

## **NEŞE DEVENOT**

N. Warner St. CMB 1002  
Tacoma, WA 98416

Website: <http://ups.academia.edu/ndevenot>

Book Project Website: [www.chemicalpoetics.com](http://www.chemicalpoetics.com)

Email: [ndevenot@pugetsound.edu](mailto:ndevenot@pugetsound.edu)

Phone: (202) 425-4761

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Comparative Literature & Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania, August 2015

M.A., Comparative Literature & Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania, 2010

B.A., Philosophy and Literature, Bard College, 2009

### **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Humanities, Humanities Program and  
English Department, University of Puget Sound, 2015-16

### **DISSERTATION**

Title: "Altered States/Other Worlds: Romanticism, Nitrous Oxide, and the Literary  
Prehistory of Psychedelia"

Chairs: Charles Bernstein and Michael Gamer; Readers: John Tresch and Richard Doyle

*Abstract:* In this study, I chart an intellectual lineage connecting 21st-century psychedelic science to Romantic traditions from the long 19th century. In both contexts, lyric subjectivity and chemical self-experiment engender reflexive explorations of ecstatic states of consciousness for the purpose of psychological healing. With Humphry Davy's 1799 discovery of nitrous oxide's psychoactivity as a case study, I demonstrate that the collaboration between poetry and science is fundamental to any project of mapping new realms of subjective experience. Collectively, my conclusions expand conceptions of Romanticism's ongoing heritage, arguing for renewed, interdisciplinary scholarship on altered states and the therapeutic impact of heightened aesthetic experiences on consciousness.

### **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- Short-Term Research Fellowship, Timothy Leary Papers, New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division, 2015-16
- Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Students, University of Pennsylvania, 2015
- Provost's Year of Health Conference Grant, University of Pennsylvania, 2015
- Andrew W. Mellon Graduate Research Fellowship, Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania, 2014-15

- Critical Speaking Teaching Fellowship, Communication Within the Curriculum, University of Pennsylvania, 2014-15
- Trustees' Council of Penn Women Grant for "Women Who Write" Dissertation Writing Group, 2014-15
- Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2009-14

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Refereed Journal Articles**

- Belser, A.B., Agin-Liebes, G., Swift, T.C., Pilgreen, S., Devenot, N., Friedman, H.L., Guss, J., Bossis, A., & Ross, S. "Patient Experiences of Psilocybin-Assisted Psychotherapy: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis." *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, 2016. (Forthcoming)
- "Prophet of the Electric Age: Cultural Performativity as Nonviolent Revolution in the Lifework of Percy Bysshe Shelley." *Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net*, No. 61-2, Feb-May 2011.

### **Book Chapters**

- "Feminism and Psychedelics." *Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbook: Gender. Vol. Nature*. Ed. Iris van der Tuin. Series Ed. Renée C. Hoogland. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. (Forthcoming)
- "A Declaration of Psychedelic Studies." *Breaking Convention: Essays on Psychedelic Consciousness*, Strange Attractor Press (UK), 2013; and North Atlantic Books (US), 2014.

### **Conference Proceedings**

- "Psychedelics in the Humanities: Visionary Art & Hyperspace Philosophy Beyond Postmodernism." *EGA Journal*, Vol. 3. 2011-12.

### **Book Reviews**

- Rev. of *Romanticism, Medicine and the Natural Supernatural: Transcendent Vision and Bodily Spectres, 1789-1852*, by Gavin Budge. *Romantic Circles Reviews & Receptions*. (Forthcoming)
- Rev. of *The Psychedelic Future of the Mind: How Entheogens Are Enhancing Cognition, Boosting Intelligence, and Raising Values*, by Thomas Roberts, PhD. *Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) Bulletin*, Volume XXIII, Number 1, Spring 2013.
- Rev. of *On the Edge of Utopia: Performance and Ritual at Burning Man*, by Rachel Bowditch. *TDR: The Drama Review*, Vol. 55, No. 4, Winter 2011 (T212).
- Rev. of "An Art of Limina": *Gary Hill's Works and Writings*, by George Quasha and Charles Stein. *Jacket2*, August 24, 2011.

## **Manuscripts in Preparation**

- “Medical Ecstasies: Chemical Synthesis and Self-Experimentation in Romantic Science and Poetry” (in submission)
- “Aldous Huxley’s New Romanticisms: Blake and Wordsworth After Mescaline”

## **Invited Publications**

- “New Worlds and Ways of Seeing: Visionary Art After Postmodernism.” *Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies Bulletin*, Special Edition: Psychedelics and the Popular Arts, Vol. 13, No. 1, Spring 2012.
- “A Declaration of Psychedelic Studies: Psychedelic Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences.” *Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies Annual Report*, Vol. 21, No. 3, Winter 2011.

## **INVITED TALKS WITH HONORARIA**

- “Psilocybin Psychotherapy and the Psychedelic Renaissance,” 920 Coalition Day of Action (Cornell College), September 2015.
- “Psychedelics and Queer Theory,” *Psymposia: Envisioning a Post-prohibition World* (University of Massachusetts-Amherst), April 2015.
- “Psychedelic Art,” *Spaced Out: Migration to the Interior*, psychedelic art exhibition curated by Phong Bui and the Rail Curatorial Projects, Red Bull Studios (New York, NY), November 2014.
- “Psychedelic Humanities,” *Breaking Convention: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Psychedelic Consciousness* (London, UK), July 2013. (declined)
- “Psychedelics in the Humanities: Visionary Art & Hyperspace Philosophy Beyond Postmodernism,” *Entheogenesis Australis* (Melbourne, Victoria, AU), December 2011.

## **CONFERENCE PAPERS AND TALKS**

- “Chemical Poetics: Humphry Davy and the Aesthetics of Nitrous Oxide Experimentation,” *Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Annual Conference* (Rice University), November 2015.
- “Ecstatic Elixirs: The Cultivation of Altered States in Romantic Poetry and Medicine,” *International Conference on Romanticism* (Brigham Young Univ.), October 2015.
- “The Hidden Influence of Nitrous Oxide on Humphry Davy’s *Consolations in Travel* and S. T. Coleridge’s ‘Kubla Khan,’” *International Conference on Romanticism* (University of St. Thomas), September 2014.
- “Archetypes of Gnostic Initiation in Discarnate Entity Contact,” *Association for the Study of Esotericism* (Colgate University), June 2014.
- “A Poetics of Novelty: Psychedelics and the Evolution of Consciousness,” *Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness Conference* (Portland, OR), March 2014.
- “Interdisciplinary Trends in Psychedelic Conferences,” *Psychedelic Science*

(Oakland, CA), April 2013.

- “Psychedelic Studies in the Humanities: Risks, Precursors, Potentials,” *Psychedemia* (University of Pennsylvania), September 2012.
- “Miracles in Hyperspace: Higher Dimensions and the Limits of Reason,” Association for the Study of Esotericism Fourth International Conference (University of California-Davis), July 2012.
- “Psychedelic Science: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives,” Drug Policy Alliance International Reform Conference (Los Angeles, CA), November 2011.
- “Psychedemia: The Discursive Boundaries of the Psychedelic Renaissance in Academic Discourse,” *Breaking Convention: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Psychedelic Consciousness* (University of Kent, UK), April 2011.
- “The Internet on Dimethyltryptamine: Hyperspace Rendered Virtual,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference (Vancouver, BC), April 2011.
- “Robert Southey, Wat Tyler, and the Formation of a Radical Canon,” *Piracy: Eighth Annual English Department Graduate Student Conference* (Brandeis University), October 2010.
- “Towards an Ethics of Difference: Internal Alterity in Julia Kristeva and Thomas De Quincey,” VII Annual Social Theory Forum on Critical Social Theory: Freud & Lacan for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (University of Massachusetts-Boston), April 2010.

## **CAMPUS OR DEPARTMENTAL TALKS**

- “Traversing the Fantasy: Julia Kristeva and Thomas De Quincey at the Ends of Psychoanalysis,” Graduate Romantic Association Conference (University of Pennsylvania), March 2010.
- “Assembling an Army of Monsters: Rereading Jacques Derrida with Marshall McLuhan,” Penn Politics & History Graduate Workshop (University of Pennsylvania), February 2010.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Literature Courses**

*English Department, University of Puget Sound*

- ENGL 232: British Literature and Culture: Restoration to Reformation, Spring 2016
- HUM 200: The History of Ideas in the Arts, Spring 2016

*Program in Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania*

- COML 140/ENGL 259: Drug Wars: The Influence of Psychoactive Rhetoric, Fall 2014 and Spring 2015
- COML 075/ENGL 261: Higher Dimensions in Literature, Spring 2014

### **Writing Seminars**

*Seminars in Scholarly Inquiry, University of Puget Sound*

- SSI-1 172: The Scientific and Romantic Revolutions, Fall 2015

*Critical Writing Program, University of Pennsylvania*

- WRIT 027: Poetic Vision and the Psychedelic Experience, Fall 2011 and Spring 2012

## **Teaching Assistantships**

*Program in Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania*

- COML 197: Madness and Madmen in Russian Culture, with Matthew Walker, Spring 2011
- COML 100: Introduction to Literature, with Vlad Todorov, Fall 2010

## **PEDAGOGY**

- Course in Online Teaching, Center for Teaching and Learning, Spring 2015
- Course in College Teaching, Center for Teaching and Learning, Spring 2014
- Teaching Certificate, Center for Teaching and Learning, Spring 2011

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- Research Fellow, NYU Psilocybin Anxiety Project, New York University School of Medicine, 2014-present
- Research Assistant, under Professor Rebecca Cole Heinowitz, Bard College, 2006-08
- Research Assistant, Immediate Science Research Opportunity Program (ISROP), Bard College Biology Laboratory, 2005-2006

## **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

- Moderator, MAPS (Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies) Graduate Student Association, 2011-13
- Lead Conference Organizer, Psychedemia: Integrating Psychedelic Studies into Academia, University of Pennsylvania, September 2012
- Conference Assistant, Horizons: Perspectives on Psychedelics, September 2010 and October 2012
- Lead Conference Organizer, William Blake Sestercentennial, Bard College, Spring 2008

## **DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

- Resident Faculty, Trimble Hall, University of Puget Sound, 2015-present
- Graduate Student Representative, University Council Committee on Libraries, University of Pennsylvania, 2014-15
- Faculty Advisor, Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) Student Group, University of Pennsylvania, 2013-15
- Residential Advisor and Graduate Associate, Harrison College House, University of Pennsylvania, 2012-15
- Coordinator, Theorizing Psychedelics Departmental Reading Group, University of Pennsylvania, 2010-13

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

- “Psychedelic Academe: Research into Mind-Altering Drugs is Back” by Zoë Corbyn. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. June 2, 2013. National distribution.
- “The Second Coming of Psychedelics: Inside the Mind-Tripping, Soul-Changing, Ground-Shifting, 21st Century Therapy” by Don Lattin. *Spirituality & Health Magazine*, Vol. 16 Issue 1. January/February 2013. National distribution.
- “Far Out: A Psychedelic Gathering at Penn” by Jason Nark. *Philadelphia Daily News*. October 2, 2012. Local distribution.
- “Penn Holds Psychedemia Conference” by Cole Korponay. *The Daily Pennsylvanian*. September 30, 2012. Local distribution.
- “A Scholarly Look at Psychedelics” by Samantha Melamed. *Philadelphia Citypaper*. September 26, 2012. Local distribution.
- “Penn Conference Explores Ecstasy, and Everyone’s Invited: Psychedemia Looks at Medical Benefits of Psychedelic Drugs” by Johnny Goodtimes. *Philadelphia Magazine*. September 25, 2012. Local distribution.
- “In Philly, Keeping Tabs on LSD” by Jason Nark. *Philadelphia Daily News*. May 30, 2012. Local distribution.
- “Penn Researchers Look for Benefits in Hallucinogenic Drugs” by Michelle Durham. *CBS Philly*. May 30, 2012. Online.

## **NON-ACADEMIC WORK**

- Recurring Contributor, Psychedelic Salon Podcast, 2014
- Contributing Editor, Reality Sandwich Magazine, 2011-13
- Editor, Journal of Interdimensional Poetry, Fall 2012
- Program Assistant, Language and Thinking Program, Bard College, Summer 2009

## **TOPICS PREPARED TO TEACH**

- Introduction to Literature
- 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century English Literature
- 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Science Fiction
- Medical Humanities
- Environmental Humanities
- Literature and Science
- English Literary History
- Critical Theory
- Poetry and Poetics
- Writing and Composition

## LANGUAGES

- Intermediate German: Summer Language Institute, German School, University of Virginia. Summer 2008
- Advanced French: Middlebury Language Schools, French School (Level 4 of 4), Middlebury College. Summer 2007

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

- American Comparative Literature Association
- Association for the Study of Esotericism
- International Conference on Romanticism
- Modern Language Association
- Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies
- North American Society for the Study of Romanticism
- Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts
- Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness

## REFERENCES

Charles Bernstein  
Donald T. Regan Professor of English and Comparative Literature  
University of Pennsylvania  
Fisher-Bennett Hall 221  
3400 Walnut St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
Phone: 215-746-4800  
Email: [charles.bernstein@english.upenn.edu](mailto:charles.bernstein@english.upenn.edu)

John Tresch  
Associate Professor of History & Sociology of Science and Comparative Literature  
University of Pennsylvania  
Claudia Cohen Hall 327  
249 S 36th St,  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
Phone: 215-898-8400  
Email: [jtresch@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jtresch@sas.upenn.edu)

Michael Gamer  
Associate Professor of English  
University of Pennsylvania  
Fisher-Bennett Hall 129  
3400 Walnut St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
Phone: 215-898-7343  
Email: [mgamer@english.upenn.edu](mailto:mgamer@english.upenn.edu)

Richard Doyle  
Liberal Arts Research Professor of English and Information Science & Technology  
Pennsylvania State University  
136 Ritenour Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
Phone: 814-883-9597  
Email: [mobius@psu.edu](mailto:mobius@psu.edu)

### **TEACHING REFERENCES**

George Erving  
Susan Resneck Pierce Professor of Humanities, Honors, and English  
Director, Honors and Humanities Programs  
University of Puget Sound  
1500 N. Warner St. #1045  
Tacoma, WA 98416  
Phone: 253-879-3405  
Email: [gerving@pugetsound.edu](mailto:gerving@pugetsound.edu)

Thomas Safley  
Professor of History  
University of Pennsylvania  
College Hall 306H  
1 College Hall  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
Phone: 215-898-2186  
Email: [tsafley@history.upenn.edu](mailto:tsafley@history.upenn.edu)