

Born in France to Caribbean parents, Dr. Fabienne Kanor is a Marian Trygve Freed Early Career Professor in the department of French and Francophone Studies and an Associate-Professor of French and Francophone Studies at the Pennsylvania State University. An award-winning writer and filmmaker, she has directed several movies and published 8 books, including among others *D'eaux Douces* (2004), *Humus* (2006), *Je ne suis pas un homme qui pleure* (2016), *Louisiane* (2020), *La poétique de la cale : variations sur le bateau négrier* (October 2022), a transdisciplinary monography in which she examines the way the experience of the Middle Passage is represented in contemporary literary, cinematographic and artistic productions of Francophone Africa, the French West Indies and the United States. To be released in January 2024, *La grande chambre* is her new play. She is the author of numerous academic articles such “La grande hanchue in *Nouvelles Etudes Francophones*, Numéro 35.2, Fall 2022 and received prestigious literary prizes including, in 2022, the Aidoo-Snyder Book Prize for her novel *Humus*. Awarded by French Minister of Culture *Chevalier des Arts & des Lettres*, Kanor devotes her career to studying Race and Gender in France and in The French West Indies and West African Migrations in France. An attempt to tell the untold and show the hidden and the forgotten, part of her work deals with the traumatic effects of the transatlantic slave trade on the Africans and African descents. She has translated in French the Zora Neale Hurston’s book *Barracoon, the Story of the « Last Cargo »* (March 2019) and the new Wole Soyinka’s novel *Chronicles from the Land of Happiest People on Earth* (to be released in Fall 2023).

With the same desire to fill the blanks of colonial history, and with the partnership of The Museum d’Aquitaine The Foundation for Remembrance of Slavery and The Institut des Afriques, in France, she is currently developing a series of experimental documentaries « *Les contes de la cale* » related to the transatlantic slave trade and more specifically to the hold of the slave ship. Entitled *Et le grand trou noir où je voulais me noyer*, the first episode (42’) of her series has been selected and screened in May 2023 at the festival Cine Africano de Tangiers-Tarifa, in Morocco and Spain, and has marked the opening of the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade at the Museum of Aquitaine (Bordeaux, France).

As a writer, she participated in creating an audio guide and labels for the exhibition *Fictions of Emancipation: Carpeaux* Recast, which ran from March 2022 until March 2023 in New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art.