

UCLA

L'Indécis au Précis

Title

Note from the Advisor

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Il faut aussi que tu n'aïlles 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:

European Languages and Transcultural Studies Department

<https://elts.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 ADVISOR

Dear reader,

It is my distinct privilege to present to you the second volume of *L'Indécis au Précis*. This iteration is the result of my students' exceptional resilience and commitment to the journal. When we sat down Fall 2019 to talk about the second volume, we imagined a collection of short stories to explore students' creativity. Little did we know that a few months later, we would all be confined at home due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As courses were taught online, the *Indécis au Précis* students moved to online meetings and continued their work of selecting and revising stories. The process was a slow one as they had to learn to adapt to online courses and face unexpected challenges. But the editors never abandoned the project. When Maddie Britt graduated, she passed the baton to Thomas McDowell, who himself passed it to Sarah Fatkin. Each of them participated in the elaboration of this second volume. Finally, Théophile Gatté completed the work by formatting the three short stories. I dedicate this volume to all of the students, who, from the inception to today, were the driving force: Nathaniel Bench who founded the journal with Andrea Arredondo and Maddie Britt, Thomas McDowell and Sarah Fatkin. I also thank Théophile Gatté for doing the final touch-ups.

This small collection of short stories written in French is a sample of the remarkable creative work that UCLA undergraduates produced during the pandemic. I thank the authors for their incredible patience and willingness to share their creative work beyond the classroom.

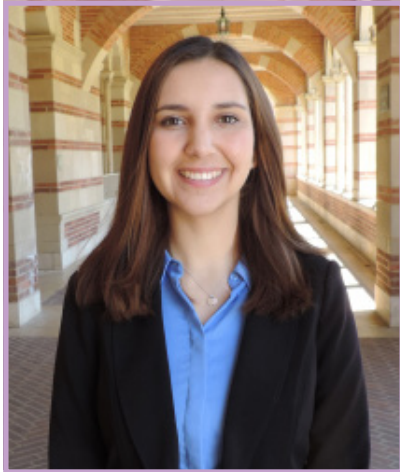
Another major change took place during the Covid pandemic: the Department of French and Francophone Studies merged with other UCLA language departments to become the European Languages and Transcultural Studies Department. Our new department offers rich opportunities to students, building bridges between languages and cultures. Future volumes of *Indécis au Précis* will encourage such dialogues, opening its pages to not only works on French and Francophone cultures but also on Germanic, Italian and Scandinavian cultures. We will encourage submissions exploring the experimental humanities, may it be the digital, environmental or medical humanities.

I hope you will enjoy reading these short stories, continue supporting our journal, and might even submit your work to *Indécis au Précis* for publication.

All best,

Laurence Denié-Higney
Indécis au Précis advisor

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