

PETER HEFT

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Theory and Criticism ----- 2020–2026 (expected)

Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism @ [University of Western Ontario]

“Neuronal Discharge and Celestial Flows: Energetic Materialism in Sigmund Freud and Georges Bataille” (in progress)

Advisors: Dr. Antonio Calcagno and Dr. John Vanderheide

M.A. Philosophy ----- 2018–2020

Duquesne University

B.A. Philosophy ----- 2014–2018

Denison University

“Creatures Galore: A Fictional Argument for Mythical and Imaginative Realism”

Advisor: Dr. Sam Cowling

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Contemporary French Philosophy and post-Deleuzian Thought — My research primarily follows questions of energeticism and materialism—the crux between the two being most fully explicated by Freud, Bataille, Deleuze and Guattari, and Land—with the aim of producing a genealogical account of so-called ‘libidinal materialism’ and impersonal desire as ontology undergirding both speculative realism and capitalism as process. Additionally, I work on topics related to cyber-feminism, Internet culture and cybernetic philosophy, speculative realism and continental metaphysics, and the changes in (inter)subjective experiences *vis-à-vis* occulted, ‘magical,’ or deterritorialized space.

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

I am competent and comfortable with (continental) philosophy, modern philosophy, philosophy of technology, science fiction and cyberpunk studies, existentialism, Afrofuturism, and political philosophy generally, the history of fascism and anti-fascism specifically. A few non-traditional thinkers with whom I am familiar are Freud, Bataille, Deleuze and Guattari, the CCRU, Harman, and Meillassoux.

PUBLICATIONS

Heft, P. “The Geocosmic Unconscious: Metapsychological Speculations on Geotrauma and Dissolution.”

Symposium: Canadian Journal of Continental Philosophy (Spring 2026): forthcoming.

Heft, P. “On Peripheral Philosophy: A Para-Academic Polemic.” *Pli: The Warwick Journal of*

Philosophy Volume 35, No. 1 (2024): 99–123. [ISSN: 1367-3769](https://doi.org/10.1080/1367-3769.2024.2311111)

Heft P. “Libidinal Materialism: Speculative Realism’s Chthonic Dizygote.” *Das Questões* Volume 18,

No. 1 (2023): 187–227. [ISSN: 2447-7087](https://doi.org/10.1080/2447-7087.2023.2211111)

Heft, P. “Virtual Embodiment, Or: When I Enter Cyberspace, What Body Will I Inhabit?” *Cosmos and*

History: The Journal of Natural and Social Philosophy Volume 19, No. 1 (2023): 193–211.

[ISSN: 1832-9101](https://doi.org/10.1080/1832-9101.2023.2211111)

Heft, P. “Xenofeminism: A Framework to Hack the Human.” *New Proposals: Journal of Marxism and*

Interdisciplinary Inquiry Volume 12, No. 1 (2021): 121–139. [ISSN: 1715-6718](https://doi.org/10.1080/1715-6718.2021.1911111)

- Heft, P.** “Betwixt and Between: Zones as Liminal and Deterritorialized Spaces.” *Pulse: The Journal of Science and Culture* Volume 8, No. 2 (2021): 1–20. [10.5281/zenodo.10576341](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10576341)
- Arenson, H. and P. Heft.** “Noclipping Reality: A Journey to the Backrooms.” *Parasol: Journal of the Centre For Experimental Ontology* Volume 5 (2021): xxxi–xxxii, 85–97. [ISSN: 2515-2920](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10576341)
- Heft, P.** “When Language Breaks: A Heideggerian Analysis of Grice’s ‘Cooperative Principle.’” *Stance* Volume 11 (2018): 22–33. [10.5840/stance2018112](https://doi.org/10.5840/stance2018112)
- Heft, P.** “Smoothing the High Seas: A Deleuzoguattarian Analysis of the Somali Pirates.” *Journal 360°* Volume 12, No. 2 (2017): 29–39. [10.3224/360grad.v12i2.03](https://doi.org/10.3224/360grad.v12i2.03)

PRESENTATIONS

- Heft, P.** “Exploring the Geologic Unconscious: A Stratoanalytical Case Report.” *Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism at Western University with Radboud University’s Center for Contemporary European Philosophy: A Two-Day Workshop on “Affects and Worlds,”* London, CA. May 26, 2025 – May 27, 2024.
- Heft, P.** “The Geocosmic Unconscious and Anorganic Subjectivity.” *Amor Mundi & Ecological Cosmopolitanism*, Nijmegen, NL. October 14, 2024 – October 15, 2024.
- Heft, P.** “‘Aural Cameras’ and Temporal Slippage: Sampling and *Détourned* Time.” *62nd Annual Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP) Conference*, Rochester, NY. September 26, 2024 – September 28, 2024.
- Heft, P.** “Sino-ph(obia)(uturism).” *Accelerated Ad(E)vent: Subjectivity and Aesthetics Approaching the Singularity*, London, CA. May 24, 2024 – May 25, 2024.
- Heft, P.** “Close Encounters of the Kantian Kind: Transcendental Idealism and the Interdimensional Hypothesis.” *36th Annual Conference of Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (Alien 2023)*, Tempe, AZ. October 26, 2023 – October 29, 2023.
- Heft, P.** “When Freud Met Foucault, Or: Freud as A Theorist of Population Politics.” *61st Annual Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP) Conference*, Toronto, CA. October 12, 2023 – October 14, 2023.
- Heft, P.** “Transhumanism and the Alien-to-Come.” *International Conference on Radical Humanism (Conferencia Internacional Sobre Humanismo Radical)*, Sante Fe, NM. September 8, 2023 – September 9, 2023.
- Heft, P.** “Back to the Future: F. T. Marinetti and Valentine de Saint-Point’s Gender Nihilism.” *Unlearning Nihilism*, Online and London, UK. June 23, 2022 – June 26, 2022.
- Heft, P.** “Tall Waves and Smooth Seas: The Somali Pirates as the War Machinic Rejoinder to the Global State.” *Deleuze & Guattari Studies Camp and Conference 2021*, Prague, Czech Republic. July 5, 2021 – July 7, 2021.
- Heft, P.** “On Peripheral Philosophy: Para-Academia and the Call of the Outside.” *Binghamton University Philosophy Graduate Student Conference*, Binghamton, NY. November 2, 2019.
- Heft, P.** “Black Death and White Civil Society: Foucault, Wilderson, and the Necessity of Necropolitics.” *DePaul University Philosophy Graduate Student Conference*, Chicago, IL. September 27, 2019 – September 28, 2019.
- Heft, P.** “Nuclear Aesthetics: Technology, Corporeality, and the Politics of Nuclear Weapons Testing.” *22nd Annual Pacific University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference*, Forest Grove OR. April 20, 2018 – April 21, 2018.
- Heft, P.** “When Language Breaks: A Heideggerian Analysis of Grice’s ‘Cooperative Principle.’” *2017 Steven Humphrey Colloquium*, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY. November 3, 2017.
- Heft, P.** “Taking Things Seriously Again – An Introduction to Object-Oriented Ontology.” *21st Annual Pacific University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference*, Forest Grove, OR. April 21, 2017 – April 22, 2017.

OTHER WORKS

- Heft, P.** [Interview]: [“the backrooms: a blurry photo that changed the internet.”](#) On *Sixteenth Minute (Of Fame)*. Last modified February 10, 2025.
- Heft, P.** [Interview]: [“Liminal Spaces: A Psychological and Social Deep Dive – Double Talk Asks with Hannah and Cailin Loesch.”](#) On *Loesch Twins*. Last modified August 5, 2023.
- Heft, P.** [“Tic-Xenotation as a Solution to Problems of Context: Barker, Derrida, and ETL.”](#) *Plutonics: A Journal of Non-Standard Theory*, Volume 16 (2023): 70–78.
- Heft, P.** [“Stellar Bile, Terrestrial Extraction & Carrie Blast Furnaces.”](#) *Triple Ampersand Journal (&&&)*. Last modified July 25, 2022.
- Heft, P.** [“we finally took indigenous knowledge squid-fungi hybrid seriously.”](#) *Possible Utopias: The Wordsfest Eco Zine*, issue 6 (2020): 21–22.
- Heft, P.** [“Notes on Retrocausal AI.”](#) *Plutonics: A Journal of Non-Standard Theory*, Volume 13 (2020): 154–159.
- Heft, P.** “Stuck Inside the Vampire Castle.” On *The Mantle*. Last Modified April 23, 2019. [[archived](#)]
- Heft, P.** “On Peripheral Philosophy.” On *The Mantle*. Last modified January 25, 2019. [[archived](#)]
- Heft, P.** “Gender hacking an Alien Future: On Helen Hester’s *Xenofeminism*.” On *The Mantle*. Last modified July 23, 2018. [[archived](#)]
- Heft, P.** “‘The Rhizome’ – An American Translation: Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari’s The Rhizome, translated from English to American.” On *The Mantle*. Last modified June 26, 2017. [[archived](#)]

TRANSLATIONS

- Helleu, G.** and **A. Masure.** “Total Record: The Blockchain Protocol Towards Post-Capitalism.” Translated by **P. Heft.** *Multitudes* Volume 71, No. 2 (2018): 70–79. [10.3917/mult.071.0070](https://doi.org/10.3917/mult.071.0070)

SELECTED WORKS EDITED

- Chiasma: A Site for Thought* Volume 9 (2025) – **Heft, P.** “Introduction: Modalities of Fascism.” [10.5206/ch.2025.1.22306](https://doi.org/10.5206/ch.2025.1.22306)
- Plutonics: A Journal of Non-Standard Theory* Volumes 13–17 (2020–2024)
- Land, N., S. Livingston, and A. Greenspan.** *Visions of Futures Past: Templexity and Future Mutation.* Arkham/London: Miskatonic Virtual University Press, 2024. [ISBN: 9781778154935](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781778154935)
- CCRU.** *Abstract Culture (Swarms 1–3) + Selections from Digital Hyperstition.* Arkham/London: Miskatonic Virtual University Press, 2024. [ISBN: 9781778154911](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781778154911)
- Greenspan, A.** *Capitalism’s Transcendental Time Machine.* Arkham/London: Miskatonic Virtual University Press, 2023. [ISBN: 9781778154904](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781778154904)
- Episteme: An International Journal of Undergraduate Philosophy* Volume 29 (2018)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Associate Member at the [Posthumanism Research Institute](#) (Brock University) ----- 2023–present

Co-Organizer of [*Accelerated Ad\(E\)vent: Subjectivity and Aesthetics Approaching the Singularity*](#), a trans-disciplinary conference at Western University ----- May 24, 2024 – May 25, 2024
Co-Organizer of [*Human Considerations: Speculations on Lunar Habitation*](#), an online roundtable at the Venice Biennale–CityxVenice ----- July 8, 2021
Member of New School Policy and Design for Outer Space (The New School) ----- 2021

EDITORIAL POSITIONS

Deputy Chief Editor for [*Chiasma: A Site for Thought*](#) ----- 2024–present
Chief Editor for [*Chiasma: A Site for Thought*](#) ----- 2023–2024
Editor for [*Chiasma: A Site for Thought*](#) ----- 2020–2023
Editor in Chief for [*Miskatonic Virtual University Press*](#) ----- 2019–2024
Managing Editor for [*Plutonics: A Journal of Non-Standard Theory*](#) ----- 2019–2024
Philosophy Editor for *The Mantle* ----- 2018–2021
Head Editor for [*Episteme*](#) ----- 2017–2018
Co-Editor/Web Editor for [*Episteme*](#) ----- 2014–2017

GUEST LECTURES

“Afrofuturism: Kodwo Eshun” in Dr. Helen Fielding, Continental Philosophy (University of Western Ontario) ----- Fall 2023
“Nocliping Reality: A Journey to the Backrooms” in William Jones-Kline, Philosophy and Video Games (The Ohio State University) [Invited] ----- Winter 2023

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Teaching Assistant, Film 2159B – Disney Dream Factory, Dr. Janelle Blankenship ----- Winter 2024
Teaching Assistant, Philosophy 3555F – Continental Philosophy, Dr. Helen Fielding ----- Fall 2023
Teaching Assistant, Philosophy 3555G – Continental Philosophy, Dr. Helen Fielding ----- Winter 2023
Teaching Assistant, Philosophy 2557F – Existentialism, Dr. Dean Proessel ----- Fall 2022
Teaching Assistant, Film 3357G – Science Fiction Cinema, Dr. Tobias Nagl ----- Winter 2022
Teaching Assistant, Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies 2163A – Sex, How To: Sex Education, Its History and Controversies, Dr. Nichole Edwards ----- Fall 2021
Teaching Assistant, Film 1022 – Introduction to Film, Dr. Tobias Nagl ----- 2020–2021

CERTIFICATIONS

Centre for Teaching and Learning, Teaching Assistant Training Program (Western) ----- 2020

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Duquesne University

- Deleuze and Guattari’s *A Thousand Plateaus*, Dr. Jay Lampert
- Michel Foucault, Dr. Fred Evans
- G.W.F. Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Dr. Jennifer Bates
- Jacques Lacan, Dr. Tom Eyers
- Gothic Philosophy, Dr. Larry Michael Harrington
- Merleau-Ponty’s *Phenomenology of Perception*, Dr. Fred Evans

- Sartre's *Critique of Dialectical Reason*, Dr. Jay Lampert
- Plato's *Phaedrus & Symposium*, Dr. Kelly Arenson
- French for Research I & II, Dr. Richard Shane Agin
- Graduate Teaching Seminar, Dr. Kelly Arenson
- Derrida's *Of Grammatology*, Dr. Jay Lampert
- Contemporary Social and Political Philosophy, Dr. Fred Evans

Western University

- The Philosophy of Hannah Arendt: Rethinking the Social and the Political, Dr. Antonio Calcagno
- Theorizing Environmental Subjectivity, Dr. David Janzen
- The Internet is Down: Network Collapse, Dr. Nick Dyer-Witheford
- The Art and Politics of the Situationist International (1957–1972), Dr. Edward Matthews
- “Anti-Psychoanalyses”: A (Short and Incomplete) History of Confluences and Conflicts, Dr. Cristina Ionica
- Biopolitics and the Unconscious, Dr. Matthew Rowlinson
- Species-Beings: Young Marx in the Post-Anthropocene, Dr. Nick Dyer-Witheford (sat in)

Western University's Centre for Teaching and Learning

- The Theory & Practice of University Teaching, Dr. Lisa Aikman and Dr. Ken Meadows