

JOSHUA SCHUSTER

Western University
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EMPLOYMENT

Professor, English, Western University, 2023-present

Director, Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, 2023-26

Associate Professor, English, Western University, 2015-2023

Core Faculty, Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, 2010-present

Assistant Professor, English, Western University, 2008-2015

Fellow, Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing, University of Pennsylvania,
2007-2008

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Ph.D., English Literature, May, 2007

Dissertation: “Modernist Biotopias: Vitalism and Organicism in Early
Twentieth Century American Poetry”; Primary Supervisor: Jean-Michel Rabaté

Université de Paris, X, Nanterre, M.A. (*maîtrise*), Philosophy, 2001, graduated with
honors (*mention bien*)

University of Pennsylvania, B.A. English Literature, 1998, *summa cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Will Alexander's Poetics: Readings Across the Radiant Glossaries, Joshua Schuster,
editor (Cham: Palgrave, 2025), pp. 302.

What Is Extinction? A Natural and Cultural History of Last Animals
(New York: Fordham University Press, 2023), pp. 302.

Winner of the 25th annual Susan M. Glasscock Humanities Book Prize, 2024

Reviewed in: *Choice Reviews, H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences, ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*

Calamity Theory: Three Critiques of Existential Risk – Co-written with Derek Woods

(Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2021), pp. 136.

Reviewed in: *Social Epistemology Review, American Literary History*

The Ecology of Modernism: American Environments and Avant-Garde Poetics
(Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2015), pp. 232.

Winner of the Alanna Bondar Memorial Prize from the Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada, 2016

Reviewed in: *Journal of Modern Literature, Twentieth Century Literature, American Literature*

Books in Progress:

Aliens in Theory: Critical Philosophy in the New Space Era, co-edited with Brad Tabas

Another Earth Is Possible: On Love and Planets

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

“One Earth, One State, One Love?” *Symposium*, 2026, forthcoming.

“De-extinction, Transhumanism, and Postmortal Life,” *Configurations*, 34, no. 1 (Winter 2026): 99-121.

“Critique of Alien Reason,” *SubStance*, 15, no. 1 (2022): 103-119.

“Coral Cultures in the Anthropocene,” *Cultural Review Studies*, 25, no. 1 (September 2019): 85-102.

“Another Poetry Is Possible: Will Alexander, Planetary Futures, and Exopoetics,” *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities* 4, nos. 2-3 (2017): 147-65.

“Life after Extinction,” *Parrhesia* 27 (2017): 88-115.

“Photographing the Last Animal,” *Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture* 41 (2017): 102-122.

“The Future of the Extinction Plot: Last Animals and Humans in Octavia Butler’s *Xenogenesis Trilogy*,” *Humanimalia* 6, no. 2 (Spring 2015).

“How to Write the Disaster,” *the minnesota review* 83 (Fall 2014): 163-171.

“Between Manufacturing and Landscape: Edward Burtynsky and the Photography of Ecology,” *Photography & Culture* 6, no. 2 (Summer 2013): 193-212.

“Jewish Counterfactualism in Recent American Poetry,” *Shofar* 27, no. 3 (Spring 2009): 52-71.

“William Carlos Williams, *Spring and All*, and the Anthropological Imaginary,” *Journal of Modern Literature* 30, no. 3 (Spring 2007): 116-132.

Book Chapters and Edited Volume Contributions:

“Introduction,” “The Plenitude Poem,” “Interview,” *Will Alexander’s Poetics*, Palgrave 2025.

“Green Modernism,” in *The Cambridge History of American Modernism*. Ed. Mark Whalan, 83-97. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023.

“Extinction and Re-Plenitude,” in *Routledge Companion to Ecopoetics*. Eds. Mary Newell and Bernard Quetchenbach, Routledge: New York, 2023.

“Third Person and Fourth Person: Esposito and Blanchot,” *Roberto Esposito: New Directions in Biophilosophy*. Eds. Tilottama Rajan and Antonio Calcagno, 174-192. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2021.

“Modernist Planets and Planetary Modernism,” *Modernism and the Anthropocene*. Eds. Jon Heglund and John McIntyre, 97-113. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2021.

“Broken Singularities (Derrida and Celan),” *After Derrida*. Ed. Jean-Michel Rabaté, 111-125. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

“After Deconstruction? The Challenge of Malabou’s Plastic Biohistory,” *Thinking Catherine Malabou: Passionate Detachments*. Eds. Thomas Wormald and Isabell Dahms, 143-160. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018.

“Towards a Conceptual Ecopoetics,” *Ecopoetics: Essays in the Field*. Eds. Angela Hume and Gillian Osborne, 208-227. University of Iowa Press, 2018.

“Sustainability after Extinction: On Last Animals and Future Bison,” *Literature and Sustainability: Concept, Text, and Culture*. Eds. Louise Squire, Adeline Johns-Putra, John Parham, 97-114. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2017.

“Where Is the Oil in Modernism?” *Petrocultures: Oil, Energy, Culture*. Eds. Imre Szeman and Sheena Wilson, 197-213. McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2017.

“Unearthing Photography,” *Edward Burtynsky: Essential Elements*. Ed. William Ewing, 179-182. London: Thames & Hudson, 2016.

“The Vegan and the Sovereign,” *Critical Perspectives on Veganism*. Eds. Jodey Castricano and Rasmus Simonsen, 203-223. New York: Palgrave, 2016.

“Anti-Semitism including the Holocaust” *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*, ed. Stephen Ross, 2015.

“The Fable, the Animal, and the Moral: Reconsidering the Fable in Animal Studies with Marianne Moore’s Elephants,” *Representing the Modern Animal in Culture*, eds. Jeanne Dubino, Ziba Rashidian, and Andrew Smyth, 137-154. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

“How Architecture Became Biotopian: From Meta-Biology to Causal Networks in Arakawa and Gins’ Architectural Body,” in *Architecture and Philosophy: New Perspectives on the Work of Arakawa and Madeline Gins*, ed. Françoise Kral and Jean-Jacques Lercerle, 95-112. New York: Rodopi, 2010.

“Looking at Louis Zukofsky’s Poetics Through Spinozist Glasses,” in *Radical Poetics and Secular Jewish Culture*, eds. Daniel Morris and Stephen Paul Miller, 127-150. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2009.

“Is Phenomenology a Philosophy of Peace?” *Conversations in Philosophy: Crossing the Boundaries*, eds. Ed Brandon, Frederick Ochieng Odhiambo, Roxanne Burton. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008.

Non-Peer Reviewed Articles and Essays:

“Where Immortalism Takes Us,” forum on Adam Rosenthal’s *Prosthetic Immortalities*, *Alienocene* 16, 2025.

“What Is Extinction? Exploring Life’s End and Meaning,” *Politics and Rights Review*, February, 2025.

“Notes on Heliopoetics,” in *Fractured Ecologies*, ed. Chad Weidner, 374-380. Agger, Denmark: EyeCorner press, 2020.

“Extrapolations for *Paideuma*,” *Paideuma*, 45 (2020): 75-82.

“Post-Ecopoetics,” guest blogger for *Jacket2*, April-May 2017.

“100 Years of Reading and Unreading,” Special Section on 100th Anniversary of Gertrude Stein’s *Tender Buttons*, *Jacket 2*, 2015 (500 words).

“Biopolitical Ontology after Rachel Carson” *The Word Hoard* 1, no. 2 (2013): 8-16.

“The Making of Tender Buttons: Gertrude Stein’s Subjects, Objects, and the Illegible,” *Jacket 2*, 2011 (5,000 words).

“For Bob Perelman: An Ordinary Day in the Philadelphia of the Mind,” *Jacket Magazine* 39, 2010 (4,300 words).

“The Avant-Garde at a Standstill: On Kenneth Goldsmith,” *Open Letter* 12, no. 7 (2005): 102-109.

Other Writings:

“Anti-Apocalyptic Methods for Apocalyptic Studies,” *CAPAS Newsletter* 1/22 (2022): 10-11.

“Another Letter from Utopia Is Possible,” *Alienocene* 11 (2022).

“The Future of Ecopoetics: Conversation with Evelyn Reilly,” transcript published on *Dispatches from the Poetry Wars* (April 2020).

“Notes on War Aesthetics,” *Litvert* 8 (2003).

“The Word ‘You’,” *Open Letter*, 11, no. 3 (Fall 2001).

“Death Reckoning in the Thinking of Heidegger, Foucault and Derrida,” *Other Voices* (1997).

Reviews:

Sarah McFarland, *Ecocollapse Fiction and Cultures of Extinction*, *English Studies* (2021).

Vanda Felbab-Brown, *The Extinction Market: Wildlife Trafficking and How to Counter It*, *H-Net Reviews* (2021).

Cary Wolfe, *Ecological Poetics; or Wallace Stevens’s Birds*, *ALH Online Review* (2021).

Creative Review of Philip K. Dick, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*, *The Goose* 14:2 (2016).

“On reading Christian Bök’s *The Xenotext: Book 1* ten thousand years later,” *Jacket2*, (February, 2016).

“Being Intrigued: How the Unsettling Writing of Ethics Precedes the Ethics of Identity,” review of *Intrigues: From Being to the Other*, Gabriel Riera, *Journal of Modern Literature* 32, no. 4 (Summer, 2009): 150-53.

“A Pedagogy of Resistance,” review of *Cultural Resistance Reader*, ed. Stephen Duncombe, in *Other Voices*, 2005.

“The Manifesto,” review of *Artificial Mythologies*, Craig Saper, in *Other Voices*, 1997.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Modern American Poetry, American Literature, Environmental Theory, Poetics, American Studies, Critical Theory, Literary Theory, Animal Studies, Modernism and Modernity, Philosophy of Science and Nature

Courses Taught:

Undergraduate: “American Literature Survey,” “Green Literature,” “The Poetics of Barack Obama,” “Blues and Jazz in American Literature,” “American

Uncanny,” “The Storyteller’s Art,” “Contemporary Theory and Criticism,” “Studies in Poetics,” “American Cult Classics,” “Reading Eaarth”

Graduate: “After Biopolitics,” “Ecocriticism and Ecopoetics,” “Gilles Deleuze,” “American Animal Studies,” “Modernism after Dark,” “Philosophies of Nature,” “Formalisms,” “Existential Risk,” “Adventures in Poetics,” “Contemporary Theory in Literary and Cultural Studies,” “Finitude and Plenitude,” “Aliens in Theory”

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

- “Samantha Harvey’s *Orbital*: Realist Fiction in Space,” MLA, Toronto, January 2026
- “Four Lectures on Literary Theory,” Harbin Institute of Technology, June 2025
- “New Voices in Environmental Modernisms,” MSA, Chicago, November 2024
- “One Earth, One Love, One Government?” Radboud University, October 2024
- “Ecopoetics and the Motivated Sign,” ALECC, Wilfrid Laurier, June 2024
- “Aliens in Theory,” SLSA, Arizona State University, October 2023
- “The Plenitude Poem,” ACLA, Chicago, March 2023
- “De-extinction and Existential Risk,” The Art and Science of Species Revival Symposium, University of York, December 2022
- “Calamitous Futures,” Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities, University of Cambridge, October 2022
- “After the Last Avant-Gardes: Extreme Writing and Ecological Poetics,” North American Poetry Conference, Paris, June 2022
- “Existential Risk and Apocalyptic Theory,” CAPAS, University of Heidelberg, January 2022, invited speaker
- “Extinction and American Poetics,” Crises: Climate and Critique, La Nouvelle Sorbonne, October 2021
- “On Existential Risk,” 4S, University of Toronto, September 2021
- “Clamorous Personifications in Brenda Iijima’s Poetics,” ASLE, online, July 2021
- “Notes on Heliopoetics,” ALECC, University of Saskatchewan, June 2020
- “Literary Extinctions,” invited speaker, SUNY Buffalo, February 2020
- “How I Teach Ecopoetics,” invited speaker, SUNY Buffalo, February 2020
- “Modernist Heliopoetics,” MSA, Toronto, October 2019
- “Heliopoetics,” ASAP, U of Maryland, College Park, October 2019
- “On the Poetics of Multi-Species Contact,” ASLE, UC Davis, June 2019
- “Extinction and the Existentiality of Literature,” Queens University, March 2019, invited lecturer
- “The Future of Ecopoetics,” U of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, November 2018
- “Visualizing Extinction,” Slought Networks, Philadelphia, November 2018
- “Existential Risk and Environmental Thought,” ALECC, U of Victoria, June 2018
- “Derrida’s Existential Formalism,” Derrida Today, Concordia University, June 2018
- “German Animals, Animal Studies, and the Holocaust,” MSA, Amsterdam, August 2017
- “Transhistorically Speaking, How Long Can a Lyric Poem Last?” ACLA, Utrecht, July 2017
- “Post-Lyric Poetics in the Anthropocene,” ASLE, Detroit, June 2017

- “Exopoetics: Expanding SETI through Poetics,” UFOs, Aliens, and the Academy: An Interdisciplinary Conference, Trent University, Peterborough, May 2017
- “Coral Cultures in the Anthropocene,” Resilience in a Multispecies World, McMaster University, April 2017
- “Last Fictions,” UC Riverside, November 2016
- “Modernism’s Utopian Energies,” Modernist Studies Association, Pasadena, November 2016
- “German Animals, Animal Studies, and the Holocaust,” Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada, Queen’s University, June 2016
- “Breaking the Singular, or Why Not Everything Can Be Deconstructed,” Passionate Dis-Attachments: On the Work of Catherine Malabou, Kings’ University College, February 2016
- “Last Peoples and Lost Worlds,” MLA, Austin, January 2016
- “Modernism’s Fourth-Person Perspective,” MSA, Boston, November 2015
- “Life after Extinction,” SLSA, Houston, November 2015
- “Sustainability after Extinction: On Bringing Back the Bison,” ASLE, Moscow, ID, June 2015
- “Outer Anthropocene Poetics,” ACLA, Seattle, March 2015
- “Concepts of Extinction in the Holocaust,” Jewish Studies Colloquium, Western University, January 2015
- “Modernism and the Anthropocene,” roundtable organizer and participant, Modernist Studies Association, November 2014
- “The North American Tiger,” and roundtable organizer “Theorizing Deep Time in Canada,” Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada, Lakehead University, August 2014
- “Last Animals and Mass Animals: The Case of the North American Tiger” invited panelist, University of Guelph, February 2014
- “Photographing the Last Animal,” invited speaker, Thinking Extinction, Laurentian University, November 2013
- “How to Write the Disaster,” SLSA, Notre Dame University, October 2013
- “Contaminated Life: Biopolitics after Rachel Carson,” Keynote, Picking Through the Trash, York University, May 2013
- “Extinction, Reductionism, and Precarious Life in the Anthropocene” ACLA, University of Toronto, April 2013
- “Extinction and Ontology” Theory Sessions, Western University, March 2013
- “After Recycling: Environmental Conceptual Poetics” Ecopoetics, UC Berkeley, February 2013
- “Introduction,” “Regeneration Through Pollution,” Underground Ecocriticism: New Approaches to the Environmental Humanities, Western University, November 2012
- “Ambience, Reading without Critique, and Environments” Modernist Studies Association, October, 2012
- “Where Is the Oil in Modernism?” Petrocultures, University of Alberta, September, 2012
- “Digital Extinction” Association for Literature, Culture, and Environment in Canada, August 2012
- “Environmental Conceptual Poetics” ACCUTE, University of Waterloo, May 2012
- “Digital Extinction” The Nonhuman Turn, Center for 21rst Century Studies, University of Milwaukee, May 2012

- “Time, Species, Extinction” ACLA, Brown University, April 2012
- “Where Is the Oil in Modernism?” Modernist Studies Association, SUNY Buffalo, October 2011
- “What Is Extinction?” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Waterloo, September 2011
- “Theorizing the Extinction Plot” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, University of Indiana, Bloomington, June 2011
- “Silence = Use Without Owners: John Cage’s Chance Music and Ecological Ethics” Staging Sustainability, York University, April 2011
- “American Extinction,” Romanticism and Evolution, University of Western Ontario, April 2011
- “Why Modernism Was Never Really Green” Modernist Studies Association, University of Victoria, October 2010
- “Ecology, Modernism, Blues,” Modernity Unbound: Inaugural Literatures of Modernity Symposium at Ryerson, March 2010
- “Blues, Geography, Crisis,” Canadian Association for American Studies, UWO, November 2009
- “Plotting the Environment in Gertrude Stein,” Modernists Studies Association Eleventh Annual Conference, McGill University, November 2009
- “Green Literature in the Classroom and in Action,” Earth Day Colloquium, University of Western Ontario, April 2009
- “Moral Environments: Marianne Moore after Darwin,” Modernists Studies Association Tenth Annual Conference, Vanderbilt, November 2008
- “The Unconscious After the Modernist Imagination: Wallace Stevens and the Poem of the Mind,” Modernism: The Time of the Unconscious, University of Pennsylvania, February 2008
- “Biotopia After Biopolitics: Kantian Universal History in Will Alexander’s Recent Poetry,” Logics of the Living, Department of Comparative Literature, Cornell University, October 2007
- “The Morals of Genealogy in Nietzsche and Gertrude Stein,” Modernist Studies Group, University of Pennsylvania, December 2006
- “Manifestos as Modernist Biotopias,” Modernists Studies Association Eighth Annual Conference, University of Tulsa, October 2006
- “Giorgio Agamben, Body Worlds, and Intimate, Uncanny Biology,” American Comparative Literature Association, Princeton University, March 2006
- “From Meta-Biology to Causal Networks in Arakawa and Gins’ Poetic Architecture,” Philosophy and Architecture: Arakawa and Gins, University of Paris, X, October 2005
- “Is Phenomenology a Philosophy of Peace?” Cave Hill University of the West Indies Annual Philosophy Conference, March 2005
- “Traversing Bergson Through Modernity,” Modernist Studies Association Sixth Annual Conference, Simon Fraser University, October 2004
- “Mina Loy: Sensation – Feminism – Cosmology,” Modernist Studies Association Sixth Annual Conference, Simon Fraser University, October 2004
- “The Harmonics of Affects in Zukofsky’s Spinoza,” The Louis Zukofsky Centennial Conference, Columbia University, September 2004
- “Organizing the Organic: Marx and Biopolitics,” Marxism and the World Stage, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, November 2003

- “Qu'est-ce que la philosophie aujourd’hui? La philosophie en France au XXI^{ème} siècle,” Causeries Series, University of Pennsylvania, October 2002
- “William Apess and the Formation of the Legal Indian in Early America,” New Frontiers in Early American Literature, University of Virginia, August 2002
- “Translating Digital Photography,” Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia 1997

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- Co-coordinator, workshop, “Amor Mundi: How to Love the World in a Time of Polycrisis,” “Affects and Worlds,” collaboration with Radboud University and Western’s Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism
- Exhibition Co-Curator: “If You Picked One Book to Read for the Rest of Your Life, What Would It Be?” Exhibit in memory of Michael Groden, Weldon Library, Western University, February 2024
- Invited Panelist, “Bringing Space Back to Earth,” McIntosh Gallery, Western Space, November, 2023
- Invited Panelist, Words Festival London, “The Changing World: A Conversation on Climate Change,” November 2022
- Podcast guest, New Books Network, 2024
- Podcast guest, The Good Robot, 2023
- Podcast guest, Radio Ecoshock, January 2022
- Exhibition Curator: “Walt Whitman in London, Ontario,” Weldon Library, Western University, December 2019
- Invited Talk, Words Festival London, November 2019
- Invited Talk, Poetry London, May 2017
- Participant, “Poem Talk,” radio podcast at Kelly Writers House, 2007, 2008, 2016, 2018
- Invited Respondent, Book Panel on Brendan Larsen’s *Metaphors for Environmental Sustainability*, SLSA Conference, 2011
- Guided Tour, “Adaptation,” Museum Exhibit at The Power Plant, Toronto, 2010.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Western-Radboud Collaboration Fund (Western International), 2024 (\$9840)
- SSHRC Explore and Exchange Grant, 2024 (\$5945)
- Visiting Fellow, LERMA (Laboratoire des Études et de Recherche sur le Monde Anglophone), Université Aix-Marseille, February 2022
- SSHRC Insight Grant, 2017-2022 (\$66,800)
- Alanna Bondar Memorial Book Award, ALECC, 2016
- SSHRC Bridge Grant, 2013 (\$10,136)
- SSHRC Connection Grant, 2012 (\$12,522)
- SSHRC Internal Research Grant, 2009
- ADF Small Grant Application, 2009
- Kerry Sherin Wright Prize, 2005
- Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2001 – 2006
- Kelly Writers House Junior Fellow, 1999
- Phi Beta Kappa, University of Pennsylvania, 1998
- Adolph C. Gorr Prize in German Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 1997

SERVICE

SSHRC Insight Grant adjudicator, 2021

Affiliated Faculty, Centre for Environment and Sustainability (Western)

Lead Organizer, two-day workshop, “Underground Ecocriticism: New Approaches to the Environmental Humanities,” 2012

Treasurer, Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada (2019-2026)

Secretary, Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada (2012-2014)

Founding Member, Hub Planning Committee of the Kelly Writers House, 1996-2007

Organizer of more than twenty poetry readings, panels, and symposia at the Kelly Writers House, 1996-2007

Editor, *Other Voices*, 1997-2007

Peer Review: *Imaginations, Journal of American Studies, Complutense Journal of English Studies, Paideuma, Mosaic, Photography & Culture, Palgrave, University of Iowa Press, Bloomsbury Press, PMLA, ELH, Culture, Theory, and Critique, Modernism/Modernity, Studies in American Fiction, Columbia University Press, Minnesota Review, Humanities, Comparative Literature and Culture, Philological Quarterly, Northwestern University Press, Canadian Literature, ARIEL, Textual Practice, ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment, Fordham University Press, Stanford University Press*