

New Books in French Studies Interview FAQs

First of all, many thanks for your interest in doing an interview with me! This sheet should answer most of your questions. If you have any other concerns, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Before the interview...

Do I have a copy of the book?

I only schedule interviews after I have actually received a copy of the book. I require a hard copy for review. Typically, authors give my contact information to the publisher and the latter sends a copy to me at the following address:

Dr. Roxanne Panchasi
Department of History
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC
Canada V5A 1S6

When will we do the interview?

If we haven't already set a time for an interview, we will as soon as possible. I typically have a waitlist of about several authors at any given time. In some cases, it may be a few to several months before we are able to do the interview. Please know that I will do my best to get to your book as quickly as both of our schedules allow.

What equipment will I need?

In terms of technical set-up, you will need a Skype account for the recording of the interview. We will use audio only (no video). My Skype handle is: rpanchasi. It's best that we add one another as contacts on Skype at least a few days before our scheduled interview. Please add me as a contact, or send me your username via e-mail as soon as you can. Please make sure that you have a pair of headphones to use during the recording. Headphones help with eliminating an echo when we record.

What can I do to prepare?

The best thing you can do to prepare is to listen to an interview or two. These can be accessed [here](#).

Tuning in is the easiest way to getting a sense of format, types of questions we will cover, etc. My interviews typically have my name in the byline. If you want to get a sense of my approach, it's probably best to take a listen to one of these rather than one of the ones that we regularly cross-post from other channels when they feature books with French/Francophone studies content.

The Interview...

How long will the recording session take?

A typical interview recording session will take up to about 90 minutes, including a chat beforehand, and a quick conversation following the interview itself. First, I will contact you via Skype (audio only) to record a brief test. We will talk for a few minutes, during which time you can ask any final questions you may have before we record the interview itself. Then, I will then disconnect, check that everything is recording properly, and call you back to begin recording the interview proper.

How will the interview begin?

I'll begin with my usual greeting to listeners and introduce you by name and title of the book only. I'll then ask you to provide whatever biographical information you would like (your personal and/or educational background, current institutional affiliation, etc.). What you choose to include is up to you, but this exchange is typically quite brief. You will also have an opportunity to speak about how you came to work on France and/or the subject of the book.

What about the interview format and types of questions?

As we move into talking about the book itself, I will typically ask a number of broad questions about the project and follow the order of the chapters (roughly) as we continue our conversation.

How long should my responses be?

Each question-response cycle should ideally run no longer than three minutes or so. This keeps listeners engaged and keeps the interview from becoming more like a lecture. I ask that you be aware of the length of your responses, but please don't worry terribly if a particular response requires a bit more time.

How should I pitch my responses?

Questions will be broad and I'll ask you to explain key concepts, events, etc. These interviews aren't debates, but rather opportunities for you to share your aims and approach to your work with an audience that may include other scholars, students, and even non-academics. I would ask that you keep all of these potential listeners in mind as you respond.

How will the interview end?

Somewhere around the 50-55 minute mark, I will begin to wrap up the interview by asking you about where your work has taken you since you published the book. Ideally, final interviews will run no more than 60 minutes in length.

What if something goes wrong?

You may need or want to stop for some reason. There may be a noise or some other interruption. We can work with all of this, cleaning up any major interruptions at the

editing stage. But generally, the idea is for us to just keep moving and continue our conversation as much as possible.

After the Interview...

Will the interview be edited?

With the recording done, I will do some very limited editing to get rid of any disruptive sounds or breaks in the interview. The ideal is to leave our conversation intact as much as possible, and editing will be minimal unless we've gone too far over time, or there are specific moments we decide not to include after recording.

When will the interview be posted online?

Typically, the interview will be posted within a few weeks (or so) following our conversation. I will also write a brief blurb for the podcast webpage where listeners can stream the interview. The blog post will include a link to your faculty page at your institution, and to the book's page at the press website. It will also include a link to the Amazon.com page for your book, and links to like/share the interview on Twitter, Facebook, GooglePlus, etc. The post will also include a photo of you. If the photo available via your faculty page is not the one you would like to see appear on the blog, please send me a high-quality JPEG for inclusion on the blog before our interview.

Will my interview be posted on other NBN channels?

Your interview will likely be cross-posted on one or more of the other New Books Network channel pages depending on what other themes or issues you deal with in your book. If you have a specific request along these lines, please let me know and I'll see what I can do. Please also let me know if you have agreed to speak about your book on any other podcasts. Given the way the network operates, it will not make sense for us to proceed with an interview if you are also doing another interview on another New Books channel.

How will the interview be advertised?

Once everything is up online, I will post the interview on Twitter, the Facebook page for NBFS, and H-France. You should feel free to share the link as widely as you would like, especially to any academic lists besides H-France that might be relevant. You don't have to listen to your own interview once it is posted, but please do let me know what you think if you do.

Thanks again for agreeing to be a part of the podcast. I look forward to speaking with you about your work, and to sharing our conversation with a wider audience.

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