

# BENJAMIN J ROBERTSON

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### *Professional*

Department of English

University of Colorado at Boulder

226 UCB

Boulder, Colorado 80309-0226

[benjamin.j.robertson@colorado.edu](mailto:benjamin.j.robertson@colorado.edu)

<https://www.colorado.edu/english/benjamin-j-robertson>

<http://eveningredness.net>

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. *English*, University at Buffalo, February 2007

Dissertation: "Things, Politics, and the Future: Propositions for an American New."

M.A. *English*, Montclair State University, June 2000

Thesis: "Novels against War: American Literary Pacifism, 1939 – 1940."

B.A. *Literature and Communication*, Pace University, June 1996

## EMPLOYMENT

*Assistant Professor*, University of Colorado, Boulder, Department of English (2018 – present)

*Instructor*, University of Colorado, Boulder, Department of English (2009 – 2018)

*Lecturer*, University of Colorado, Boulder, Departments of Communication, English, and Humanities/Comparative Literature (2008 – 2009)

*Marion L. Brittain Post-Doctoral Fellow*, Georgia Institute of Technology, School of Literature, Communication, and Culture (2006 – 2008)

*Teaching Assistant*, University at Buffalo, Department of English (2000 – 2006)

*Graduate Assistant*, Montclair State University, Film Program/English Department; Honors Program (1998 – 1999)

## TEACHING & PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS/SPECIALIZATIONS

Franchise studies; genre, especially science fiction, fantasy, and horror; media and technology studies; 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century American literature, history, and culture; late capitalism.

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Current Projects*

*The Tolkien Event: A Genealogy of Story*. [Monograph; Under contract and under final peer-review with Johns Hopkins UP]

## BENJAMIN J ROBERTSON

“The Stillness of the Earth, the Movement of the Land: Fantasy and the Anthropocene.”  
[Article; under submission at *Extrapolation*]

“‘A teaching, and a remembrance’: Recognition and Indigenous Knowledge in Daniel Heath Justice’s *The Way of Thorn and Thunder*.” [Article; under submission at *Studies in the Fantastic*]

*Salvaging Franchise: Star Wars and/or Andor*. [Monograph; In progress]

*The Sense of an Endgame: Studies in Franchise Aesthetics*. [Monograph; In progress]

### Scholarly Monograph

*None of this is normal: The Fiction of Jeff VanderMeer*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2018.

Reviewed in *Publisher’s Weekly*, *ASAP/Journal*, *American Literary History*, *American Literature*, *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, *Fantastika Journal*, *Extrapolation*, *SFRA Review*.

Honors: *Locus*, Recommended Non-fiction, 2018; Finalist: 2019 *Locus* Award for Best Non-Fiction; Carolyn Woodward Pope Endowment Prize for Faculty Publication, Department of English, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2020.

### Editorial Work

*Mere Genre*. With Gerry Canavan. Spec. double issue of *Extrapolation* 58.2–3 (2017).

*The Johns Hopkins Guide to Digital Media*. With Marie-Laure Ryan and Lori Emerson. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014.

Reviewed in *Huffington Post*, *American References Book Annual*, *Library Journal*, *Publishing Research Quarterly*, *Choice*, *Collection Management*, *Journal of Digital Humanities*, *Journal of Digital Media Management*, *The Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy*, *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association*, and *Reference Reviews*.

### Articles in Refereed Journals

“From Fantasy to Franchise: *Dragonlance* and the Privatization of Genre.” *Mere Genre*, a special double issue of *Extrapolation* 58.2-3 (2017): 129 – 52.

“‘A place I have never seen’: Possibilities and Impossibilities, Genre and Politics in China Miéville’s *The Scar*.” *The Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, 27.1 (2016): 68 – 88.

“New Tools, New Value: Producing Music after the Individual.” *Music, Sound, and the Moving Image* 9:2 (2015): 207 – 218.

“Shuffle Culture: Archive, Mashup, Apparatus, Human.” *Itineration*.  
<http://itineration.org/node/32>

“The Grammatization of Scholarship.” *Amodern* 1. <http://amodern.net/article/the-grammatization-of-scholarship/>

“‘Some matching strangeness’: Biology, Politics, and the Embrace of History in Octavia Butler’s *Kindred*.” *Science Fiction Studies* 37.3 (November 2010): 362 – 81.

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“Mashing-up the Past, Critiquing the Present, Wrecking the Future: The Kleptones’ *A Night at the Hip-Hopera*.” *Hyperrhiz* 07 (Spring 2010). <http://www.hyperrhiz.net/hyperrhiz07/27-essays/89-mashing-up-the-past>

“On Moral Science: The Problematic Politics of Stuart Kauffman’s Order.” *Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Science, and Technology* 12.2 (Spring 2004): 287 – 312.

### Book Chapters

“‘Another world, another life’: Humans, Monsters, and Politics in *Predator: South China Sea*.” *Surreal Entanglements: Essays on Jeff VanderMeer’s Fiction*. Eds. Laura Shackelford and Louise Economides. New York and London: Routledge, 2021. 195 – 209.

“Backstory.” *The Routledge Companion to Imaginary Worlds*. Ed. Mark Wolf. New York and London: Routledge, 2018. 37 – 44.

“World Completeness.” *The Routledge Companion to Imaginary Worlds*. Ed. Mark Wolf. New York and London: Routledge, 2018. 82 – 89.

“History and Timelines.” *The Routledge Companion to Imaginary Worlds*. Ed. Mark Wolf. New York and London: Routledge, 2018. 107 – 14.

“Incommensurate Nostalgias: Chargin’ Times in *Watchmen*.” *Write in Tune: Representing Contemporary Music in Fiction*. Eds. Erich Hertz and Jeffrey Roessner. London and New York: Continuum, 2014. 199 – 212.

“Copyright.” *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Digital Media*. Eds. Ryan, Emerson, and Robertson. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014. 90 – 4.

“Mashup.” *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Digital Media*. Eds. Ryan, Emerson, and Robertson. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014. 326 – 27.

“Sampling.” *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Digital Media*. Eds. Ryan, Emerson, and Robertson. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014. 438 – 40.

“Music, Terrorism, Response: The Conditioning Logic of Code and Networks.” *The Politics of Post-9/11 Music: Sound, Trauma, and the Music Industry in the Time of Terror*. Eds. Joe Fisher and Brian Flota. Surrey, UK: Ashgate, 2011. 31 – 42.

### Non-refereed Journal Articles, Reviews, and Other Writing

Review of Dan Golding’s *Star Wars after Lucas: A Critical Guide to the Future of the Galaxy*. *SFRA Review*, 51.2 (Spring 2021).

“Speculating about the Future in the Present.” Review of Matthew J. Wolf-Meyer, *Theory for the World to Come: Speculative Fiction and Apocalyptic Anthropology*. *Extrapolation* 61.3 (2020): 340 – 43.

Review of *The Dark Tower* (film). *Science Fiction Film and Television*, 13.1 (2020): 155 – 57.

“Annihilation and the Historicity of Horror.” *SFRA Review* 330 (Fall 2019): 29 – 33. [essay]

Review of James Gifford, *A Modernist Fantasy: Modernism, Anarchism, and the Radical Fantastic*. *The Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, 30.1 (2019): 129 – 31.

“Connected.” *Extrapolation* 60.2 (2019): 111 – 12. [symposium contribution]

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- “Captain America and General Intellect: Abstraction in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.” *SFRA Review* 329 (Summer 2019): 28 – 35. [essay]
- “But that is not the story: Marlon James’s *Black Leopard Red Wolf*.” *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, 19 April 2019. <https://www.lareviewofbooks.org/article/but-that-is-not-the-story-on-marlon-james-black-leopard-red-wolf> [review]
- Review of *Annihilation* (film). *SFRA Review* 324 (Spring 2018): 24 – 6.
- “Media Scholarship in the Age of Franchise.” Review of Sean Guynes and Dan Hassler-Forest, eds, *Star Wars and the History of Transmedia Storytelling*. *Science Fiction Studies* 45.2 (July 2018): 366 – 69.
- “Media Archaeology and Science Fiction.” With Lori Emerson. *Science Fiction Studies*, 44.1 (March 2017): 198 – 201. [scholarly note]
- Review of Carl Freedman, *Art and Idea in the Novels of China Miéville* and Caroline Edwards and Tony Venezia (eds.), *China Miéville: Critical Essays*. *The Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, 27.2 (2016): 364 – 68. [review essay]
- “Obsession and the Aca-fan.” Review of Mark Scroggins, *Michael Moorcock: Fiction, Fantasy and the World’s Pain*. *Science Fiction Studies*, 43.3 (November 2016): 595 – 97.
- “‘It’s just us now’: Nostalgia and *Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens*.” *Science Fiction Film and Television*, 9.3 (2016): 479 – 88. [review essay]
- “The Future of Fantasy Criticism .” Review of Brian Attebery, *Stories About Stories: Fantasy and the Remaking of Myth*. *Extrapolation*, 57.3 (2016): 369 – 73.
- “Belief and its Discontents.” Review of Bernard Stiegler, *Uncontrollable Societies of Disaffected Individuals*. *Interstitial*.  
<http://interstitialjournal.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/robertson-review-of-stiegler-final.pdf>
- “Commonplace for the Age of the World Playlist.” *remixthebook.com*. 5 March 2012.  
<http://www.remixthebook.com/commonplace-for-the-age-of-the-world-playlist-by-benjamin-robertson> [invited blog post]
- “What we talk about when we talk about healthcare: A response to Lawrence Hergott.” *ELN* 50.1 (Spring/Summer 2012): 193 – 96. [invited response essay]
- “Free as in Free Culture: A Response to Francis Raven.” *electronic book review* (March 2006) [www.electronicbookreview.com/thread/criticalecologies/pervasiverip](http://www.electronicbookreview.com/thread/criticalecologies/pervasiverip) [invited response essay]

### INTERVIEWS / PRESS

- “El fragor de la fantasía épica.” *Huffington Post* (Spanish Edition). 24 July 2019.  
[https://www.huffingtonpost.es/entry/el-fragor-de-la-fantasia-epica\\_es\\_5d37379de4b020cd994a5ee4](https://www.huffingtonpost.es/entry/el-fragor-de-la-fantasia-epica_es_5d37379de4b020cd994a5ee4)
- “Teaching with Technology: Benjamin Robertson.” ASSETT, University of Colorado, Boulder. 27 February 2012. <http://asset.colorado.edu/post/3913>

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## EDITORIAL SERVICE

Series Editor (with Gerry Canavan), *Mass Markets: Storyworlds Across Media*, University of Minnesota Press (2021 – present)

Books in series: Adam Kotsko, *Late Star Trek: The Final Frontier in the Franchise Era*, in production; Stephanie Boluk and Patrick Lemieux, *Secret Shop: DOTA 2 in China*, under contract; Vincent Haddad, *Dragon Ball Z*, under contract

Editor, *Extrapolation* (2018 – 2021)

Managing Editor, *electronic book review* (2008 – 2012)

Managing Editor, *Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Science, and Technology* (2006 – 2008)

## FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, & AWARDS

*Outstanding Journal Reviewer*, Liverpool University Press and *Science Fiction Film and Television* (2024)

*Kayden Research Grant* (for *The Tolkien Event: A Genealogy of Story* [formerly *Here at the end of all things: Fantasy after History*]), College of Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder (2019)

*Kayden Research Grant* (for *None of This is Normal: The Fiction of Jeff VanderMeer*), College of Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder (2018)

*Instructor Travel Grant*, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder (2016, 2017)

*Outstanding Journal Reviewer*, Liverpool University Press and *Extrapolation* (2016)

*English Department “Top-up” Grant*, University of Colorado, Boulder (2012, 2013, 2014 [spring], 2014 [fall], 2015 [spring], 2018)

*Dean’s Fund for Excellence Grant*, University of Colorado, Boulder (2009, 2011, 2012, 2014 [spring], 2014 [fall], 2016 [spring], 2016 [fall])

*Graduate Committee on the Arts and Humanities Grant*, University of Colorado, Boulder (2009)

*“Thank a Teacher” Award*, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Georgia Institute of Technology (2007)

*Edward F. Bruns Essay Prize*, Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (2005)

*College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship*, University at Buffalo (2004 – 2005)

*Graduate Student Travel Award*, Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005)

*Graduate Student Travel Award*, American Comparative Literature Association (2003)

*Lawrence Conrad Memorial Scholarship in American Literature*, Montclair State University (1999 – 2000)

*Hilary Becker Poetry Award*, Pace University (1996)

*Phi Eta Sigma National Freshman Honor Society*, Pace University (1993)

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### INVITED TALKS

- “Technics and Time and Terror.” Works in Progress (A Zoomposium). Online. 10 – 11 July 2020.
- “Infrastructures of Horror: Race, Neoliberalism, American Literature, and the Anthropocene in Mat Johnson’s *Pym*.” University of Utah. 31 January 2020.
- “Fantasy after History: Poetry, Postcritique, and the Consistence of Story.” University of Utah. 30 January 2020.
- “Genre and Genus: Wer- and Wolf.” Monsters: Killer Robots, Mass Murderers, and Abominations. Science Technology and Society Symposium. Morrisville, NY. 17 April 2014.

### PAPERS & OTHER SCHOLARLY PARTICIPATION AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

- “The Contradictions of the Franchise Form, Reproductive Futurity, and *The Last of Us*.” Rochester, NY. 30 July – 3 August 2025.
- Moderator/Organizer, “Franchise Aesthetics.” ASAP/15: The Arts of the Present. New York, NY. 17 – 19 October 2024.
- “On the Contradictions of the Franchise Form: Desire, Time, and Subjectivity in *The Last of Us*.” ASAP/14: The Arts of the Present. Seattle and Bothell, WA. 4 – 7 October 2023.
- “‘Everything says something’: *Andor* and the Franchise Image.” Popular Culture Association National Conference. San Antonio, TX. 5 – 8 April 2023.
- “The Depravity of Hope: Debt and Subjectivity in the STAR WARS Franchise.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association. Chicago, IL. 16 – 19 March 2023.
- “WandaVision, not Television: Franchise on the Small Screen.” Science Fiction Research Association Conference. Online. 18 – 21 June 2021.
- “Fantasy after History: Poetry, Postcritique, and the Consistence of Story.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association. Online. 8 – 11 April 2021.
- “Infrastructures of Horror: Race, Neoliberalism, American Literature, and the Anthropocene in Mat Johnson’s *Pym*.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 42. Online. 18 – 21 March 2021.
- Moderator/Organizer, “Fantasy Theory Roundtable: Maria Sachiko Cecire’s *Re-Enchanted: The Rise of Children’s Fantasy Literature in the Twentieth Century*.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 42. Online. 18 – 21 March 2021.
- “Infrastructures of Horror: Race, Neoliberalism, American Literature, and the Anthropocene in Mat Johnson’s *Pym*.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 41. Orlando, FL. 18 – 21 March 2020. [canceled due to COVID-19]
- Moderator/Organizer, “Fantasy Theory Roundtable: Maria Sachiko Cecire’s *Re-Enchanted: The Rise of Children’s Fantasy Literature in the Twentieth Century*.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 41. Orlando, FL. 18 – 21 March 2020. [canceled due to COVID-19]
- Invited participant, “Seminar: N.K. Jemisin’s *The Broken Earth* Trilogy.” ASAP/11: The Arts of the Present. College Park, MD. 10 – 12 October 2019.

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- Invited participant, "Roundtable: Editing Special Issues and Collections of Essays." Science Fiction Research Association Conference. Honolulu, HI. 21 – 24 June 2019.
- "A teaching, and a remembrance: Daniel Heath Justice's *The Way of Thorn and Thunder*." Science Fiction Research Association Conference. Honolulu, HI. 21 – 24 June 2019.
- "The End of all Things and Amnesia of the Soul: Moorcock, Harrison, and the Possibilities of Fantasy." International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 40. Orlando, FL. 13 – 16 March 2019.
- Moderator/Organizer, "Fantasy Theory Roundtable: James Gifford's *A Modernist Fantasy*." International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 40. Orlando, FL. 13 – 16 March 2019.
- Moderator/Participant, "Flipped Roundtable: Avengers vs. Jedi." Science Fiction Research Association Conference. Milwaukee, WI. 1 – 4 July 2018.
- "Captain America and General Intellect: Abstraction in the Marvel Cinematic Universe." Science Fiction Research Association Conference. Milwaukee, WI. 1 – 4 July 2018.
- "'Now there was only death': The Aftermath of Fantasy in *A Land Fit For Heroes*." International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 39. Orlando, FL. 14 – 18 March 2018.
- "The Stillness of the Earth: The Anthropocene, Fantasy, and Secondary Worlds." ASAP/9: The Arts of the Present. Berkeley, CA. 26 – 28 October 2017.
- "The Stillness of the Earth, the Movement of the Land: *The Broken Earth* and the Anthropocene." Science Fiction Research Association Conference. Riverside, CA. 28 June – 1 July 2017.
- "'None of this is normal': Jeff VanderMeer's Fantastic Materialism." International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 38. Orlando, FL. 22 – 26 March 2017.
- Participant, "Roundtable: *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*." International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 38. Orlando, FL. 22 – 26 March 2017.
- "From Supernatural to Subcultural: Horror and the Endless Present." The Fantastic Now: Research in the Fantastic in the 21st Century. Münster, Germany. 22 – 24 September 2016.
- Participant, "Roundtable Discussion: 'Fantastic Potential – New Critical and Productive Transformations.'" The Fantastic Now: Research in the Fantastic in the 21st Century. Münster, Germany. 22 – 24 September 2016.
- "Towards a New Vocabulary for Fantasy Scholarship." International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 37. Orlando, FL. 16 – 20 March 2016.
- Participant, "Roundtable: *Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens*." International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 36. Orlando, FL. 16 – 20 March 2016.
- "'Here at the end of all things': An Archaeology of Return." International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 36. Orlando, FL. 18 – 22 March 2015.
- Participant, "Guilty Pleasures: Late Capitalism and Mere Genre: A Roundtable Discussion." International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 36. Orlando, FL. 18 – 22 March 2015.
- "Sentient Daggers, Trips to the Moon: The Weirdness of *Dragonlance* and the Death Knell of Fantasy." Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Vancouver, BC. 8 – 11 January 2015.

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- “Empires of Disbelief.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 35. Orlando, FL. 19 – 23 March 2014.
- “Horror after History: Glenn Duncan’s *The Last Werewolf*.” &Now 7. University of Colorado, Boulder. Boulder, CO. 26 – 28 September 2013.
- “Everything looks worse in black and white: Graphic Violence in *From Hell*.” The Rocky Mountain Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels. Denver, CO. 28 – 30 May 2013.
- “Media Theory and Genre.” Eaton/Science Fiction Research Association Conference. Riverside, CA. 11 – 14 April 2013.
- “The Political Economy of Digital Media and Education.” Marxism and New Media. Duke University. Durham, NC. 20 – 21 January 2012
- “Digital *Anamnesis*.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Seattle, WA. 5 – 8 January 2012.
- “The Apparatus of Digital Literature.” E-Poetry 2011. Buffalo, NY. 18 – 21 May, 2011.
- “The Illegible and the Interface.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts. Atlanta, GA. 5 – 8 November 2009.
- “Disinhibition, Cultural Production, and the Digital Archive.” ASAP1: The Arts of the Present. Knoxville, TN. 22 – 25 October, 2009. [invited]
- Participant, “Publishing the Contemporary: A Journal Editors’ Roundtable.” ASAP1: The Arts of the Present. Knoxville, TN. 22 – 25 October, 2009. [invited]
- “The Archive as Disinhibitor.” Annual Conference of the Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery. Colorado Springs, CO. 12 – 14 March 2009.
- “Corruption and Sameness in the Twenty-First-Century Oil Narrative.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention. San Francisco, CA. 27 – 30 December 2008.
- “Democracy, Access, and Constraint: Making Property of the Past.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Chicago, IL. 27 – 30 December 2007.
- “The Declaration of Future Democracy.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Chicago, IL. 27 – 30 December 2007.
- “Second Nature and/in the Networked Society or, Cultural Production’s Limiting Present.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts. Portland, ME. 1 – 4 November 2007.
- “Architecture and Control: ‘Natural’ Constraints on Cultural Production in the Networked Society.” MiT5: Creativity, Ownership, and Collaboration in the Digital Age. Cambridge, MA. 27 – 29 April 2007.
- “Rip. Mix. Burn. Become. Mash-ups vs. Objects.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts. Chicago, IL. 10 – 13 November 2005.
- “Special Affects: Posthuman Ethics in the *Matrix* Trilogy.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts. Durham, NC. 14 – 17 October 2004.
- “Haptic History in Octavia Butler’s *Kindred*.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature and Science. Austin, TX. 23 – 26 October 2003.



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- “Poisonous Ethics.” Society in the Age of Intelligent Machines Conference. State University of New York, College at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. 25 – 26 April 2003. [invited]
- “Cultural Bodies, Natural Minds: Wonder and the Ethics of the Posthuman.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association. California State University, San Marcos. San Marcos, CA. 4 – 6 April 2003.
- “Mass Production and Modernity’s Crisis of Disembodiment: Nathanael West’s *Day of the Locust*.” Twentieth-Century Literature Conference. University of Louisville. Louisville, KY. 27 February – 1 March 2003.
- “What We Have Never Been: The Modern, the Monster, and the Body.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature and Science. Pasadena, CA. 10 – 13 October 2002.
- “Becoming Body, Becoming Bodies: Machined Thought and Thinking Machines.” Sociology in the Age of Intelligent Machines Conference. State University of New York, College at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. 22 – 23 April 2002.
- “The Ontology of *Crash*: Film, Novel, and Collision as Postmodern Event.” Image, Film, Text. SUNY Binghamton. Binghamton, NY. 15 – 16 March 2002.
- “I/He/You: Post/Modern Subjectivity in *Underworld*.” Twentieth-Century Literature Conference. University of Louisville. Louisville, KY. 21 – 23 February 2002.
- “Being-Genetic, Becoming-Genetic: Deleuze’s Conceptual Life and the Possibilities of the Posthuman.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature and Science. Buffalo, NY. 11 – 14 October 2001.

### TALKS & LECTURES AT HOME INSTITUTION

- “The Depravity of Hope: Temporal Tensions in the Star Wars Franchise.” CU English Department Works in Progress. Boulder, CO. 16 November 2022.
- “A myth that creates itself: The Consistence of Story in Patrick Rothfuss’s *The Kingkiller Chronicle*.” CU Literary Buffs. Boulder, CO. 4 March 2019.
- “The Nonsense of Endings: Fantasy’s Regressive Futures.” English Department Faculty Mini-conference. Boulder, CO. 25 April 2014.
- Participant, “Sci-Fi and Entrepreneurship: Is Resistance Futile?” University of Colorado, Boulder. Boulder, CO. 14 March 2014.
- “Literally Fantasy.” CU English Department Literary Brunch. Boulder, CO. 8 March 2014.
- Lecture on *A Night at the Hip-Hopera*. Prof. Adam Bradley’s Ethnic Adaptations course. CU English Department. Boulder, CO. 26 November 2012.
- Introduction to *Full Metal Jacket*. CU English Department Film Series. Boulder, CO. 27 February 2012.
- “The Illegible and the Interface.” From Movable Type to Pixels. University of Colorado Libraries. Boulder, Colorado. 18 – 19 July 2010.
- “The Illegible and the Interface.” Wednesday Research Lunch. CU Department of Communication, Boulder, CO. 10 September 2008.

## BENJAMIN J ROBERTSON

Founder & Organizer, “Communication Colloquia: Research Into Teaching.” Monthly Brown Bag Lecture Series for the School of Literature, Communication, and Culture. The Georgia Institute of Technology. Atlanta, GA October 2007 – May 2008.

“On My Sleeve or Up it? Politics in the Composition Classroom.” Teaching Talks: Politics Intersecting Pedagogy. University at Buffalo Composition Program. Buffalo, NY. 24 April 2002.

### OTHER PARTICIPATION AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Moderator/Organizer, “Franchise Cultures.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. March 16 – 19, 2023.

Moderator/Organizer, “Franchise Studies? Genre, Media, and the Future of Cultural Production.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts. Orlando, FL. 16 – 19 March 2022.

Moderator/Organizer, “Franchise Studies? Genre, Media, and the Future of Cultural Production.” Orlando, FL. 1 – 3. October 2021. [did not attend due to COVID-19]

Co-organizer (with Andrew Ferguson, University of Virginia), “Fantasy, Theory, and the Discognitive Turn.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association. Online. 8 – 11 April 2021.

Host, “Guest of Honor Reading: Jeff VanderMeer.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 42. Online. 18 – 21 March 2021.

Chair, “Unstable Ontologies: Re-Examining Personhood Amidst Ecological Crises.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 42. Online. 18 – 21 March 2021.

Moderator, “Is the Science in Science Fiction Movies Accurate?” Conference on World Affairs. Boulder, CO. 9 – 13 April 2019.

Organizer/chair, “*Annihilation*: The (New) Weird on Film.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 39. Orlando, FL. 14 – 18 March 2018.

Chair, “Re-examining William Morris.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 39. Orlando, FL. 14 – 18 March 2018.

Chair, “Fantasy... it's all about the maps.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 38. Orlando, FL. 22 – 26 March 2017.

Organizer, “Weird Materialism.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 38. Orlando, FL. 22 – 26 March 2017.

Chair, “Theorizing the Fantastic.” The Fantastic Now: Research in the Fantastic in the 21st Century. Münster, Germany. 22 – 24 September 2016.

Chair, “Urban Fantasy Under the Critical Lens.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts 36. Orlando, FL. 16 – 20 March 2016.

Organizer/Chair, “Guilty Pleasures: Late Capitalism and Mere Genre.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Vancouver, BC. 8 – 11 January 2015.

Moderator, The Shape of the I: A National Conference on Subjectivity. Boulder, CO. 13 – 14 April 2012.

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Chair, "Text." Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts. Atlanta, GA. 5 – 8 November 2009.

Organizer/chair. Brown Bag Discussion on Steve Kurtz, Critical Arts Ensemble, and Terrorism. Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts. Chicago, IL. 10 – 13 November 2005.

Organizer/chair, "History and Time in the Novel: Race, Caves, and Eels." Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature and Science. Austin, TX. 23 – 26 October 2003.

Chair, "Living Color: Race on/and Film." Twentieth-Century Literature Conference. University of Louisville. Louisville, KY. 27 February – 1 March 2003.

Organizer/chair, "Technologies, Wonders, and Monsters: Vectors of the Human." Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature and Science. Pasadena, CA. October 10 – 13, 2002.

Chair, "Filmic Transgressions." Twentieth-Century Literature Conference. University of Louisville. Louisville, KY. 21 – 23 February 2002.

### COURSES TAUGHT

*University of Colorado, Boulder;* Departments of Communication, English, and Humanities  
American Literature Since 1860

Arts, Media, Culture

Communication, Technology, and Society

Contemporary Literary & Cultural Theory [graduate]

Critical Thinking in English: Franchise Aesthetics

Critical Thinking in English: Literary Infrastructures

Critical Thinking in English: Media and Technology: McLuhan, Flusser, Stiegler

Critical Thinking in English: Posthuman/Postnature

First-year Writing Seminar: The Essay

First-year Writing Seminar: Science Fiction

From Gothic to Horror

Introduction to Digital Media

Introduction to Literary Theory

Literary Analysis

Major Authors in American Literature: William S. Burroughs

Major Authors in American Literature: Octavia Butler

Masterpieces of American Literature

Modern and Contemporary Literature: Contemporary Fantasy

Modern and Contemporary Literature: Encounters with the Nonhuman

Modern and Contemporary Literature: Fantasy after Tolkien

Modern and Contemporary Literature: Horror: The Dead, The Zone, & The Beast

## BENJAMIN J ROBERTSON

Modern and Contemporary Literature: I L♥ve the 80s

Modern and Contemporary Literature: The Nigh Fantastic

Modern and Contemporary Literature: That 70s Class

Modern and Contemporary Literature: Violence and Memory

Multicultural Literature: Black Feminist Speculative Fiction

Popular Culture/Critical Reading: Franchise Fictions

Science Fiction

Special Topics in the Novel, Post-1900: Tolkien and the History of Middle-Earth

Studies in Special Topics: Franchise Cultures [graduate]

Studies in Special Topics: Weird and New Weird Fiction [graduate]

Topics in Advanced Theory: Contemporary Aesthetics and Interpretation

Topics in Advanced Theory: Music, Networks, and Digital Media

Topics in Advanced Theory: History after History

Topics in Advanced Theory: Posthuman Media

Topics in Advanced Theory: Theories of Science Fiction

Topics in Communication: Biopolitics and Political Communication

Topics in Genre: Science Fiction

Topics in Popular Culture: Baseball and American Culture

Topics in Popular Culture: Weird and New Weird Fiction

*The Georgia Institute of Technology*, School of Literature, Communication, and Culture

Design and the World: English Composition II

History and/in the Contemporary American Novel: English Composition II

Technology, Law, Culture: English Composition I

Technical Communication

Thomas Pynchon's *Against the Day*: English Composition II

Undergraduate Thesis Writing

*The University at Buffalo*, Department of English

Advanced Writing

American Literature 2, 1865 – present

Basic Writing

Film

Science Fiction

*Montclair State University*, Film Program/English Department & Honors Program

Assisted with the preparation and instruction of film courses including: Introduction to Film, Major Film Genres, Major Directors, World Film, and American Film from 1945.

## BENJAMIN J ROBERTSON

Assisted with preparation and instruction of freshman honors seminar focusing on twentieth century thought in texts by Marx, Freud, Breton, Eliot, and Kafka.

### THESIS AND EXAM COMMITTEES

*University of Colorado, Boulder*

#### *PhD committees*

Brooks Mitchell (PhD Exams and Thesis, as director), Department of English, in progress

Cooper Casale (PhD Exams and Thesis, as director), Department of English, in progress

James Carson (PhD Exams and Thesis, as director), Department of English, in progress

TJ McLemore (PhD Exams and Thesis), Department of English, in progress

Devon Keyes (PhD Exams and Thesis), Department of English, in progress

Taylor Budde (PhD Exams and Thesis), Department of German and Slavic Languages, in progress

Joel Thurman (PhD Exams and Thesis), Department of Media Studies, in progress

Biya Wen (PhD Exams and Thesis), Program in Intermedia Art, Writing and Performance, 2024

#### *MA and MFA committees*

Morgan Llewellyn (MA Thesis), Department of English, 2025.

David Martinez (MA Thesis, as director), Department of English, 2024

Pryce Batey (MA Thesis), Department of English, 2024

Jared Taylor (MA Thesis, as director), Department of English, 2023

Kaige Sellers (MA Thesis), Department of English, 2023

Kate Sedor (MFA Thesis), Department of English, 2022

Joseph A. Story (MA Thesis), Department of English, 2021

Gabriel Coffman (MFA Thesis), Department of English, 2021

Theodore Hamstra (MA Thesis), Department of English, 2019

Samuel Helgeson (MA Thesis), Department of English, 2019

#### *Undergraduate honors committees*

Sage Janjigian (Undergraduate Honors Thesis, as director), Department of English, 2026.

Charlotte Whitney (Undergraduate Honors Thesis), Department of English, 2024

Maggie Maestas (Undergraduate Honors Thesis), Department of English, 2024

Anoush Ralapanawe (Undergraduate Honors Thesis), Department of English, 2024

Stephanie Norwood (Undergraduate Honors Thesis, as director), Department of English, 2023

Anna Ross (Undergraduate Honors Thesis, as director), Department of English, 2023

Jonathan Matsko (Undergraduate Honors Thesis), Department of Cinema Studies & Moving Image Arts, 2023

## BENJAMIN J ROBERTSON

Alette Aldritch (Undergraduate Honors Thesis, as director), Department of English, 2022  
Rowan Bopardikar (Undergraduate Honors Thesis), Department of English, 2022  
Sydney Chinowsky (Undergraduate Honors Thesis), Department of English, 2019  
Julia Zinchenko (Undergraduate Honors Thesis, as director), Department of English, 2017  
Leslie Selcer (Undergraduate Honors Thesis), Department of English, 2015  
Lauren Thurman (Undergraduate Honors Thesis, as director), Department of English, 2015  
Madison Hosack (Undergraduate Honors Thesis, as director), Department of English, 2015  
Eva Lambek (Undergraduate Honors Thesis), Department of English, 2015  
Jay Bennett (Undergraduate Honors Thesis, as director), Department of English, 2014  
Emily Squadra (Undergraduate Honors Thesis), Department of Humanities, 2013  
Ian Glass (Undergraduate Honors Thesis), Department of Humanities, 2012

### *Other Institutions* (as outside reader)

Peter Owen (MA Thesis), Department of English, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 2018

### UNIVERSITY SERVICE

*Boulder Faculty Assembly Faculty Student Mentor Program*  
Faculty mentor (2014)

### DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

*Department of English*, University of Colorado, Boulder  
JEDI Committee (2024 - present)  
Search Committee Chair, Bible as Literature and Literary Theory (2024)  
Graduate Committee (2020 – present)  
Honors Council Representative (2014 – 2015, 2023 – 2024)  
Course Coordinator for ENGL 3060: Modern and Contemporary Literature for Non-majors (2013 – 2015)  
Undergraduate Committee (2012 – 2014)  
*School of Literature, Communication, and Culture*, The Georgia Institute of Technology  
Executive Committee (2007 – 2008)  
Textbook Review Committee (2007 – 2008)  
Brittain Fellow Representative to the School (2006 – 2007)  
*Department of English*, University at Buffalo  
Executive Committee (2003 – 2004)  
Graduate Review Committee (2003 – 2004)  
Faculty Search Committee (2002 – 2003)

## BENJAMIN J ROBERTSON

President, English Graduate Student Association (2002 – 2003)

Graduate Admissions Committee (2001 – 2002)

President, Graduate Americanist Group (2001 – 2002)

Department Voting Member (2000 – 2005)

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Juror, SFRA Innovative Research Award, Science Fiction Research Association (2019 - 2021)

Editorial Board Member and Referee, *Studies in the Fantastic*

Reader, Bloomsbury

Reader, MIT Press

Reader, Palgrave MacMillan

Reader, University of Minnesota Press

Referee, *Apocalyptic*

Referee, *Configurations*

Referee, *CR: The New Centennial Review*

Referee, *Extrapolation*

Referee, *Genre*

Referee, *Historical Journal of Film, Radio, and Television*

Referee, *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*

Referee, *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*

Referee, *Literature Compass*

Referee, *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*

Referee, *Mosaic*

Referee, *Orbis Litterarum*

Referee, *Paradoxa*

Referee, *P@rticipations*

Referee, *PMLA*

Referee, *Pulse: The Journal of Science and Culture*

Referee, *Slayage: The Journal of Whedon Studies*

Referee, *Science Fiction Film and Television*

Referee, *Science Fiction Studies*

Referee, *Studies in American Fiction*

Referee, *Symploke*

Referee, *Textual Practice*

Referee, *Utopian Studies*

## BENJAMIN J ROBERTSON

### Other Professional Development

Participant, LEAP Introductory Leadership Workshop, University of Colorado, Boulder (2020)

Participant, ASSETT Teaching with Technology Faculty Seminar, University of Colorado, Boulder (2011)

Participant, Faculty Teaching Excellence Program Summer Institute, University of Colorado, Boulder (2010)

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association

Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts

Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present

Science Fiction Research Association

International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts

American Comparative Literature Association

Popular Culture Association

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

### REFERENCES

*Dossier available upon request.*

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