

BENJAMIN LAURENCE SALVANT CRAIS

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EDUCATION

- 2017-2024 Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
PhD in the Program in Literature (2024)
M.A. in the Program in Literature (2022)
Committee: Michael Hardt, Fredric Jameson, Annie McClanahan, Nima Bassiri,
Mark B.N. Hansen
- 2022 University of Potsdam, Germany
Graduate Exchange Student
- 2012-2016 Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
B.A. Film Studies; Minor Comparative Literature, *summa cum laude* (2016)
Honors Thesis (highest honors): “Philippe Grandrieux: A Belief in Life”

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Conference Travel Award, Graduate School, Duke University. 2024.
Bass Instructional Fellowship, Graduate School, Duke University. 2023.
Conference Travel Award, Graduate School, Duke University. 2023.
Summer Research Fellowship, Graduate School, Duke University. 2023.
Summer Research Fellowship, Graduate School, Duke University. 2022.
Provost Reimagining Doctoral Education Fellowship, Duke University. 2021.
Summer Research Fellowship, Graduate School, Duke University. 2020.
Conference Travel Award, Graduate School, Duke University. 2019.
Summer Research Fellowship, Graduate School, Duke University. 2019.
Summer Research Fellowship, Graduate School, Duke University. 2018.
James B. Duke Fellowship, Graduate School, Duke University. 2017-2021.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- “What is Newest in What is Oldest?: Cinema, Communism, and the Global Peasantry in the Long 1970s.” *South Atlantic Quarterly* (2025) [forthcoming].
- “The Historical Novel at the End of Development: Rachel Kushner’s *The Flamethrowers*.” *Mediations: Journal of the Marxist Literary Group* (2024). [forthcoming]
- “Introduction: Narrative and Crisis” (co-authored with Veronica Davis and Carson Welch). *Polygraph: An International Journal of Culture and Politics* 29 (2024), pp. 1-12.
- “A Conversation with Sianne Ngai and Joshua Clover” (co-authored with Veronica Davis and Carson Welch). *Polygraph: An International Journal of Culture and Politics* 29 (2024), pp. 13-38.
- “Cultivating History: Sergei Eisenstein’s *The General Line* and the Cinema of Agrarian Transition.” *Discourse: Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture* 45.1-2 (2023), pp. 138-169.

Edited Special Issue

- “Narrative and Crisis” (co-edited with Veronica Davis and Carson Welch). *Polygraph: An International Journal of Culture and Politics* 29 (2024).

Book Reviews

Review of *Cured Quail Volume II. Marx & Philosophy Review of Books* (2021).

https://marxandphilosophy.org.uk/reviews/19401_cured-quail-volume-ii-by-juan-chabrier-veronika-russell-and-eric-john-russell-eds-reviewed-by-benjamin-crais/

“The Geography of Crisis.” Review of Phil A. Neel’s *Hinterland: America’s New Landscape of Class and Conflict. Polygraph: An International Journal of Culture and Politics* 28 (2020), pp. 203-213.

Public Writing

“Ongoing Revolutionary Process.” *Film Comment* (2024).

“The Ultimate Journey: Robert Kramer.” *Viennale Retrocatalogue V’24 Robert Kramer* (2024).

“Situationism, Cybernetics, and Art: A Conversation” (with Dominique Routhier). *e-flux* (2024).

“Mention: *The Terminal Bar* (Larry Mitchell, 1982).” *The Drift* (2024).

“The Traveller—On Robert Kramer.” *Sidecar (New Left Review)* (2023).

<https://newleftreview.org/sidecar/posts/the-traveller>

“Slow Moves: Jon Jost at the End.” *No Cinema!* (2021)

“Forms of Memory: Close-Up on Chris Marker’s *Level Five*.” *MUBI Notebook* (2017).

<https://mubi.com/en/notebook/posts/forms-of-memory-close-up-on-chris-marker-s-level-five>

“As If Their Light Could Define Us: Jean Louis Schefer’s *The Ordinary Man of Cinema*.” *MUBI Notebook* (2016). <https://mubi.com/en/notebook/posts/as-if-their-light-could-define-us-jean-louis-schefer-s-the-ordinary-man-of-cinema>

“Thom Andersen and Noël Burch’s *Red Hollywood*.” *Film Comment* (2014).

<https://www.filmcomment.com/blog/thom-andersen-and-noel-burchs-red-hollywood/>

“Masao Adachi: Conceiving Urban Landscape.” *Film Antidote: a cinematic cure* (2014).

TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Crimes of the Overdeveloped World: Jean-Patrick Manchette and the Late *Polar*.” 20th and 21st Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium. March 2025.

‘I just feel trapped’: Gendered and Economic Transition in Leslie Feinberg’s *Stone Butch Blues*.” University of Nevada, Reno. 1 November 2024.

“I do feel my narrative faculty weakening”: Devaluation and Periodization in John Edgar Wideman’s *Philadelphia Fire*.” American Comparative Literature Association, Montréal. 14 March 2024.

“‘Cloak and Dagger and Civil Rights’: Espionage and Surplus Rebellion in *The Spook Who Sat by the Door*.” Marxist Literary Group, University of Massachusetts, Boston. 12 June 2023.

“Too Early/Too Late: Cinema, Communism, and the Agrarian Question.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Denver, CO. 12 April 2023.

“Time and Metal: Rachel Kushner’s Historical Novel of Deindustrialization.” Marxist Literary Group, University of Pennsylvania. 17 June 2022.

“Gender and Deindustrialization in Leslie Feinberg’s *Stone Butch Blues*.” American Comparative Literature Association, online. 16 June 2022.

“After Labor: Exhausted Masculinity in the Proletarian Dramas of Jon Jost.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, online. 1 April 2022.

“Energy, Exhaustion, and Crisis in the Postindustrial Landscape.” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, online. 1 October 2021.

“Slow Moves: Jon Jost and the Labor Film after Deindustrialization.” Futures of American Studies Institute. Dartmouth College, online. 23 June 2021.

- “Capitalism or ‘Technosphere?’” The Anthropocene, The Technosphere, and Energy Use II. Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Science & Cultural Theory, Duke University. 20 February 2020.
- “The Logistical Image: On Flatness, Quantification, and Management.” World Picture, University of Toronto. 9 November 2019.
- “The Corpse of this World: Decay and Futurity in Jeff Vandermeer’s *Borne*.” Future (Im)Perfect, University of California, Berkeley. 19 October 2018.
- “Daniel Stern and Cinema: Speed and Rhythm Between Image and Body.” Contemporary Film and Media Aesthetics: Culture, Nature, and Technology in the 21st Century, Roma Tre University. 24 November 2016.

RESEARCH COLLABORATION

- Respondent, “Between History and the Discord of Time: The Figure of the Migrant in *A Seventh Man* and *Transit*” by Luka Arsenjuk. Critical Theory Workshop, Duke University. 10 February 2023.
- Participant, “Marxist Reading Group,” Duke University. 2022-present.
- Participant, “Politics and Aesthetics after Globalization” Graduate Working Group, Duke University. 2021-2022.
- Respondent, “Remapping the Race/Class Problematic” by Chris Chen, Critical Theory Workshop, Duke University. 24 September 2021.
- Participant, Carceral Studies Reading Group, Duke University. 2020.
- Fellow, 2020 Institute for Critical Social Inquiry, The New School. 2020. [deferred due to COVID]
- Participant, “The Anthropocene, The Technosphere, and Energy Use” Workshop, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Science & Cultural Theory, Duke University. 9 December 2019.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- “Understanding Film,” Film and Television Major in the Department of Communication and Media Studies, Fordham University. Spring 2025.
- “Communications and Culture: History, Theory, and Methods,” Film and Television Major in the Department of Communication and Media Studies, Fordham University. Spring 2025.
- “Film and Gender,” Film and Television Major in the Department of Communication and Media Studies, Fordham University. Fall 2024.
- “Introduction to Global Cultural Studies,” Global Cultural Studies Major in the Program in Literature, Duke University. Fall 2023.
- “Borders and Flows: The Politics and Aesthetics of Circulation,” Global Cultural Studies Major in the Program in Literature (cross-listed in Economics), Duke University. Spring 2021.

Invited Lecture

- “Decaying Capitalism: On Wolfgang Streeck” for “Imagining the Future” (Instructor: Jason Goldfarb). Global Cultural Studies Major in the Program in Literature, Duke University. Fall 2019.

Teaching Assistant

- “Versions of Marx” (Instructor: Fredric Jameson). Global Cultural Studies Major in the Program in Literature, Duke University. Fall 2022.

- “Control Societies” (Instructor: Luciana Parisi). Global Cultural Studies Major in the Program in Literature, Duke University. Fall 2020.
- “Algorithm and Ideology” (Instructor: Mark B.N. Hansen). Global Cultural Studies Major in the Program in Literature (cross-listed in Sociology, Information Science + Studies, Arts of the Moving Image, Visual & Media Studies), Duke University. Spring 2020.
- “Bad Behavior” (Instructor: Nima Bassiri). Global Cultural Studies Major in the Program in Literature (cross-listed in Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies, Sociology, International Comparative Studies), Duke University. Fall 2019.
- “Marxism and Society” (Instructor: Michael Hardt). Global Cultural Studies Major in the Program in Literature (cross-listed in Political Science, Cultural Anthropology, Education, Sociology), Duke University. Spring 2019.
- “Global Protest: Social Movements in the Age of Globalization” (Instructor: Michael Hardt). Global Cultural Studies Major in the Program in Literature, Duke University. Fall 2018.

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

- Film Programmer, Duke Experimental Film Society, 2022-2024.
- Assistant Film Programmer, Screen/Society, Duke University. 2022-2023.
- Founder and Organizer, “Marxist Reading Group,” Duke University. 2022-present.
- Co-Founder and Co-Chair, Critical Theory Workshop, Duke University. 2021-2022.
- Organizer, “Politics and Aesthetics after Globalization Graduate Working Group, Duke University. 2021-2022.
- Organizer, “In Memory of Paul Virilio: Time, Space, and Information into the 21st Century” Conference, featuring Benjamin Bratton, McKenzie Wark, and Rey Chow, Duke University. 29 March 2019.
- Organizer, “The Derivative Condition” Department Lecture, featuring Jonathan Beller, Duke University. 29 November 2018.
- Organizer, “Ethnographic Films: Between Art and Academia” Film Series and Discussion, featuring Anna Grimshaw, Jenny Chio, & J.P. Sniadecki, Emory University. April 2015.
- Editorial Board Member, *Polygraph: An International Journal of Culture and Politics*. 2017-2024.