This international conference will offer new perspectives on Caryl Phillips’s fifth novel *Crossing the River*, which is part of the syllabus for the Agrégation. Published in 1993 and the recipient of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize in 1994, *Crossing the River* weaves together four narratives of forced displacement and throws light on the slave trade in Africa in the 18th century, the journey back from America to Africa of emancipated slaves in the 19th century, the ordeal of a former slave turned frontierswoman and defeated pioneer in the American Wild West and the alienation of an Englishwoman and a black GI in England during the Second World War. Spanning three centuries and criss-crossing three continents, the novel raises questions relating to identity, belonging, uprootedness, responsibility, loss and nostalgia.

**Scientific committee**
- Catherine Delessel-Nancey, University of Lyon 3
- Vanessa Guignery, ENS de Lyon and IUF
- Christian Gutleben, University of Nice Sophia Antipolis

**Organising committee**
- Catherine Delessel-Nancey, University of Lyon 3
- Diane Gagneret, ENS de Lyon
- Vanessa Guignery, ENS de Lyon and IUF
- Christian Gutleben, University of Nice Sophia Antipolis
- Mathilde Le Glainche, ENS de Lyon
- Julia Siccardi, ENS de Lyon

http://conferences.vanessaguignery.com
Morning Session
Chair: Catherine DELESALE-NANCEY (University of Lyon 3)
09.30: Nicole TERRIEN (University of Rennes 1): “The answer is blowing in the wind: Emotion and the Rewriting of History in Caryl Phillips’s Crossing the River”
10.05: Christian GUTLEBEN (University of Nice - Sophia Antipolis): “écriture noire, écriture blanche : esthétique du (mé)tissage dans Crossing the River de Caryl Phillips”
10.40: Coffee Break
Chair: Judith MISRAHI-BARAK (University Paul Valéry - Montpellier 3)
11.10: Catherine PESSO-MIQUEL (Lumière University - Lyon 2): “Dit et non dit : ruptures et reprises dans Crossing the River de Caryl Phillips”
12.20-14.00: Lunch Break
Afternoon session
Chair: Christian GUTLEBEN (University of Nice - Sophia Antipolis)
14.00: Mélanie JOSEPH-VILAIN (University of Bourgogne): “For beyond this trading community lies family life: filiation et écriture dans Crossing the River de Caryl Phillips”
14.35: Eleanor BYRNE (Manchester Metropolitan University): “Queering the Black Atlantic in Jackie Kay’s Trumpet and Caryl Phillips’s Crossing the River”
15.10: Josiane RANGUIN (University of Paris 13 - Sorbonne): “The ‘High Anxiety’ of Belonging” in Caryl Phillips’s Crossing the River (1993) and Steve McQueen’s 12 Years a Slave (2013)“
16.00: End of the conference