

# Jonathan Basile

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## EDUCATION

- 2022            Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, Emory University  
                  Dissertation: “Virality Vitality: Narrativity and the Sciences of Life”  
                  Advisor: Geoffrey Bennington
- 2008            B. A. in English & Comparative Literature, Columbia University  
                  Magna Cum Laude, Inducted to The Phi Beta Kappa Society

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2022-2024     Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship  
                  The University of British Columbia-Vancouver

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- Under Review *Virality Vitality*. SUNY Press
- Under Review *Natural Lektion: Cultures of Evolution*.  
University of Minnesota Press, Posthumanities series.
- 2018            *Tar for Mortar: “The Library of Babel” and the Dream of Totality*. Punctum Books.  
[Portuguese translation: *Massa por Argamassa: A “Biblioteca de Babel” e o Sonho de Totalidade*. Punctum Books, 2019.]

### Refereed Journal Articles

- In Press        “The Epic of Genesis: Catherine Malabou and the *gêne* of Epigenetics.” *Derrida Today*,  
16.2 (2023): 99-113. DOI: 10.3366/drt.2023.0311.
- 2021            “Symbioautothanatos: Science as Symbiont in the Work of Lynn Margulis.” *Síntesis*.  
*Revista de Filosofia*, 4(2): 60-86.
- 2020            “Other Matters: Karen Barad’s Two Materialisms and the Science of Undecidability.”  
*Angelaki*, 25(5): 3-18. DOI: [10.1080/0969725X.2020.1807132](https://doi.org/10.1080/0969725X.2020.1807132).
- 2019            “Kant’s Parasite: Sublime Biodeconstruction.” *CR: The New Centennial Review*, 19(3):  
173-200. DOI:10.14321/crnewcentrevi.19.3.0173.
- 2019            “Life/Force: Novelty and New Materialism in Jane Bennett’s *Vibrant Matter*.”  
*SubStance*, 48(2): 3-22. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/731485>.

- 2018 “How the Other Half-Lives: Life as Identity and Difference in Bennett and Schrödinger.” *Postmodern Culture*, 29(1). DOI:10.1353/pmc.2018.0032.
- 2018 “The New Novelty: Corralation as Quarantine in Speculative Realism and New Materialism.” *Derrida Today* 11, no. 2: 211–29. DOI:[10.3366/drt.2018.0187](https://doi.org/10.3366/drt.2018.0187).
- 2018 “Borges y yo, Eiron y Alazon: Irony in “The Library of Babel” and “Pierre Menard.” *Variaciones Borges* 46: 219-240.
- 2018 “Misreading Generalised Writing: From Foucault to Speculative Realism and New Materialism.” *Oxford Literary Review* 40, no. 1: 20–37. DOI:[10.3366/olr.2018.0236](https://doi.org/10.3366/olr.2018.0236).

### Manuscripts in Submission

- 2023 “The Political Climate: Ecocriticism and the Apocalyptic Tone.” *Critical Inquiry*.
- 2023 “Mother Remains: Beckett’s *autour* Function and the Ecological.” *Beckett and Nature*, eds. Charlie Clements, Eleanor Green, James Martell.
- 2023 “The Vertical and Horizontal Transmission of Vertical and Horizontal Transmission: Traductions.” *Journal of the History of Biology*

### Book Reviews

- 2021 “Review: Jacques Derrida, *Life Death*, trans. Pascale-Anne Brault and Michael Naas.” *Philosophy Today*, 65(2): 409-415. DOI:10.5840/philtoday2021652393
- 2019 “Review: Stijn De Cauwer, ed. *Critical Theory at a Crossroads: Conversations on Resistance in Times of Crisis*.” *Environmental Philosophy*, 16(1): 230-233. DOI:10.5840/envirophil20191614
- 2019 “Review: Francesco Vitale, *Biodeconstruction: Jacques Derrida and the Life Sciences*.” *Critical Inquiry*, 46(1): 236-37. DOI:10.1086/705306.

### Web Projects

- 2015 [Libraryofbabel.info](http://libraryofbabel.info)  
An online universal library modeled upon Borges’s “The Library of Babel.”
- 2015 [Babelia.libraryofbabel.info](http://babelia.libraryofbabel.info)  
Universal image archive containing every possible 4096-color, 640x416 pixel image.

### Selected Publications in Non-Refereed Forums

- 2018 “Striking Resemblances.” *Public Books*, April 5.  
<http://www.publicbooks.org/striking-resemblances/>
- 2016 “Derrida’s Seminars: Writing Before Writing Before the Letter.” *3:AM Magazine*, September 12. <http://www.3ammagazine.com/3am/derridas-seminars-writing-before-writing-before-the-letter/>

- 2016 “Who’s Afraid of AAARG? The Crisis of Academic Publishing and the Uncertain Future of the Humanities.” *Guernica*, August 25.  
<https://www.guernicamag.com/jonathan-basile-whos-afraid-of-aaarg/>
- 2015 “The Library of Babel as Seen from Within.” *The Paris Review Daily*, July 23.  
<http://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2015/07/23/the-library-of-babel-as-seen-from-within/>

## SELECTED INTERVIEWS AND PRESS

- 2020 “Babel ou la bibliothèque infinie, regorge de textes qui n’existent pas encore.” *Sciences et avenir*. July 26.
- 2016 Rauzier, Jean-François. Interview with Jonathan Basile. “Jonathan Basile - Il a créé la bibliothèque infinie.” *Paris Match*. March 7.  
<http://www.parismatch.com/Actu/Sciences/Il-a-cree-la-bibliotheque-infinie-925591>.
- 2015 Adler, Jerry. Interview with Jonathan Basile. “This Digital Library Contains Every Phrase That Could Ever Be Uttered.” *Smithsonian Magazine*. October.  
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/digital-library-contains-every-phrase-that-could-ever-be-uttered-180956623/>.
- 2015 Toriz, Rafael. Interview with Jonathan Basile. “Construir la Biblioteca de Babel. Entrevista con Jonathan Basile.” *Nexos*. August 23.  
<http://cultura.nexos.com.mx/?p=8953>
- 2015 Toriz, Rafael. Interview with Jonathan Basile. “El lugar de la Biblioteca de Babel.” *Perfil*. August 16.
- 2015 Ventura, Laura. Interview with Jonathan Basile. “El bibliotecario de Babel: la ficción de Borges hecha realidad virtual.” *La Nación*. July 23.
- 2015 Lombo, Pablo. Interview with Jonathan Basile. “La ‘biblioteca totale’ di Borges realizzata al pc.” *La Stampa*. May 22.  
<http://www.lastampa.it/2015/05/22/cultura/la-biblioteca-totale-di-borges-realizzata-da-un-pc-b7AUv1431MRGwV7l6DPRrL/pagina.html>
- 2015 Clark, Nick. Interview with Jonathan Basile. “Jorge Luis Borges fan brings his infinite library to life online.” *The Independent*. May 4.  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/news/jorge-luis-borges-fan-brings-his-infinite-library-to-life-online-10224447.html>
- 2015 Flood, Alison. Interview with Jonathan Basile. “Virtual Library makes Borges’s infinite store of books a reality - almost.” *The Guardian*. May 4.  
<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/may/04/virtual-library-of-babel-makes-borgess-infinite-store-of-books-a-reality-almost>
- 2015 Waldman, Katy. “Jorge Luis Borges’ ‘Library of Babel’ is Now a Real Website. Borges Would Be Alarmed.” *Slate*. April 30.

[http://www.slate.com/blogs/browbeat/2015/04/30/jonathan\\_basile\\_brings\\_borges\\_library\\_of\\_babel\\_to\\_life\\_with\\_an\\_eerie\\_gibberish.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/browbeat/2015/04/30/jonathan_basile_brings_borges_library_of_babel_to_life_with_an_eerie_gibberish.html)

- 2015 Ulin, David. "Borges' 'Library of Babel' comes to virtual life." *The L.A. Times*. April 29. <http://www.latimes.com/books/jacketcopy/la-et-jc-borges-library-of-babel-comes-to-virtual-life-20150429-story.html>

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

### Panels Organized

- 2023 "Force—In Theory." American Comparative Literature Association. Chicago. March 16-19. Co-organizer Adam Frank.
- 2022 "Life/Power" Derrida Today. Online. June 12-15. Co-organizers: Thomas Clément Mercier and Naomi Waltham-Smith.
- 2018 "Biodeconstruction: The Ends of Teleology." Derrida Today. Concordia University. May 23-26. Co-organizers: Erin Obodiac and Francesco Vitale.

### Papers Presented

- 2023 "Nature and Nothing: Beckett in the Ecocritical Frame." Beckett Society: Beckett's Environments. Online. December 1-2.
- 2023 "Ecocriticism and Beckett's *Texts for Nothing*." American Comparative Literature Association. Chicago. March 16-19.
- 2022 "Evolution and Plasticity: The Fort-Darwin Game." Derrida Today. Online. June 12-15.
- 2021 "Cybernetics, Information Theory, and Irony." Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts. Online. September 30-October 3.
- 2021 "Kafka's 'The Burrow' and the Allegory of Life." American Comparative Literature Association. Online. April 8-11.
- 2021 "The Genders (les genres) of Beckett" Modern Language Association Convention. Online. January 7-10.
- 2021 Panelist for "Tree" Forum. Modern Language Association Convention. Online. January 7-10.
- 2021 "Conceptions of Life: The Parasite that Therefore I Am." American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting. Online. January 7-9 and 14-16.
- 2020 "Kafka's 'Der Bau' and the Allegory of Life." German Studies Association. Online. September 29 – October 3.
- 2019 "Quantology: Qualities of Life in Nietzsche, Freud, and Derrida." From the Archive: Reading Derrida conference of Università Degli Studi Di Salerno. June 17-18.

- 2019 “Borges’s *El Aleph*: Digital, Virtual, Textual,” el aleph conference of Cultura UNAM Festival de Arte y Ciencia. Mexico City. May 22-26.
- 2019 “Bio - Thanato - Deconstruction,” 2019 Conference of the American Comparative Literature Association. Georgetown. March 7- 10.
- 2018 “Kant’s Parasite: Deconstructing Teleology in Derrida and de Man.” Derrida Today. Concordia University. May 23-26.
- 2018 “Tattoos of Glas: Derrida and Genet” Conference of the American Comparative Literature Association. UCLA. March 29-April 1.
- 2017 “Literature of the Inexhaustible,” Reading Exhaust | Erschöpfende Lektüren, Brown University German Studies Graduate Student Conference. October 20-21.
- 2017 “How the Other Half-Lives: Life as Identity and Difference in Bennett and Schrödinger,” Conference of the American Comparative Literature Association. Universiteit Utrecht. July 6-9.
- 2017 “Misreading Generalized Writing: From Foucault to New Materialism,” 1967 + 50: The Age of Grammatology. Organized by the editors of *The Oxford Literary Review*, University of Sussex. June 23.
- 2016 “The New Novelty: Corralation as Quarantine in Speculative Realism and New Materialism,” Contagion. Meeting of the Society for Comparative Literature and the Arts. University of South Carolina - Columbia. October 13-15.
- 2016 “Vital Signs: Novelty and the New Materialism,” New Materialisms and Economies of Excess. Emory University. September 29-October 1.
- 2015 “(Re)Creating Borges’ Library of Babel,” BABEL Working Group Conference. Lost Libraries and Imagined Archives Session. University of Toronto. October 9-11.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University of British Columbia-Vancouver

Winter 2024 ENGL-110 Approaches to Literature and Culture – “Modernism, Science, and the Ecological”

### Emory University

#### Instructor of Record:

Fall 2020 CPLT-201W Reading Comparatively - “Nothing: Narrative Form in Modernist Literature” (fulfilling Emory’s post-first year writing requirement)

Spring 2020 CPLT-202W Literatures, Genres, Media - “The Evolution of Evolutionary Theory” (fulfilling Emory’s post-first year writing requirement)

Spring 2019 CPLT-201W Reading Comparatively - “Science, Philosophy, and Literature of Life”  
(fulfilling Emory’s post-first year writing requirement)

Spring 2018 CPLT-110 Intro to Literary Studies - “Ethics and Aesthetics” (First-Year-Writing)

**Teaching Assistant:**

Fall 2020 LING-201 - “Foundations of Linguistics”

**Barnard College**

Spring 2011 Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Philosophy

**The Public School New York**, Teacher and Committee Member, 2011-2012

**Rice High School**, New York, NY – Volunteer Teacher, Spring 2006

**Cathedral Scholars Program**, Washington, DC – Teacher’s Aide, Summer 2005

**Sacred Heart Adult Education Center**, Washington, DC – Volunteer Teacher, ESL, Summer 2003

**Higher Achievement Program**, Washington, DC – Volunteer Teacher’s Aide, Summer 2002

**Tenley Achievement Program**, Washington, DC – Volunteer Teacher’s Aide, Summer 2001

**GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2022-2024 Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of British Columbia-Vancouver.

2021-2022 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, The Bill & Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry

2019 Emory’s Open Access Publishing Fund. \$1500.

2018 Emory’s Open Access Publishing Fund. \$1500.

**SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

2015 “Uninventional.” Recess Art, New York, NY. Lecture/Performance. November 6.

2015 TEDx Think and Act. Universidad del Sagrado Corazon. October 16.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Editorial Advisory Board, Punctum Books**, Jan. 2020-present

**Peer Reviewer** –*Leonardo*, *Angelaki*, *Discourse*, *Continental Philosophy Review*, *Ostium*

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**Ancient Greek Reading Group** – Emory’s Philosophy and Comp Lit departments, organizer and participant 2016-2019

**Collegium Phaenomenologicum** – Participant, July, 2017.

**London Graduate School Summer Academy in the Critical Humanities** – Participant, June 26-29, 2017. University College London

**Visiting Nurse Services NY**, New York, NY – Hospice Volunteer, 2011-2012

**Legal Aid Society, Housing Division** Bronx, NY, Paralegal, 2008-2010

## **LANGUAGES**

**Spanish**                      Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening

**French**                        Reading, Listening

**German**                      Reading, Listening

**Ancient Greek**              Reading