JANE M. MONTONEN entered the Ph.D. program in Comparative Studies in 2005 looking to explore diverse and complementary approaches to literature, cultural studies, and feminism. Jane was always interested in literature studies, especially in seventeen and eighteen century female authors.

Jane’s research concentrates on seventeen and eighteen century French female authors. Her dissertation entitled: “Libertinage et Féminisme dans les Lettres du Colonel Talbert de Françoise-Albine Puzin de la Martinière Benoist” focuses on early feminism in Mme Benoist’s epistolary libertine novel Lettres du Colonel Talbert (1767). In her libertine novel Mme Benoist denounces the social oppression of women in a male-dominated society. She was a prolific writer and her novels were extremely popular in the late eighteen century, however her novel Lettres du Colonel Talbert has never been published since 1767 probably due to a misogynistic disdain for intellectual women. The main interest for Jane was to work on a literary work which had never been studied to this date. Jane got access to the unpublished novel through the digitized archives of the French National Library in Paris.

During the pursuit of her studies, Dr. Montonen taught business classes at Palm Beach State College in Lake Worth and in Palm Beach Gardens. Prior to entering the Ph.D. program in Comparative Studies, she earned a Master’s degree in Business Administration in 1998 and a Master’s degree in French in 2005 at FAU. Her doctoral dissertation was supervised by Dr. Marcella Munson (chair), Dr. Frédéric Conrod, and Dr. Marina Karides.