

Jonathan Basile

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

- 2026–2027 Assistant Professor (Contractually Limited Term Appointment)
University of Toronto
Institute for the History & Philosophy of Science & Technology, Victoria College
- 2024–2026 Arts & Science Postdoctoral Fellowship
University of Toronto
Department of Philosophy, Institute for the History & Philosophy of Science & Technology
- 2022–2024 Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship
The University of British Columbia-Vancouver
Department of English Language and Literatures

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2026 *Natural Lexion: Cultures of Evolution*
University of Minnesota Press, Posthumanities series.
- 2025 *Virality Vitality*. SUNY Press
- 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.]

Edited Volumes

- Under Contract *Dialectical Biology Today: Legacies of Richard Levins and Richard Lewontin*
Routledge, History and Philosophy of Biology Series
Co-editors: Christopher Shambugh and Denis Walsh

Refereed Journal Articles

- In Press “New Material for the Old Ceremony: Lynn Margulis’s Sexual Science,” *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*.
- 2025 “The Political Climate: Ecocriticism and the Apocalyptic Tone.” *ELH*. 92(4): 1199–1234. DOI: [10.1353/elh.2025.a977609](https://doi.org/10.1353/elh.2025.a977609).
- 2025 “Literature on (The) Trial: Benjamin, Deleuze and Guattari, and Derrida before Kafka,” *Oxford Literary Review*. 47(1): 7–18. DOI: [10.3366/olr.2025.0450](https://doi.org/10.3366/olr.2025.0450)
- 2025 “Will this too have been a Tree? Biblical and Biological Trees of Life-Science,” *SubStance*, 54(1): 33–42. DOI: [10.1353/sub.2025.a959048](https://doi.org/10.1353/sub.2025.a959048).
- 2023 “The Epic of Genesis: Catherine Malabou and the *gêne* of Epigenetics.” *Derrida Today*, 16(2): 99–113. DOI: [10.3366/drt.2023.0311](https://doi.org/10.3366/drt.2023.0311).
- 2021 “Symbioautothanatos: Science as Symbiont in the Work of Lynn Margulis.” *Síntesis. Revista de Filosofía*, 4(2): 60–86. DOI: [10.15691/0718-5448Vol4Iss2a359](https://doi.org/10.15691/0718-5448Vol4Iss2a359).
- 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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/10.1353/pmc.2018.0032).
- 2018 “The New Novelty: Corralation as Quarantine in Speculative Realism and New Materialism.” *Derrida Today* 11(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(1): 20–37. DOI: [10.3366/olr.2018.0236](https://doi.org/10.3366/olr.2018.0236).

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- Under Contract “Norms of Reaction and Reactionary Norms: Richard Lewontin’s and Evelyn Fox Keller’s Critiques of Heritability.” *Dialectical Biology Today: Legacies of Richard Levins and Richard Lewontin*, eds. Jonathan Basile, Christopher Shambuagh and Denis Walsh. Routledge, History and Philosophy of Biology Series
- 2025 “Mother Remains: Beckett’s *autour* Function and the Ecological.” *Beckett and Nature*, eds. Charlie Clements, Eleanor Green, James Martell. Bloomsbury.

Book Reviews

- In Press “Review: Jacques Derrida, *Hospitality, Volume I* and *Hospitality, Volume II*.” OLR.

- 2026 “Writing Machines: LLMs and the Artifice of Intelligence.” Review: Leif Weatherby, *Language Machines. The OLR Supplement*, June 1, <https://olrsupplement.com/2026/06/01/writing-machines-llms-and-the-artifice-of-intelligence/>
- 2025 “Generalized Bastardy: Evolutionary Science, Neoliberalism, and the Far Right.” Review: Quinn Slobodian, *Hayek’s Bastards. The OLR Supplement*, May 19. <https://olrsupplement.com/2025/05/19/generalized-bastardy-evolutionary-science-neoliberalism-and-the-far-right/>
- 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.

Manuscripts in Submission

- R&R “Nicheless Construction: Richard Lewontin’s Dialectical Critique of Adaptationism and the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis,” *Philosophy, Theory, and Practice in Biology*.
- R&R “Grafting Disciplines: Deconstruction and Science Studies, Part I: Cybernetics, Complexity, Systems Theory,” *Postmodern Culture*.
- 2025 “Grafting Disciplines: Deconstruction and Science Studies, Part II: History of Science, Rhetoric, New Materialism, Biodeconstruction,” *Postmodern Culture*.
- 2025 “Evolution as Eternal Return: Darwin’s Library of Babel,” *Configurations*.

Web Projects

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

Selected Publications in Non-Refereed Forums

- 2026 “Craig Venter’s Neoliberal Life: Speculative Valuation and the Myth of Scientific Genius.” *D/sjunctions*, June 2026, <https://disjunctionsmag.com/articles/venter-neoliberal-life/>.
- 2026 “Natural Election,” review: Kathryn Paige Harden’s *Original Sin*. *Los Angeles Review of Books*, April 29. <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/original-sin-eugenics-scientific-calvinism-kathryn-paige-harden/>

- 2025 “The University in Deconstruction, an Interview with Peggy Kamuf and Samuel Weber.” *The OLR Supplement*, August 28.
<https://olrsupplement.com/2025/08/28/the-university-in-deconstruction-an-interview-with-peggy-kamuf-and-samuel-weber/>
- 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.3amagazine.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
- 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>

INVITED TALKS

- 2027 "Darwinisms in Science and the Humanities," Florida State University Humanities Center, *Human in the Humanities* Conference. February 26–27.
- 2027 "Allegories of Life: Kafka's Burrow," Hollins University. March 10–11.
- 2026 "Virality as Cloacal Birth: Evelyn Fox Keller and Samuel Beckett," MacMaster University. March 12.
- 2025 "Sorry!—For Translating," Fifth Meeting of the Rutgers-Reed Philological Seminar, "Sorry, Not Sorry." Online. November 14.
- 2019 "Borges's *El Aleph*: Digital, Virtual, Textual," el aleph conference of Cultura UNAM Festival de Arte y Ciencia. Mexico City. May 23.
- 2015 "Uninventional." Recess Art, New York, NY. November 6.
- 2015 TEDx Think and Act. Universidad del Sagrado Corazon. October 16.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Conference Organized

- 2025 Dialectical Biology Today: Legacies of Richard Lewontin. University of Toronto, Institute for the History & Philosophy of Science & Technology. October 10–12. Co-organizer: Denis Walsh.

Panels Organized

- 2026 “Capital Crimes: Neoliberalism as the Undecidability of Speculation and Grift,” Derrida Today. Paris. July 13–17. Co-Organizers: Peter Gratton and Naomi Waltham-Smith.
- 2026 “Imitations—Of Life,” American Comparative Literature Association. Montreal. February 26–March 1. Co-Organizer: Eric Flohr Reynolds.
- 2025 “Dialectical Biology Today: Legacies of Richard Lewontin, The Triple Helix, and Marxist Science,” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology. Porto. July 20–25. Co-Organizer: Denis Walsh.
- 2024 “Life Death Penalty,” Derrida Today. Athens, June 10–14. Co-organizer: Naomi Waltham-Smith.
- 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 Obodias and Francesco Vitale.

Papers Presented

- 2026 “Constitutive Complicities in the Con Economy: Marx, Neoliberalism, and Gold,” Derrida Today. Paris. July 13–17.
- 2026 “Virality as Fecality: Evelyn Fox Keller’s Anal Births,” American Comparative Literature Association. Montreal. February 26–March 1.
- 2025 “Norms of Reaction and Reactionary Norms: Richard Lewontin, Evelyn Fox Keller, and Heritability Estimates.” Dialectical Biology Today: Legacies of Richard Lewontin. Toronto. October 10–12.
- 2025 “Dialectical Biology and Niche Construction Theory: Theoretical and Political Divergences.” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology. Porto. July 20–25.
- 2024 “We Live in Public: Globalized Confession and Forgiveness.” Derrida Today. Athens. June 10–14.
- 2024 “Scientific Syntagms: Deconstruction from Science Studies to New Materialism.” American Comparative Literature Association. Montreal. March 14–17.
- 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 “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: Correlation 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.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2026 *Natural Lection* Book Launch Event, in dialogue with Jean-Thomas Tremblay and Denis Walsh, Institute for the History & Philosophy of Science & Technology, University of Toronto, October 7.
- 2025 “Evolution as Eternal Return: Darwin’s Library of Babel,” Institute for the History & Philosophy of Science & Technology Special Seminar, University of Toronto, January 22.
- 2022 “Plasticity before and after Genetics: Mary Jane West-Eberhard and the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis,” STS Colloquium, University of British Columbia-Vancouver, December 8.
- 2022 “Analogical Life: Cultures of Evolution,” Fox Center Response Forum XXI. Emory University, January 26.
- 2021 “Life Writing: The Textuality of Evolution,” Comparative Literature Seminar Series Grad/Fac Talks. Emory University, November 11.
- 2018 “*Tar for Mortar* Book Talk,” Comparative Literature Department. Emory University, April 16.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record:

University of Toronto

- Fall 2026 HPS208 How We Think About Life
 VIC173 Philosophy of Science for Physical Scientists
- Winter 2025 HPS 412 History of the Biological Sciences

University of British Columbia-Vancouver

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

Emory University

- Fall 2020 CPLT-201W Reading Comparatively, “Nothing: Narrative Form in Modernist Literature”
- Spring 2020 CPLT-202W Literatures, Genres, Media, “The Evolution of Evolutionary Theory”
- Spring 2019 CPLT-201W Reading Comparatively, “Science, Philosophy, and Literature of Life”
- Spring 2018 CPLT-110 Intro to Literary Studies, “Ethics and Aesthetics” (First-Year-Writing)

Teaching Assistant:

Emory University

Fall 2020 LING-201 Foundations of Linguistics

Barnard College

Spring 2011 Introduction to Philosophy

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024-2026 Faculty of Arts & Science Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Toronto.

2024 Killam Postdoctoral Research Award. \$5000.

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

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

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Editor, *The OLR Supplement* (The Online Platform of the *Oxford Literary Review*)/**Reviews Editor**, *Oxford Literary Review*

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

Peer Reviewer, SUNY Press, *Filozofija i društvo/Philosophy and Society*, *Biological Theory*, *Angelaki*, *Derrida Today*, *Leonardo*, *Discourse*, *Continental Philosophy Review*, *Ostium*

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

CUPE 3902, Unit 5 (representing University of Toronto postdoctoral fellows), Steward (2024–2025), Third Vice President (2025–26)

EmoryUnite!, labor union for graduate workers, co-founder and organizer, 2016–22

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Vancouver Tenants Union, Organizer (2022–23), Steering Committee (elected position), 2024.

Ancient Greek Reading Group, Emory University, organizer and participant. 2016–19.

Collegium Phaenomenologicum, Città di Castello, Italy. July, 2017.

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

LANGUAGES

Spanish	Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening
French	Reading, Listening
German	Reading, Listening
Ancient Greek	Reading

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Comparative Literature Association, 2017–present