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Il faut aussi que tu n'ailles point Choisir tes mots sans quelque méprise : Rien de plus cher que la chanson grise Où l'Indécis au Précis se joint.

Paul Verlaine
 Art poétique, 1884¹

ABOUT L'INDÉCIS AU PRÉCIS

L'Indécis au Précis (IP) is an annual, peer-reviewed journal that publishes undergraduate work on French and francophone cultural topics in the humanities and social sciences. Founded in 2018 by Andrea Arredondo, Nathaniel Bench, and Madeleine Britt, IP is among a handful of student-run, open-access journals across the University of California system, and prides itself in serving as a platform for original student scholarship and interdisciplinary dialogue.

IP offers students a space for contributing to the larger scholarly communities surrounding their academic pursuits. With an international appeal, the journal aims to showcase the full breadth of intellectual diversity brought to the fore by student research on the varied histories of the francophone world. Essays are published in both English and French.

Broadly, studies may respond to artistic, political, or theoretical developments within the French-speaking world during any historical moment. Our scope is deliberately flexible in order to sustain an interdisciplinary focus, promote exchange between student scholars, and share the benefits of diverse undergraduate research. *IP* accepts papers that employ a syncretic approach and those that are discipline-specific. We encourage authors to offer fresh perspectives on ill-defined phenomena and to recontextualize issues thought to be long-settled, thereby deconstructing the boundaries between the indeterminate (*l'Indécis*) and the determinate (*le Précis*).

The journal's title, derived from Paul Verlaine's 1884 poem *Art poétique*, plays on French grammatical standards to emphasize such an exchange. Verlaine uses the prepositional verb *se joindre* à—to join or to unite—to establish this relationship. By retaining the definite articles and eliminating the original verb, our title offers readers new flexibility. Different parts of speech may be inserted before the title—*de*, *où*, *quand*—just as different verbs—*se heurter* à, *se mêler* à, *s'unir* à—work with the phrase's ending. Operating in a liminal context, the title maintains fidelity to Verlaine's quote and provides an inviting sense of interpretive ambiguity for future authors.

For additional information, please visit https://escholarship.org/uc/lindecisauprecis. See also:

Department of French and Francophone Studies

https://french.ucla.edu

Paroles gelées, Selected Proceedings from the Annual French and Francophone Studies Graduate Conference

https://escholarship.org/uc/ucla french pg

¹ Paul Verlaine, Jaudis et naguère (Paris: Léon Vanier, 1884), 23-25.

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NOTE FROM THE EDITORS



Andrea Arredondo University of California, Los Angeles '20



Nathaniel Bench University of California, Los Angeles '20



Madeleine Britt University of California, Los Angeles '21

Dear reader,

It is our distinct privilege to present to you the inaugural volume of *L'Indécis au Précis*. Discussions began in fall of 2017 when we approached our teaching assistant in the Department of French and Francophone Studies, Nanar Khamo (PhD '18), about research at the undergraduate level. While the University offers a diverse range of programs through its Undergraduate Research Center, we noted that options for students seeking to make their work available to wider audiences were considerably limited. We investigated several student-run publications across the country and, with Nanar's encouragement, concluded that our academic community would benefit from a similar initiative. For Nanar's collegiality, enthusiasm, and mentorship, we dedicate this volume to her.

This small collection of essays is but a sample of the impressive work that undergraduate researchers of the francophone world produce regularly. We thank the authors for their patience and unyielding commitment to their research. We hope that their contributions will inspire new lines of inquiry suited for publication in the journal's future volumes.

To our team—thank you for your continued diligence throughout this exploratory journey. Your assiduity and collaboration have laid a secure foundation for the journal's future endeavors. This volume is a testament to the great intellectual sincerity that you afforded us.

Of course, this project would have been impossible without our wonderful faculty advisor, Laurence Denié-Higney. To her, we extend our warmest thanks for supporting a platform that will assuredly give students a voice for years to come.

All best,

Andrea Arredondo Nathaniel Bench Co-rédacteurs en chef **Madeleine Britt**Chef d'édition

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Dominic Thomas

Madeleine L. Letessier Professor and Chair of the Departments of French and Francophone Studies, Germanic Languages, Italian, and Scandinavian

UCLA Center for European and Russian Studies

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JOURNAL STAFF

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Johnny Ji

Graphics by Michelle Tu

Department of French and Francophone Studies University of California, Los Angeles 212 Royce Hall Los Angeles, CA 90095-1550

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