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Education

- Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania (2009-2014)
Dissertation: *Practices of the Global Self: Idealism, Transcendentalism, and Buddhist Modernism in the Era of Colonization*
Committee: Jean-Michel Rabaté (director), Nancy Bentley, Charles Bernstein
- M.A. in Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania, 2010
- B.A. magna cum laude in Anthropology, Columbia University, 2006
- Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, Critical Studies section, 2007-2008

Academic Employment

- Lecturer, Princeton Writing Program, Princeton University 2017-
- Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholar, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil, 2016-2017
- Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Associate in the Department of English and Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University, 2014-2016

Books

- *The Global Origins of the Modern Self, from Montaigne to Suzuki*
 - Under contract with SUNY Press (formerly titled *Unbearable Identities*)
- *Fragments and Ruins: Buddhism in the World of Literature*
 - Draft in progress

Edited Volume

- *Dictionary of the Possible*, co-edited with Sreshta Rit Premnath, *Shifter* volume 22 (2016)

Peer Reviewed Publications

- “Buddhism between Worlds: Contested Liberations in Kipling, Salinger, and Head” forthcoming in *Religion and Literature* 49.3 (2018)
- “Empires of Enlightenment: On Illumination and the Politics of Buddhism in *Heart of Darkness*” *Journal of Modern Literature* 40.2 (2017), pp 1-21
- “Philosophy Against and in Praise of Violence: Kant, Thoreau, and the Nonviolent Revolutionary Spectator” *Theory, Culture & Society* 33.6 (2016), pp 51-73
- “Sounding Conscience: *Walden’s* Global Bottoms” *J19: The Journal of 19th Century Americanists* 4.1 (2016), pp 41-63 (nominated for the American Literature Society’s 1921 Prize)
- “Buddhism and the Postmodern Novel: Severo Sarduy’s *Cobra*” *Twentieth Century Literature* 62.1 (2016), pp 32-55
- “Epochs, Elephants, and Parts: On the Concept of History in Literary Studies” review-essay, *diacritics* 42.4 (2015) (with a response by Kenneth Warren and a rejoinder), pp 26-52

- “Not to be European would not be ‘to be European still’: Undoing Eurocentrism in Levinas and others” *Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy* 23.1 (2015), pp 21-41
- “‘Melancholy Wildness’: The Failure of Cross-Cultural Engagement in Rousseau’s *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* and Brown’s *Edgar Huntly*” *Early American Literature* 49.1 (2014), pp 121-147
- “Overcome by Photography: *Camera Lucida* in an International Frame” *Third Text* 24.3 (2010), pp 331-339
- “We are Cannibals, All: Fredric Jameson on Colonialism and Experience” *Postcolonial Studies*, 13.1 (2010), pp 91-105

Other Academic Publications

- “Performing Conjectural History (of Hegel and Others),” in *Intersubjectivity, Volume 2*, eds. Lou Cantor and Katherine Rochester. Berlin: Sternberg Press, 2018 (forthcoming)
- “A Question of Organization” in *ASAP/J*, October 12, 2017. <http://asapjournal.com/a-question-of-organization-avram-alpert/>
- “The Contested Worlds of World Literature” *The Immanent Frame* August 29, 2017. <https://tif.ssrc.org/2017/08/29/contested-worlds-of-world-literature/>
- “Performative Scholarship” in *Futures of Comparative Literature*, ed. by Ursula Heise et. al. New York: Routledge, 2017
- “World Literature Needs World Philosophy: Buddhism and Kipling” *Politics/Letters*, Issue 6 (2016). <http://politicsslashletters.org/2016/11/world-literature-needs-world-philosophy-buddhism-and-kipling/>
- “Prehistories of the Postcolonial: On Philosophy, Politics, and Polemic in Timothy Brennan’s *Borrowed Light*,” extended book review, *Journal of Modern Literature* 38.4 (2015), pp 168-177
- “Alternative Economies of Art and Politics: An Interview with Gabriel Rockhill and Nato Thompson” *Public Books*, September 2014
- “Specters of Katrina: Historical Reflections on the Future of New Orleans.” In *The Question of New Orleans* Eds. Hawkinson, Kurgan and Marble. New York: Trustees of Columbia University, 2006, n.p.

Invited Lectures

- Participant in “The Pleasures and Perils of Interdisciplinarity,” for a symposium organized by Elisabeth Camp at Rutgers University on “Emily Dickinson and Philosophy,” December 18, 2015
- “Unbearable Identities: A Work in Progress” Theorizing Series, University of Pennsylvania, December 4, 2014
- “Manifestations of Resistance” Moore College of Art and Design, Philadelphia, February 19, 2013
- “Politics and the End of Consciousness” at Itinerant Studio, Copenhagen, October 26, 2012
- “A Grey Present? Pessimism, Culture and the Contemporary” at the Based in Berlin Festival, June 23, 2011, with Alexi Kukuljevic
- “Indeterminacy and History: John Cage on the End of Art” Jan van Eyck Academie, Netherlands, May 29, 2011

Conference Presentations

- “Bad Comparisons and the History of the Dialectic” Society for the History of the Humanities, Johns Hopkins University, October 5-7, 2016
- “Translating Memories: Two Moments from the Hiroshima Peace Park,” Aesthetic Afterlives, Princeton University, September 9-10, 2016
- “Is Modern Buddhist Literature Secular?” Rutgers University, October 16, 2015
- “Non/Violence” Smack Mellon Gallery, New York, for the exhibition RESPOND! February 7, 2015
- “Comparison as Reconstitution: The Case of Buddhist Modernism” Acts of Comparison Conference, Princeton University, September 12-13, 2014
- “Anti-Primitivism and the Origins of the Dialectic: On an Anecdote from Colonial Guadeloupe and Its Philosophical Afterlife” Theory/Post-Theory Conference, University of California, Berkeley, April 18, 2014
- “The Organizational Imagination: On the Decline of the Political Organizing Narrative from Bartleby to *The Wire*” ACLA conference, NYU, March 20-23, 2014
- “The Primacy of the Primitive in the Question of War: Kant and Emerson on Perpetual Peace,” panel organized by Sandra Gustafson at C19, UNC-Chapel Hill, March 13-16, 2014.
- “Performative Scholarship” ACL(x) conference, Penn State University, September 27-28, 2013
- “Kant, Thoreau and the Tradition of Revolutionary Non-violence” at The Social Science Research Center, Humboldt University, Berlin; conference on Rebellion and Revolution, October 17-20, 2012
- “Co-figuring the *Episteme*: Learning to Learn from Foucault” Princeton Theory Reading Group Conference, Princeton University, May 11-13, 2012

Teaching Experience

At Princeton University

- “American Intellectuals” (Fall 2017)
 - Two sections; 12 students each

At Temple University

- “Analytical Reading and Writing: Public Space in Philadelphia” (Fall 2016)
 - On-line course; 15 students

At Rutgers University

- “Twentieth Century Global Literature: Existentialism in Literature and Film” (Fall 2015)
 - Upper-level lecture course; 25 students
- “From Bartleby to Occupy: Art and Politics” (Fall 2015)
 - Seminar course; 10 students
- “Twentieth Century Global Literature: Buddhism and the Modern Novel” (Fall 2014)
 - Upper-level lecture course; 25 students.

At the University of Pennsylvania:

- Instructor, “Thoreau’s *Walden*” (Fall 2011, Spring 2012)
 - First-year writing seminar; 10-15 students

- Teaching assistant, “The American Novel” (Fall 2010), “European Intellectual History, 1870-1950” (Spring 2011), and “World Film History: 1945-present” (Spring 2014)
 - Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 were upper-level lecture courses; 25-30 students; Spring 2014 is an introductory lecture, with about 75 students.

Honors, Grants and Fellowships

- Canadian Studies Faculty Research Grant for archival research at the Northrop Frye archives at the University of Toronto, Fall 2017
- Fountainhead Residency (for cultural criticism), Miami, Florida, October 2016
- Danish Arts Council International Research Program Grant, June 2016
- Penfield Fellowship for archival research at D.T. Suzuki archives in Kamakura, Japan, Fall 2013
- GAPSA-Provost Award for Interdisciplinary Innovation for the project “Database, Theory, Performance: New Developments in Collaborative Scholarship” with Daniel Snelson and Mashinka Firunts, Summer 2013
- School of Arts and Sciences Three-year Matching Grant for the Theorizing Speaker Series (co-written with Rita Copeland), 2012-2015
- Mellon Graduate Research Fellow, Penn Humanities Forum, 2011-2012
- Dean’s Award for New Media and Research, Summer 2011
- Geo L. Harrison Fellow, University of Pennsylvania, 2010-2011
- President’s Summer Funding Award, Summer 2010
- Helena Rubenstein Fellow in Critical Studies, Whitney Museum, Independent Studies Program, 2007-2008
- Sauvé Scholar, Sauvé Foundation and McGill University, 2006-2007
- John Jay Scholar, Columbia University, 2002-2006
- National Merit Scholar, Columbia University, 2002

Professional and Institutional Service

- Curriculum Committee, Princeton Writing Program, 2017-2018
- Hiring Committee, Princeton Writing Program, 2017-2018
- Reader, Fulbright Junior Scholar Grant, Summer 2017
- Co-organizer, with Sreshta Rit Premnath, of *Dictionary of the Possible*, a bi-weekly discussion series at the New School, Fall 2014 – Winter 2016
- Co-organizer, with Premnath, of *Learning and Unlearning*, an ongoing series beginning at Art in General (Brooklyn) in October 2017 with a three discussions about “Unlearning Work.”
- Speaker Series Organized: Theorizing, a graduate student run interdisciplinary series:
 - Chair, 2011-2012
 - Committee Member, 2010-2011; 2012-2013
- Panels Organized:
 - “Art, Theory, and Politics: Doubts, Commitments, Futures” co-organized with Mashinka Firunts for ACLA 2018 (proposed)
 - “Is World Literature Secular? Young Scholars Enter an Old Debate.” With Yi-Ping Ong, Justin Neuman, and Colin Jager. Rutgers University, October 16, 2016.

- With Gabriel Rockhill, “The Times of Social Transformation: Narratives of Change and Changing Narratives,” ACLA, New York University, March 20-23, 2014
- “Thinking the Present with and Against Foucault,” Princeton Theory Reading Group Conference, May 11-13, 2012
- Research Assistance:
 - Jean-Michel Rabaté for edited volume, *Global Theory: A Reader*, Spring 2011 (project never realized)
 - Sharon Marcus for book project, *Between Women: Friendship, Desire and Marriage in Victorian England*, 2005-2006
 - Mahmood Mamdani for book project, *Saviors and Survivors: Darfur, Politics and the War on Terror*, Fall 2004
 - Julie Peters for essay, “Law Literature and the Vanishing Real: On the Future of an Interdisciplinary Illusion,” 2003-2004

Lectures with Research Service (a collective project with Daniel Snelson and Mashinka Firunts – <http://researchservice.info>)

- “Practicing Scholars” at College Art Association, Los Angeles, February 21-24, 2018
- Presentation for “What is Distance?” conference at Bard Graduate Center, January 18-19, 2018
- “Systems Say What Words Cannot,” as part of New York Performing Arts Collective presentation at Judson Church, March 29, 2015
- “Report on a Day’s Proceedings at the Initiative for Directed Coopetition Part II” as part of Interrupt III at Brown University, March 12, 2015
- “If You’re Phone Doesn’t Ring, It’s me” A lecture-performance at Lisa Cooley Gallery for the show, “Itself Not so,” August 27, 2014
- “Teleconference” A radio piece for the New Museum, July 2014
- “No Results Found/Aucun résultat trouvé” *Eternal Flame*, at the invitation of Thomas Hirschorn to the Palais de Tokyo, Paris, May 2014
- “The Lives of Things” as part of a book launch for *Shifter 21*, at Moore College of Art and Design, Philadelphia, November 20, 2013
- “Zero for Conduit” at The Drawing Center, SoHo, New York, May 10, 2013
- “Report on a Day’s Proceedings at the Initiative for Directed Coopetition,” at the Intimate Collaborations conference, University of Pennsylvania, January 18, 2013
- “Unsearchable” at ICA-Philadelphia, May 23, 2012

Art Criticism

- “Alexandre da Cunha at PIVÔ” *Flash Art*, June 2017
- “Allegories of Painting: Meleko Mokgosi’s *Democratic Intuition*” *ArtMARGINS Online* April 3, 2017
- “Back to the World Itself: Photography as Exposition (with a Postscript on Art Criticism after the 2016 Election)” *Temporary Art Review* June 3, 2017
- “Carlos Motta at PAMM” *Miami Rail*, Winter 2016

- “From Singular Determinist Interventionism to Critical Pluralism,” *Temporary Art Review*, August 1, 2016. <http://temporaryartreview.com/from-singular-determinist-interventionism-to-critical-pluralism-reflections-on-some-trends-in-art-criticism-today/>
- “The Other New Abstraction: Shadi Harouni’s *Paved Over and Other Stories*” *On Verge*, June 2, 2016. <http://www.on-verge.org/reviews/the-other-new-abstraction/>
- “Ordinary Language Photography: Runo Lagomarsino’s *Lacuna*” for Mendes Wood DM, August 15, 2015. <http://mendeswooddm.com/en/exhibition/53>
- “Learn from Qatar / Swalif: Qatari Art between Memory and Modernity” *Learning from Qatar* 13 January 2012
- “(Untitled) Notes on the Graphic Unconscious” *Working States* (Philagrafika) February 2010. <http://www.philagrafika.org/pdf/WS/notesonthegraphicunconscious.pdf>
- “Barbara Kruger at the Whitney On Site” *Domus*, October 14, 2010. <http://www.domusweb.it/en/art/2010/10/14/barbara-kruger-at-the-whitney-on-site.html>

Additional Studies

- “The Idea of a Critical Political Theory,” workshop with Linda Zerilli at the Center for Contemporary Critical Thought, Columbia University, Oct. 19-23, 2015
- “Critical Theory Workshop,” co-run by Villanova University and the Sorbonne, Paris, July 2014
- “Futures of American Studies,” Dartmouth College, June 18-24, 2012

Languages

Spanish (advanced); Portuguese (advanced); French (intermediate)