

The MIT Research Seminar in French and Francophone Studies presents

Identities, Communities, and Spaces

Fall 2013



Monday, September 23 at Harvard:

Sylvie Tissot

*Being gay-friendly in Park Slope and Le Marais:
a Comparative Study of New York and Paris*

4:15 PM, Cabot Room, Busch Hall, Harvard University

Discussants: Bruno Perreau, Assistant Professor of French Studies, MIT; Hilary Silver, Professor of Sociology and Urban Studies, Brown University

Same-sex marriage became legal in France in May 2013. Large protests against gay marriage erupted despite opinion polls revealing a growing acceptance of homosexuality. Tissot compares two neighborhoods—Le Marais in Paris and Park Slope in Brooklyn—to examine “gay-friendliness.” To what extent are gay-friendly attitudes shared in these communities? What underlies these attitudes? To what extent have they become the social marker of a specific social layer?

Sylvie Tissot is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Paris 8. Before studying gay-friendliness in Paris and New York, she did fieldwork on gentrification and upper middle class culture in Boston, and on urban policies in the outskirts of Paris. Her most recent book, *De bons voisins* (Good Neighbors. Researching Upper Middle Class Progressives), was published in French in 2011 and will be published in English in 2014.

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Thursday, October 3 at MIT:

Carolyn Dean

French Discourses about Jewish Memory in the 1980s and 90s
Building 14E-304

French intellectuals and journalists on the Left and Right used debates about Nazism and Stalinism to address the question of Jewish memory in the wake of the “Vichy Syndrome,” and fears of the emergence of a “new anti-Semitism.” Dean is a Professor of History at Yale specializing in the cultural and intellectual history of Europe as well as in gender and sexuality studies.

November 22 at Harvard:

Dominique Kalifa

A Transatlantic History of Urban Underworlds

Dominique Kalifa is a Professor of History, University Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne.

More details to be announced.

For more information: fl-events@mit.edu