Research Grant, Faculty Development Grant Committee, Trinity University, 2017, 2019, 2022, 2026.

Lynette S. Autrey and NEH External Faculty Fellow, Humanities Research Center, Rice University, 2011-2012.

Travel Grant, German Historical Institute/Franco-German University (FGU), Paris, France, July 2011.

Professor Recognition, Blue Key Leadership Honor Society (Student Group), May 2011.

University Nominee, NEH Summer Stipend, 2010.

Hans Gatzke Prize (Awarded to one graduate student for the outstanding dissertation in European history), Yale University, May 2007.

Affiliated Research Fellow, Center for the Early Modern and Modern Mediterranean, University of Nice, from January 2007.

Travel and Research Grant, (Awarded to one graduate student at Yale for dissertation research in France), Georges Lurcy Charitable and Educational Trust, 2004-2005.

Teaching Experience

Visiting Associate Professor of French, Johns Hopkins University (2023-2025)

Visiting Associate Professor, Rice University (fall 2015)

Associate Professor of History, Trinity University (2014-present)

Lynette S. Autrey Visiting Assistant Professor of French Studies, Rice University (2011-2012)

Assistant Professor of History, Trinity University (2008-2014)

Lecturer of History, University of Oklahoma (2007-2008)

Teacher of Practice, University of New Haven (2006-2007)

Courses Taught (at Trinity University unless otherwise noted)

First-Year Experience (Writing and Research Seminar)

Science Fiction

First-Year Writing Seminar

HUMA 103 (Rice University): The French and Haitian Revolutions

First-Year Seminar

AS.001.226 (Johns Hopkins): Science Fiction

Introductory Surveys

Early Modern Europe

Early Modern Europe and the World (Johns Hopkins)

Modern Europe (Trinity in Berlin Summer Program)

Western Civilization, 1648-present (Univ. of Oklahoma; University of New Haven)

Methods Seminar

Animals in Europe since 1500 (part of the Environmental Studies minor)

Upper-Division Seminars

The Enlightenment

French Empire in the Americas

The History of Paris (part of the Urban Studies major)
Paris: La biographie d'une ville (in French)
The French Revolution
Penser l'Animal de l'Ancien Régime à la Belle Époque (Johns Hopkins) (in French)
Le Québec de la Nouvelle France à la Révolution Tranquille : Littérature, Histoire, Société (Johns Hopkins) (in French)
Le siècle des Lumières (Rice University) (in French)

Capstone Research Seminars

Early Modern France, 1610-1788
French Revolution

Recent Mentorship of Undergraduate and Graduate Students

External committee member, Ph.D. dissertations: Demetrio Xoccato, Université Côte d'Azur (December 2025); Séverine Dupuis, Université Côte d'Azur (June 2026).

Award-winning undergraduate work: John (Jack) Keltner, 2020 Detweiler Prize (papers over 15 pages) for "Blaise Pascal: The Sacred and the Profane" (HIST 4430); Ariel Monsen, 2023 Hendricks Prize (papers 15 pages or less) for "An Empirical Approach to Voltaire's Micromégas, Or How Locke Inspired a Science Fiction Story from the Enlightenment" (HIST 3435)

Service to the Profession

Visiting Fellowship in Assessment: AP European History.

Peer-reviewer (monographs): Palgrave Macmillan.

Peer-reviewer (journal articles): *Emotions: History, Culture, Society*; *French History*; *Intellectual History Review*; *The Journal of the Western Society for French History*; *Politics, Religion & Ideology*; *French Colonial History*; *Journal of World History*.

Peer-reviewer (textbooks): Bedford/St. Martin's Press, McGraw-Hill.

Peer-reviewer (scholarships, grant proposals, paper prizes): The Fulbright Foundation, The Millstone Fellowship for the Western Society for French History, The Gargan Prize for the Western Society for French History, Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen, FWO, Israel Science Foundation (ISF).

Editorial Board: Trinity University Press (2016-20), "Les Franc-maçonneries" series of Classiques Garnier Press (since 2012), "Cultural History and Literary Imagination" series of Peter Lang Oxford (since 2012), Cahiers de la Méditerranée (since 2022).

Hotel Coordinator, Western Society for French History, 2016-2019.

Conference Organizer: Annual Conference for the Western Society for French History, San Antonio meeting, fall 2014; Reappraising Revolution: France and Haiti, Rice University Humanities Research Center, April 2012; Diffusions et circulations des pratiques maçonniques en Europe et en Méditerranée, Université de Nice, July 2009 (co-organized).

Academic Committee, International Conference on the History of Freemasonry (ICHF), 2011-2014.

Member, Program Committee, Society for French Historical Studies Conference (St. Louis, 2009), 2008-2009.

Service to the Community (since tenure in 2014)

Debate Judge, Montgomery County (MD) Debate League, from fall 2023.

Guest lecturer in French 2, Keystone School, San Antonio, TX, 18 February 2022.

Guest lecturer in European history courses, Keystone School, San Antonio, TX, 18 February 2022.

Guest lecturer in AP French courses, Keystone School, San Antonio, TX, fall 2021.

Chair of the Board of Education, Robert Beren Academy, Houston, TX, 2016-2017.

Member, Executive Board, Robert Beren Academy, Houston, TX, 2016-2017.

Member, Executive Board, Houston Kasruth Association (HKA), 2014-17.

Member, Board, United Orthodox Synagogues, 2014-2015.

Service to the University (Outside of Advising) (since tenure in 2014)

Faculty Mentor, Mentor Village, 2025-2027.

Member, Academic Standing Committee, from fall 2025.

Member, Investigating Committee, 2025-2026.

Member, Assessment Committee (Michelle Byrne, Chairperson) for Understanding Diversity, Global Awareness, and Historical Perspectives, spring 2022.

Member, Commission on Promotion and Tenure, 2021-23, 2025-26.

Participant, Trinity in Berlin Summer Program, 2022.

Member, Lecturers and Visiting Scholars Committee (LVSC), 2020-2023.

Member, Editorial Board, Trinity University Press, 2016-20.

Member, Faculty Grievance Committee, 2016.

Member, Faculty Advisory Board, Collaborative for Learning and Teaching, 2013-2015.

Interviewer of Prospective Trinity Students in Houston, Trinity University Admissions Office, 2013-18.

Member, Steering Committee of Mellon Foundation Grant, 2013-2016, 2022-2023.

Service to the Department (since tenure in 2014)

Job Search Committees:

Member, VAP in African History, 2023.

Chair, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Latin American history, 2018-19.

Chair, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Colonial US, 2017-18.

Other Committee Involvement:

Member, Annual Assessment Task Force, 2016-2022.

Member, Paper Prize Committees, 2014-2020, 2022, 2025-26.

Languages

Near native-ability French (written and spoken); basic reading knowledge of Spanish, German, Old French and Latin.

References available upon request.