

Alex Dubilet

Departments of English and Political Science
Vanderbilt University
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EMPLOYMENT

2017- Senior Lecturer, Departments of English and Political Science, Vanderbilt University
2016-17 Lecturer, Departments of English and Political Science, Vanderbilt University
2015-16 Visiting Scholar, Department of Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University
2014-15 Lecturer, Department of Rhetoric and Program in Religious Studies, UC Berkeley
2008-14 Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Rhetoric, Program in Religious Studies,
and Department of Philosophy, UC Berkeley

EDUCATION

2014 Ph.D. in Rhetoric with a designated emphasis in Critical Theory, UC Berkeley
2007 M.Phil in European Culture and Literature, Cambridge University
2006 B.A. in History and Political Science with a minor in Comparative Literature, *Summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, University of Pennsylvania

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Contemporary Continental Thought, Political Theology, Critical Theory, Philosophy of Religion, German Idealism, Modern and Contemporary Political Theory, History of Christianity, Mysticism, Critical Study of Secularism, Film and Film Theory, Russian Philosophy, Literary Theory.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *The Self-Emptying Subject: Kenosis and Immanence, Medieval to Modern* (New York: Fordham University Press, April 2018).

Work in Progress

- “In the Void of Thought: Nothingness, Anarchy, Resurrection (Chaadaev – Bakunin – Fyodorov)” (With Kirill Chepurin) in *Thinking: A Philosophical History*, eds. Panayiota Vassilopoulou and Daniel Whistler (to be submitted to *Rewriting the History of Philosophy* series at Routledge).

Articles and Book Chapters

- “On the General Secular Contradiction: Secularization, Christianity, and Political Theology” in *German Idealism and the Future of Political Theology: Kant to Marx*, eds. Kirill Chepurin and Alex Dubilet (under review with Fordham University Press).
- “Immanence, Genealogy, (De)legitimation: German Idealism and Political Theology” (With

Kirill Chepurin) in *German Idealism and the Future of Political Theology: Kant to Marx*, eds. Kirill Chepurin and Alex Dubilet (under review with Fordham University Press).

- “Russia’s Atopic Nothingness: Ungrounding the World-Historical Whole with Pyotr Chaadaev” (With Kirill Chepurin) in *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities* (forthcoming).
- “Sovereign Nothingness: Pyotr Chaadaev’s Political Theology” (With Kirill Chepurin) *Theory & Event* (forthcoming).
- “The Catastrophic Joy of Abandoning Salvation: Thinking the Postsecular with Georges Bataille” in *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 16.2 (2017): 163-178.
- “Negotiating Terrain: Gender and the Postsecular” (With Beatrice Marovich) in *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 16.2 (2017): 109-125.
- “Speculation and Infinite Life: Hegel and Meister Eckhart on the Critique of Finitude” in *Russian Journal of Philosophy & Humanities* 1.2, *New Life of German Idealism* (2017): 49-70.
Russian Translation: “Спекуляция и бесконечная жизнь: критика конечного у Гегеля и Экхарта,” trans. K. Aleksandrov in *Логос: Философско-Литературный Журнал* (*Logos: Philosophical and Literary Journal*) 26.2 (2016), 55-80.
- “Non-philosophical Immanence, or Immanence without Secularization” in *Mystical Theology and Continental Philosophy* eds. Simon Podmore, David Lewin, and Duane Williams (London: Routledge, 2017), 231-244.
- “(Non-)Human Identity and Radical Immanence: On Man-in-Person in François Laruelle’s Non-Philosophy” in *Superpositions: Laruelle and the Humanities* eds. Julius Greve and Rocco Gangle. “Critical Perspectives on Theory, Culture and Politics” Series. (London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017), 31-45.
- “Freeing Immanence from the Grip of Philosophy: On Univocity and Experimentalism in Meister Eckhart” in *Speculation, Heresy, and Gnosis in Contemporary Philosophy of Religion: The Enigmatic Absolute* eds. Joshua Ramey and Matthew Haar Farris. “Reframing Continental Philosophy of Religion” Series. (London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), 247-258.
- “Neither God, nor World’: On the One Foreclosed to Transcendence” in *Palgrave Communications*. Special Issue: *Radical Theologies*, 2015: 1-8. Online.

Editorial Work

- *German Idealism and the Future of Political Theology: Kant to Marx*, eds. Kirill Chepurin and Alex Dubilet (Under review with Fordham University Press).
- “Gender and the Postsecular,” eds. Alex Dubilet and Beatrice Marovich. A Special Issue of *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory*, 16:2 (2017). Online.

Translations

- François Laruelle, *Une biographie de l’homme ordinaire: des Autorités et des Minorités* (Paris: Aubier, 1985). Co-translated with Jessie Hock from the French: *A Biography of Ordinary Man: On Authorities and Minorities*, (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2018).
- François Laruelle, *Théorie générale des victimes* (Paris: Fayard, 2012). Co-translated with Jessie Hock from the French: *General Theory of Victims* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2015).

Reviews

- Review of Nancy Levene, *Powers of Distinction: On Religion and Modernity* in *Reading Religion: A*

Publication of the American Academy of Religion (2018). Online.

- Review of Kurt Flasch, *Meister Eckhart: Philosophers of Christianity* in *The Medieval Review* (2016). Online.
- “Pastoral Power, Counter-conduct, and the Flesh,” A Contribution to a Symposium on Mark D. Jordan’s *Convulsing Bodies*, in *Syndicate Theology* (2016). Online.
- Review of Jonathan Sheehan and Dror Wahrman, *Invisible Hands: Self-Organization and the Eighteenth Century* at *The Immanent Frame* (2016). Online.
- “Dispossession, Uselessness, and The Limits of Humanism,” A Contribution to a Symposium on David Harvey’s *Seventeen Contradictions and the End of Capitalism*, in *Syndicate Theology* (2015). Online.
- “On the Dialectics of Submission and Autonomy,” A Review of Michel Houellebecq’s *Submission* in *TELOSscope* (2015). Online.
- Review Essay of Daniel Colucciello Barber, *Deleuze and the Naming of God: Post-Secularism and the Future of Immanence* in *Parrhesia: A Journal of Critical Philosophy* 20 (2014): 116-120.
- Review Essay of Katrin Pahl, *Tropes of Transport: Hegel and Emotion* in *Qui Parle* 22.2 (2014): 177-184.
- “Имманентность, конфликт и история: итальянская мысль Роберто Эспозито” in *Логос: Философско-Литературный Журнал* 99:3 (2014): 289-294. [“Immanence, Conflict and History: The Italian Thought of Roberto Esposito,” trans. K. Aleksandrov in *Logos: Philosophical and Literary Journal*.]
- “Voyage au bout de l’ennui” in *Radical Philosophy* 178, (2013): 64-6. [Review Essay of *After History: Alexandre Kojève as a Photographer*]

INVITED TALKS

- 2019 “In the Void of Thought: Nothingness, Anarchy, Resurrection (Chaadaev – Bakunin – Fyodorov)” (with Kirill Chepurin) *Thinking: A Philosophical History Workshop*, University of Liverpool, June.
- 2017 “Ground(lessness) and Utopia” *Thinking About Utopia—Religious and Secular*. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, April.
- 2016 “Immanence Without the World” *(N)one and the World*. New School, New York, March.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 “Russia’s Atopic Nothingness: Ungrounding the World-Historical Whole with Pyotr Chaadaev” *East Europe: Critical Engagements*, Vanderbilt University, November.
- 2019 “Impossible Futures (On Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne’s *Lorna’s Silence*” *Film Theory and Visual Culture*, Vanderbilt University, October.
- 2019 “Subjection, Individuation, Reproduction” *Political Theologies: Disciplined and Undisciplined*, ZfL Berlin: Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung Berlin, July.
- 2019 “On the General Secular Contradiction: Secularization, Christianity, and Political Theology” *Social and Political Thought Workshop Series*, Vanderbilt University, April.
- 2019 “Impossible Sovereignty,” *American Comparative Literature Association*. Washington. March
- 2018 “Doing Nothing: Individuation, Subjection, and the Political Theology of Interpellation,” *Political Theology and the Contemporary Moment: Beyond the Christian and the Secular*. Berlin, July.

- 2018 “Towards a Political Atheology: Georges Bataille on Sovereignty and Nothingness,” *American Comparative Literature Association*. Los Angeles, March.
- 2018 “The Abolition of Religion and the Limits of the Political: Early Marx on Political Theology,” *Political Theology Network Inaugural Conference*. Atlanta, February.
- 2017 “Glossolalia in the Flesh: The Immanent Materialism of Aleksei German’s Late Cinema,” *American Comparative Literature Association*. Utrecht, July.
- 2017 “The Immanence of Nothing: History and U-topia in Chaadaev,” *History, Utopia, and Nothingness: Rethinking Chaadaev*. Berkeley, April.
- 2016 “On the Limits of the Political: Early Marx and Political Theology,” *German Idealism and the Future of Political Theology*. Berlin, May.
- 2015 “Immanence, Genealogy, (De)legitimation: Some Reflections on Political Theology Today,” *American Academy of Religion*. Atlanta, November.
- 2015 “Undecidable Acts of Subversion: Theorizing the Postsecular against Authority,” *American Academy of Religion*. Atlanta, November.
- 2015 “Political Atheology and the Possibility of Post-Secularism,” *Political Theology: The Liberation of the Postsecular?* Liverpool, July.
- 2015 “Immanence Without the World,” *Political Theology: The Liberation of the Postsecular?* Liverpool, July.
- 2015 “Subtracting Immanence from Secularism,” *(Non-)Philosophy and the Critique of the Secular*. Berkeley, April.
- 2014 “(Non-)Human Identity and Radical Immanence: On the Status of Man-in-Person in François Laruelle’s Thought,” *Superpositions: Non-Standard Perspectives on Critical Theory, Philosophy and Media Studies—Symposium on Laruelle and the Humanities*. New York, October.
- 2014 “Non-philosophical Immanence, or Immanence without Secularization,” *Mystical Theology and Continental Philosophy: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*. Liverpool, July.
- 2014 “On François Laruelle’s *Théorie générale des victimes*,” *Laruelle: In Translation Seminar Series*. Dublin, July.
- 2013 “The Political Immanence of Animality: On Georges Bataille’s ‘Left Sacred,’” *American Academy of Religion*. Baltimore, November.
- 2013 “A Mystical Prehistory of Jouissance: On Joy and Suffering in Angela of Foligno and Hadewijch,” *American Academy of Religion*. Baltimore, November.
- 2013 “Between Joy and Sorrow: On Mystic Indiscernibility and Cosmic Life,” *Cosmic Affect*. Berkeley, October.
- 2013 “Neither Works nor Faith: On Becoming Nothing and the Articulation of Life in Meister Eckhart,” *Belief and Promise in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*. Berkeley, September.
- 2013 “On the Afterlife of Some Heretical Notions: The Transformation of Meister Eckhart’s Thought in the Texts of Henry Suso,” *Re:form*. Berkeley, February.
- 2013 “Sans Emploi, Sans Repos, Sans Réponse: The Kenosis of the Subject in Georges Bataille and the Tradition of ‘Without a Why,’” *Mystical Theology: Eruptions from France*. Dublin, January.
- 2012 “Hegel’s First Kenosis: On *Entäußerung* in the *Phänomenologie des Geistes*,” *Thinking the Absolute: Speculation, Philosophy and the End of Religion*. Liverpool, June.
- 2012 “On the Endgames of History: Eschatological Laying Bare and the Disfigurations of the Subject,” *American Comparative Literature Association*. Providence, March.

PANELS AND CONFERENCES CONVENED

- 2019 *Political Theologies: Disciplined and Undisciplined* (co-organizer), ZfL Berlin, July
- 2019 *Reading de Certeau's "The Mystic Fable"* Workshop (co-organizer), UC Berkeley, May.
- 2018 *Political Theology and the Contemporary Moment: Beyond the Christian and the Secular* International Conference (co-organizer), Humboldt University, Berlin, July. Funded by Humboldt University's KOSMOS Workshop Initiative.
- 2018 "Political Theology and Literature" Seminar (co-organizer), *American Comparative Literature Association*. Los Angeles, March.
- 2017 *History, Utopia, and Nothingness: Rethinking Chaadaev* Symposium (co-organizer), UC Berkeley, April.
- 2016 *German Idealism and the Future of Political Theology* International Conference (co-organizer), Humboldt University, Berlin, May. Funded by Humboldt University's KOSMOS Workshop Initiative, April.
- 2015 Roundtable on the State of Political Theology (co-organizer), *American Academy of Religion*. Atlanta, November.
- 2015 "Micrologics of the Postsecular" Panel (co-organizer), *American Academy of Religion*. Atlanta, November.
- 2015 *(Non-)Philosophy and the Critique of the Secular* Symposium. Berkeley, April.
- 2013 "A Premodern Genealogy of Affect Theory: From Affectus to Affect in Medieval Mysticism" Panel (co-organizer), *American Academy of Religion, Theology and Religious Reflection Section*. Baltimore, November.
- 2013 *Cosmic Affect* Symposium. Berkeley, October.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Vanderbilt University

- Fall 2019 "Radical Political Theory" (PSCI 3206)
- Fall 2019 Introduction to Literary Criticism: Ancient Tragedy (1270W)
- Spring 2019 "Capitalism and Racialization" (ENGL 8138; with Ben Tran)
- Spring 2019 "Living an Ethical Life" (ENGL 3892W)
- Spring 2019 "Religion and Politics" (PSCI 2263)
- Spring 2018 "Critical Theory: Modernity, Violence, and Dispossession" (ENGL 3740)
- Spring 2018 "Rhetoric of Revolution" (ENGL 3892)
- Spring 2018 "Radical Political Theory" (PSCI 3896)
- Fall 2017 "Issues in Political Theory: Power and Resistance" (PSCI 2209)
- Fall 2017 "Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies: Border Crossings" (ENGL 1260W)
- Spring 2017 "The Politics of Disobedience and Resistance" (PSCI 2209)
- Spring 2017 "Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies: Border Crossings" (ENGL 1260W)
- Fall 2016 "Contemporary Political Theory" (PSCI 2205)
- Fall 2016 "Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies: Religion and the Novel" (ENGL 1260W)

University of California, Berkeley

Spring 2015 Lead Instructor, “Modern Philosophy and the Question of Religion” (RHET 105)
Spring 2015 Lead Instructor, “Secularism and its Critics” (RELS 90B)
Fall 2014 Lead Instructor, “Secularization, History, Religion” (RELS 190)
Spring 2014 TA, “Religion in 20th Century Thought, Literature, and Art” (RELS 90B)
Fall 2013 Teaching Assistant, “Interpreting Religion: The Classic Theories” (RELS 90A)
Spring 2013 Lead Instructor, “Theories of the Body” (RHET R1B)
Fall 2012 TA, “Mysticism and Religious Experience” (RELS 90A)
Fall 2010 TA, “Introduction to Practical Reasoning and Critical Analysis of Argument” (RHET 10)
Fall 2009 TA, “Faith, Religion and Religious Experience” (RELS 90A)
Spring 2009 TA, “The Rhetoric of Argument: What Is Compelling?” (RHET 10)
Spring 2008 TA, “Existentialism” (PHIL 7)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2018- *Oraxiom: A Journal of Non-Philosophy*, Advisory Board Member
2018- *Political Theology Seminar* Steering Committee Member, American Academy of Religion
2018- *Political Theology Network*, Member At Large
2017 *Political Theology Network Inaugural Conference* Planning Committee Member

LANGUAGES

Russian (native); English (native); French (good reading and speaking); German (good reading); Latin (reading competence); Middle High German (reading competence)

DEPARTMENTAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Senior Lecturer, Vanderbilt University

2018- *Graduate Faculty*, Department of English
2018 *Faculty Teaching Mentor*, Department of English
2017 *Chair's Advisory Committee*, Department of English
2016- Robert Penn Warren Center *Contemporary in Theory* Seminar co-director

Graduate Student, Department of Rhetoric, University of California, Berkeley

2012-13 Co-director, Townsend Center for the Humanities *Theory and History of Cosmology* Working Group
2012-13 Participant, Townsend Center for the Humanities *Problems of Faith: Belief and Promise in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* Collaborative Research Seminar
2009-10 Co-director, Townsend Center for the Humanities *Medieval Theology: Augustine and Aquinas* Working Group
2008-9 Co-director, Townsend Center for the Humanities *Medieval Theology: Negative Theological Tradition* Working Group
2008 Editorial Board Member, *Qui Parle*

REFERENCES

- Niklaus Largier, Sidney and Margaret Ancker Chair in the Humanities, Departments of German and Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley: nlargier@berkeley.edu
- Judith Butler, Maxine Elliot Professor, Program of Critical Theory, University of California, Berkeley: jpbutler@berkeley.edu
- Wendy Brown, Class of 1936 First Professor, Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley: wlbrown@berkeley.edu
- Daniel Boyarin, Hermann P. and Sophia Taubman Professor of Talmudic Culture, Department of Rhetoric, University of California, Berkeley: boyarin@berkeley.edu