Françoise Lionnet is a scholar of French, Francophone and Comparative Literature, whose current research focuses on Indian Ocean literary, cultural, and historical studies, in relation to Atlantic and Caribbean Studies. She is interested in the longue durée of colonialism in those regions, and focuses on 18th to 21st century writers in books that include: The Known and the Uncertain: Creole Cosmopolitics of the Indian Ocean (Le su et l’incertain: Cosmopolitiques créoles de l’océan indien) (2012), Writing Women and Critical Dialogues (2012), and Postcolonial Representations: Women, Literature, Identity (1995).

Public Lecture
“Migrations, Islands, and the Creative Economy”
Thursday, October 13, 4:30-6:30 pm
Coolidge Room, Ballou Hall

By some estimates, one sixth of the world’s population will be migrants by the end of the next decade. Social scientists capture these changes with numbers to understand population movement, predict trends and the large-scale problems they create, while writers and visual artists give us the human stories that are a powerful point of entry into the concrete lives of individual migrants and their families. In this lecture, Professor Lionnet shares perspectives on recent artistic and literary works inspired by migrant crises in both the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean sea and focus more specifically on the Comoros archipelago and the island of Mayotte, that "ultra peripheral" region of "Europe," she considers the multilingual work of poet and dramatist Soeuf Elbadawi to test the critical effectiveness of literature in the world as agent of cultural change.

Professor Lionnet will also conduct a session for Mellon Sawyer Seminar fellows on Wednesday, October 12, 4:30-6:30, “Indian Ocean Creolizations, Empires, Archipelagoes.” If you would like to attend and wish to receive the readings for this seminar, please contact: Lisa.Lowe@Tufts.edu