# PETER HEFT

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. Theory and Criticism** ----------2020–2026
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"
Argues that Freud's theory of drives and Bataille's theory of expenditure address one problem at two scales (the organism and the biosphere)—namely, how complex systems generate order and direction by spending energy. Read alongside the thermodynamics of dissipative systems, they yield an account of immanent purposiveness.
Advisor: Dr. Antonio Calcagno

**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

Continental Philosophy—Especially History of Materialism (and New Materialism), Speculative Realism; Key Thinkers—Freud, Bataille, Deleuze & Guattari

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Twentieth- and Twenty-First-Century Continental Philosophy, Philosophy of Technology (and Transhumanism), Cyberfeminism

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Lecturer, The Ohio State University** ----------Autumn 2026
Department of Philosophy
Environmental Ethics (Phil 2342), sole instructor for the second half of the semester

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, Western University** ----------2020–2024

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|---|---|
| Disney Dream Factory (Film 2159B), Dr. Janelle Blankenship (online) | Winter 2024 |
| Continental Philosophy (Phil 3555F), Dr. Helen Fielding | Fall 2023 |
| Continental Philosophy (Phil 3555G), Dr. Helen Fielding | Winter 2023 |
| Existentialism (Phil 2557F), Dr. Dean Proessel | Fall 2022 |
| Science Fiction Cinema (Film 3357G), Dr. Tobias Nagl | Winter 2022 |
| Sex Education, Its History and Controversies (GSWS 2163A), Dr. Nichole Edwards (online) | Fall 2021 |
| Introduction to Film (Film 1022), Dr. Tobias Nagl (online); led weekly tutorials, 30 students | 2020–2021 |

**Guest Lectures**

"Afrofuturism: Kodwo Eshun" in Dr. Helen Fielding, Continental Philosophy (Phil 3555F), Western University — Fall 2023

"Noclipping Reality: A Journey to the Backrooms" in William Jones-Kline, Philosophy and Video Games (Phil 2455), The Ohio State University — Spring 2023

**Teaching Training**

The Theory and Practice of University Teaching, Centre for Teaching and Learning, Western University — Winter 2023

Teaching Assistant Training Program, Centre for Teaching and Learning, Western University — Summer 2020

Graduate Teaching Seminar, Duquesne University — Fall 2019

## PUBLICATIONS

**Heft, P.** "Sino(phobia)(futurism)." In *Accelerated Ad(E)vent: Subjectivity and Aesthetics Approaching the Singularity*. Edited by Peter Heft and Vinay Sharma, 34–40. London: Miskatonic Virtual University Press & The Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, 2026.

**Heft, P.** "The Geocosmic Unconscious: Metapsychological Speculations on Geotrauma and Dissolution." *Symposium: Canadian Journal of Continental Philosophy* Volume 30, No. 1 (2026): 152–165. 10.5840/symposium202630110

**Heft, P.** "On Peripheral Philosophy: A Para-Academic Polemic." *Pli: The Warwick Journal of Philosophy* Volume 35, No. 1 (2024): 99–123.

**Heft, P.** "Libidinal Materialism: Speculative Realism's Chthonic Dizygote." *Das Questões* Volume 18, No. 1 (2023): 187–227.

**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.

**Heft, P.** "Xenofeminism: A Framework to Hack the Human." *New Proposals: Journal of Marxism and Interdisciplinary Inquiry* Volume 12, No. 1 (2021): 121–139.

**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

**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.

**Heft, P.** "When Language Breaks: A Heideggerian Analysis of Grice's 'Cooperative Principle.'" *Stance* Volume 11 (2018): 22–33. 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

## UNDER REVIEW

**Heft, P.** "Biopolitical Anticipations in Freud's Speculative Biologies: Primeval Protista, Primal Humans, and Population Politics."

**Heft, P**. "The Archimedean Point and the 'New Science': Cosmology and Alienation in Georges Bataille and Hannah Arendt."

## IN PREPARATION

**Heft, P.** "Outside of $\frac{\text{Space}}{\text{Time}}$: Immanuel Kant, Transcendental Idealism, and the Interdimensional Hypothesis." For *Aliens in Theory*, edited by Joshua Schuster and Brad Tabas.

## PRESENTATIONS

**Heft, P.** "Turntablism and Time Travel Technics." *Occultural Accelerationism, AI, and the Destruction of Everything*, Copenhagen, DK. August 6, 2026.

**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, ON. May 26, 2025 – May 27, 2025.

**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, ON. 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, ON. October 12, 2023 – October 14, 2023.

**Heft, P.** "Trans~~humanism~~ and the Alien-to-Come." *International Conference on Radical Humanism (Conferencia Internacional Sobre Humanismo Radical)*, Santa 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*, 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, CZ. 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 ETI." *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

## SELECTED WORKS EDITED

*Chiasma: A Site for Thought* Volume 9 (2025) – **Heft, P.** "Introduction: Modalities of Fascism." 10.5206/ch.2025.1.22306

*Plutonics: A Journal of Non-Standard Theory* Volumes 13–17 (2020–2024)

**Heft, P. and V. Sharma (eds.).** *Accelerated Ad(E)vent: Subjectivity and Aesthetics Approaching the Singularity*. London: Miskatonic Virtual University Press & The Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, 2026.

**Land, N., S. Livingston, and A. Greenspan.** *Visions of Futures Past: Templexity and Future Mutation.* Arkham/London: Miskatonic Virtual University Press, 2024. ISBN: 9781778154935

**CCRU.** *Abstract Culture (Swarms 1–3) + Selections from Digital Hyperstition*. Arkham/London: Miskatonic Virtual University Press, 2024. ISBN: 9781778154911

**Greenspan, A.** *Capitalism's Transcendental Time Machine*. Arkham/London: Miskatonic Virtual University Press, 2023. ISBN: 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 workshop 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* ----------2024–2026
Chief Editor for *Chiasma: A Site for Thought* ----------2023–2024
Editor for *Chiasma: A Site for Thought* ----------2020–2023
Founder and Editor in Chief for Miskatonic Virtual University Press ----------2019–2024
Founder and 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

## 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

## REFERENCES

Dr. Antonio Calcagno (Professor of Philosophy) (Doctoral Supervisor)

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Dr. Helen Fielding (Professor of Philosophy) (Teaching Supervisor)

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Dr. Joshua Schuster (Professor of English and Writing Studies) (Department Chair)

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- +1 519-661-2111 ext. 85826