

## TODD MCGOWAN

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### TEACHING POSITIONS

University of Vermont, Department of English, Professor 2017-present, Associate Professor 2005-2017, Assistant Professor 2002-2005.

Texas State University, Department of English, Assistant Professor 1998-2002.

Loyola Marymount University, Department of English. Lecturer 1996-1998.

### PUBLICATIONS

*Universality and Identity Politics*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2020 (forthcoming).

*Emancipation After Hegel: Achieving a Contradictory Revolution*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2019.

*Only a Joke Can Save Us: A Theory of Comedy*. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2017.

*Capitalism and Desire: The Psychic Cost of Free Markets*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2016.

*Psychoanalytic Film Theory and The Rules of the Game*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2015.

*Spike Lee*. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2014.

*Enjoying What We Don't Have: The Political Project of Psychoanalysis*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2013.

*Rupture: On the Emergence of the Political*. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2012  
(with Paul Eisenstein).

*The Fictional Christopher Nolan*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2012. Translated into Japanese.

*Out of Time: The Ethics of Atemporal Cinema*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011.

*The Impossible David Lynch*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2007.

*The Real Gaze: Film Theory After Lacan*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2007.  
Translated into Turkish, Polish, and Persian.

*The End of Dissatisfaction?: Jacques Lacan and the Emerging Society of Enjoyment*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2004.

- Lacan and Contemporary Film*. Co-editor. New York: The Other Press, 2004.
- The Feminine "No!": Psychoanalysis and the New Canon*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001.
- "Superego and the Law." *Routledge Handbook of Psychoanalytic Political Theory*. Ed. Yannis Stavrakakis. London: Routledge, 2019. 139-150.
- "Two Forms of Fetishism: From the Commodity to the Revolution in *Us*." *Galatica Media: Journal of Media Studies* 1.1 (2019): 63-85.
- "The Lust for Power and the Logic of Enjoyment." *Crisis and Critique* 6.1 (2019): <http://crisiscritique.org/april2019/todd.pdf>.
- "The Sex in Their Violence: Eroticizing Biopower." *On Psychoanalysis and Violence: Contemporary Lacanian Perspectives*, eds. Vanessa Sinclair and Manya Steinkoler. New York: Routledge, 2018. 47-60.
- "The Psychosis of Freedom: Law in Modernity." *Lacan on Psychosis*, eds. Jon Mills and David L. Downing. London: Routledge, 2018. 47-76.
- "Cinema After Lacan." *After Lacan: Literature, Theory, and Psychoanalysis in the 21st Century*. Ed. Ankhi Mukherjee. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018. 115-128. Translated into Spanish.
- "The Signification of the Phallus." *Reading the Écrits: A Guide to Lacan's Works*. Eds. Derek Hook, Calum Neill, Stijn Vanheule. London: Routledge, 2018. 1-20.
- "What Is Nothing? Alenka Zupančič with Martin Heidegger." *Continental Thought and Theory* 2.2 (2018): 27-34.
- "Psychoanalytic Criticism." *The Craft of Criticism*. Eds. Michael Kackman and Mary Celeste Kearney. London: Routledge, 2018. 146-156.
- "The Absent Universal: From the Master Signifier to the Missing Signifier." *Problemi International* 2.2 (2018): 195-214.
- "Like an Animal: A Simile Instead of a Subject." *Lacan and the Nonhuman*. Eds. Gautam Basu Thakur and Jonathan Michael Dickstein. New York: Palgrave, 2018. 177-198.
- "Hegel in Love." *Can Philosophy Love? Reflections and Encounters*. Eds. Cindy Zeiher and Todd McGowan. London: Rowman and Littlefield, 2017. 3-26.
- "The Particularity of the Capitalist Universal." *Continental Thought and Theory* 1.4 (2017): 473-494.
- "We Are the Change That We Seek: The Subjectivity of Substance in *Interstellar*." *The Philosophy of Christopher Nolan*. Eds. Jason T. Eberl and George A. Dunn. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2017. 203-217.

- “Learning to Love the End of History: Freedom Through Logic.” *Crisis and Critique* 4.1 (2017): <http://crisiscritique.org/2017/march/Todd%20McGowan.pdf>.
- “Lynch on the Run: The Proximity of Trauma in the Short Film.” *Compact Cinematics*. Ed. Pepita Hesselberth. New York: Bloomsbury, 2017. 45-54.
- “The Bankruptcy of Historicism: Introducing Interruption into Literary Studies.” *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Literature But Were Afraid to Ask Žižek*. Ed. Russell Sbriglia. Durham: Duke University Press, 2017. 89-106.
- “Anti-Gravity: *Interstellar* and the Fictional Betrayal of Place.” *Jump Cut* 57 (2016): <http://www.ejumpcut.org/archive/jc57.2016/-McGowanInterstellar/index.html>.
- “Not Melancholic Enough: Triumph of the Feminine in *Melancholia*.” *Lars von Trier’s Women*. Eds. Rex Butler and David Denny. New York: Palgrave, 2016.
- “The Location of Silent Comedy: Charlie Chaplin’s Outsider and Buster Keaton’s Insider.” *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 33.7 (2016): 602-619.
- “The Satisfaction of an Ending.” *Cinematic Cuts: Theorizing Film Endings*. Ed. Sheila Kunkle. Albany: SUNY Press, 2016.
- “The End of Resistance: Hegel’s Insubstantial Freedom.” *Continental Thought and Theory* 1.1 (2016): 100-127.
- “The Necessity of an Absolute Misunderstanding: Why Hegel Has So Many Misreaders.” *Slavoj Žižek and Dialectical Materialism*. Eds. Agon Hamza and Frank Ruda. New York: Palgrave, 2015. 43-55.
- “Stumbling Over the Superhero: Christopher Nolan’s Victories and Compromises.” *The Cinema of Christopher Nolan: Imagining the Impossible*. Eds. Jacqueline Furby and Stuart Joy. London: Wallflower, 2015. 164-174.
- “Enjoyment and Accumulation on *Mulholland Drive*.” *The Comparatist* 39 (2015): 101-115.
- “Lodged in a Fantasy Space: *Twin Peaks* and Hidden Obscenities.” *Return to Twin Peaks: New Approaches to Materiality, Theory, and Genre on Television*. Eds. Jeffrey Weinstock and Catherine Spooner. New York: Palgrave, 2015. 143-157.
- “Prólogo” to Slavoj Žižek, *Le Ridículo Sumblino: el cine de David Lynch*. Trans. María Orvañanos. Mexico: Paradiso Editores, 2015. 9-16.
- “Atemporality amid Lumière Temporality.” *Empedocles: European Journal for the Philosophy of Communication* 5.1-2 (2015): 59-63.
- “The Desert of the Real.” *Blackwell Companion to Literary Studies and Psychoanalysis*. Eds. Laura Markus and Ankhi Murkherjee. New York: Blackwell, 2014. 271-286.
- “Theory Without Conscience: Hegel’s Absolute Refusal of Practice.” *States of Crisis*. Eds. Heiko Feldner, Fabio Vighi, and Slavoj Žižek. London: Ashgate, 2014. 127-140.

- “The Priority of the Example: Speculative Identity in Film Studies.” *Žižek and Media Studies Reader*. Eds. Louis-Paul Willis and Matthew Flisfeder. New York: Palgrave, 2014. 67-78.
- “The Barriers to a Critical Comedy.” *Crisis and Critique* 1.3 (2014): 201-221.  
<http://materializmidialektik.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/todd.pdf>.
- “The Insubstantiality of Substance, Or, Why We Should Read Hegel’s *Philosophy of Nature*.” *International Journal of Žižek Studies* 8.1 (2014):  
<http://zizekstudies.org/index.php/ijzs/article/view/476/513>.
- “We Are Already Dwelling: Hegel and the Transcendence of Place,” *The Missed Encounter of Radical Philosophy with Architecture*. Ed. Lahiji Nadir. London: Ashgate, 2014. 55-68.
- “The Symptom.” *Žižek Dictionary*. Ed. Rex Butler. Durham, UK: Acumen Publishing, 2014. 242-245.
- “On the Contingency of Necessity: Hegel with the Speculative Realists.” *Umbr(a)* (2013): 101-125.
- “The Capitalist Gaze.” *Discourse* 35.1 (2013): 3-23.
- “Driven into the Public: The Psychic Constitution of Space.” *Architecture Post Mortem: The Diastolic Architecture of Decline, Dystopia, and Death*. Eds. Charles David Bertolini, Simon Brott, and Donald Kunze. London: Ashgate, 2013. 15-30.
- “Virtual Freedom: The Obfuscation and Elucidation of the Subject in Cyberspace.” *Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society* 18 (2013): 63-70.
- “The Singularity of the Cinematic Object.” *Continental Philosophy Review* 46.2 (2013): 311-325.  
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11007-013-9260-2>.
- “The Presence of Phenomenology: Hegel and the Return to Metaphysics.” *Mosaic* 46.1 (2013): 93-109.
- “Hegel as Marxist.” *Žižek Now!* Eds. Jamil Khader and Molly Rothenberg. London: Polity Press, 2013. 31-53.
- “Should the Dark Knight Have Risen?” *Jump Cut* 54 (2012):  
<http://www.ejumpcut.org/currentissue/McGowanDarkKnight/index.html>.
- “Antagonism or Multiplicity: The Struggle between Psychoanalysis and Deleuze in Godard’s Cinema.” *Psychoanalyzing Cinema: A Productive Encounter of Lacan, Deleuze, and Žižek*. Ed. Jan Jagodzinski. New York: Palgrave, 2012. 111-127.
- “A Violent Ethics: Mediation and the Death Drive.” *Figures de violence*. Ed. Richard Bégin. Paris: L’Harmattan, 2012. 111-122.
- “Psychoanalytic Film Theory.” *Oxford Bibliographies in Cinema and Media Studies*. Ed. Krin Gabbard. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.  
<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199791286/obo-9780199791286-0052.xml?rskey=IF3rDC&result=1&q=psychoanalytic%20film%20theory>

- “Hitchcock’s Ethics of Suspense: Psychoanalysis and the Devaluation of the Object.” *Companion to Hitchcock Studies*. New York: Blackwell, 2011. 508-528.
- “The Materiality of Fantasy: The Encounter with Something in *Inland Empire*.” *David Lynch in Theory*. Ed. François-Xavier Gleyzon. Prague: Charles University Press, 2010. 8-23.
- “Maternity Divided: *Avatar* and the Enjoyment of Nature.” *Jump Cut* 52 (2010): <http://www.ejumpcut.org/currentissue/mcGowanAvatar/index.html>.
- “The Necessity of Belief, Or, the Trouble with Atheism.” *International Journal of Žižek Studies* 4.1 (2010): <http://zizekstudies.org/index.php/ijzs/article/view/226/324>.
- “Subject of the Event, Subject of the Act: The Difference Between Badiou’s and Žižek’s Systems of Philosophy.” *Subjectivity* 3.1 (2010): 7-30.
- “The Contingency of Connection: The Path to Politicization in *Babel*.” *Discourse* 30.3 (Fall 2009): 401-418.
- “Fantasies of the Unsexualized Other, Or, The Naiveté of the Arab Mind.” *Culture Critique* 1.2 (2009): [http://ccjournal.cgu.edu/pdf/Fantasies\\_of\\_the\\_Unsexualized\\_Other.pdf](http://ccjournal.cgu.edu/pdf/Fantasies_of_the_Unsexualized_Other.pdf).
- “The Hero’s Form of Appearance: The Necessary Darkness of *The Dark Knight*.” *Jump Cut* 51 (2009): <http://www.ejumpcut.org/archive/jc51.2009/darkKnightKant/index.html>.
- “Hegel and the Impossibility of the Future in Science Fiction Cinema.” *Film-Philosophy* 13.1 (2009): 16-37. <http://www.film-philosophy.com/2009v13n1/mcgowan.pdf>.
- “Them Without Us: The Ultimate in Sexual Politics.” *Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society* 14.1 (2009): 16-23.
- “The Case of the Missing Signifier.” *Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society* 13 (2008): 48-66.
- “Affirmation of the Lost Object: *Peppermint Candy* and the End of Progress.” *Symplokē* 15.1-2 (2007): 23-43.
- “The Temporality of the Real: The Path to Politics in *The Constant Gardener*.” *Film-Philosophy* 11.3 (2007): 52-73. <http://www.film-philosophy.com/2007v11n3/mcgowan.pdf>.
- “Introduction: Enjoying the Cinema.” *International Journal of Žižek Studies* 1.3 (2007): <http://zizekstudies.org/index.php/ijzs/article/view/57/119>.
- “The Violence of Creation in *The Prestige*.” *International Journal of Žižek Studies* 1.3 (2007): <http://zizekstudies.org/index.php/ijzs/article/view/58/120>.
- “Relocating Our Enjoyment of the 1950s: The Politics of Fantasy in *Far From Heaven*.” In *The Cinema of Todd Haynes*. Ed. James Morrison. London: Wallflower, 2007. 114-121.
- “Serious Theory.” *International Journal of Žižek Studies* 1.1 (2007): [http://ics.leeds.ac.uk/staff/PAULT/aamcgowan/zizek\\_paper\\_final.pdf](http://ics.leeds.ac.uk/staff/PAULT/aamcgowan/zizek_paper_final.pdf).

- “There Is Nothing *Lost in Translation*.” *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 24.1 (2006): 53-64.
- “The Illusions of Power: *Ninth Gate* and Diabolical Evil.” *Journal of Lacanian Studies* 3.1 (2005): 67-84.
- “The Obsolescence of Mystery and the Accumulation of Waste in Don DeLillo’s *Underworld*.” *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction* 46.2 (Winter 2005): 123-145.
- “Lost on *Mulholland Drive*: Navigating David Lynch’s Panegyric to Hollywood.” *Cinema Journal* 43.2 (Winter 2004): 67-89.
- “Looking for the Gaze: Lacanian Film Theory and Its Vicissitudes.” *Cinema Journal* 42.3 (Spring 2003): 27-47.
- “Introduction: Lacanian Psychoanalysis in Theory” (with Sheila Kunkle). In *Lacan and Contemporary Film*. Eds. Todd McGowan and Sheila Kunkle. New York: The Other Press, (2004), xi-xxix.
- “Fighting Our Fantasies: *Dark City* and the Politics of Psychoanalysis.” In *Lacan and Contemporary Film*. Eds. Todd McGowan and Sheila Kunkle. New York: The Other Press, (2004), 145-171.
- “Resisting the Lure of Ultimate Enjoyment: Claire Denis’ *J’ai pas sommeil*.” *Kinoeye* 3.7 (June 2003).
- “‘In That Way He Lost Everything’: The Price of Satisfaction in E. L. Doctorow’s *World’s Fair*.” *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction* 42 (2001): 233-240.
- “Finding Ourselves on a Lost Highway: David Lynch’s Lesson in Fantasy.” *Cinema Journal* 39.2 (Winter 2000): 51-73.
- “Liberation and Domination: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and the Evolution of Capitalism.” *MELUS* 24.1 (Spring 1999): 109-128.
- “The Master Amid Rumors of His Demise: Politics in a Time of ‘Satisfaction.’” *Journal for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society* 4.1 (Spring 1999): 72-80.
- “From Enjoyment to Aggressivity: The Emergence of the New Father in Contemporary American Society.” *Journal for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society* 3.1 (Spring 1998): 53-60.
- “Condemned to the Absolute, Or, How Hegel Can Help Us Across Borders.” *The Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* 30 (1997): 114-130.
- “The Rewards of Servitude and Other Barriers to Action: The Political Lessons of *Toy Story*.” *Journal for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society* 2.2 (Fall 1997): 6-13.
- “Acting Without the Father: Charles Chesnutt’s New Aristocrat.” *American Literary Realism, 1870-1910* 30.1 (Fall 1997): 59-74.
- “The Phenomenology of City Life: The Reign of the Imaginary in *Trigger Effect*.” *The Spectator* 18.1 (Fall/Winter 1997): 51-57

## TRANSLATIONS

“The Early Lacan: Five Unpublished Letters from Lacan to Kojève.” Translated from the French “‘Le Premier Lacan’: Cinq lettres inédit de Lacan à Kojève” by Juan Pablo Lucchelli. *American Imago* 73.3 (2016): 325-337.

“Five Letters from Jacques Lacan to Alexandre Kojève.” Translated from the French “Cinq Lettres de Jacques Lacan à Alexandre Kojève.” *American Imago* 73.3 (2016): 338-341.

“Freud and Regicide.” Translated from the French “Freud et le regicide” by Elizabeth Roudinesco. *American Imago* 68.4 (2011): 605-623.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Law Without a Legislator: Sacrificing Castration to the Other’s Enjoyment.” Plenary Lecture. Lacan’s *Écrits* Conference. Duquesne University, October 13, 2019.

“Capitalist Subjectivity and Unconscious Freedom.” Libidinal Economies of Crisis Times. Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, September 28, 2019.

“Born Again: Changing Our Mode of Satisfaction.” Plenary Lecture. Wake Festival, Belfast, UK, April 29, 2019.

“Capitalism’s Identity Politics.” Black Box Belfast, Belfast, UK, April 28, 2019.

“The Politics of Sacrificial Enjoyment: Freud and the Death Drive.” Washington and Lee University, March 7, 2019.

“The Deception of Power and the Politics of Enjoyment.” Pomona College, February 28, 2019.

“The Myth of Tribalism.” Loyola University, Baltimore, MD, November 12, 2018.

“Waiting for Agent Cooper: The Ends of Fantasy in *Twin Peaks: The Return*.” Plenary Lecture, Freud/Lynch Behind the Curtain Conference, London, UK, May 26, 2018.

“The Gaze as the Cinematic Object.” Freud Museum, London, UK, May 25, 2018.

“Why We Should Love *The Breakfast Club*.” Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK, May 23, 2018.

“Populism and Paranoia.” Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland, May 19, 2018.

“Between the Capitalist and the Cop: The Path of Revolution in *Blade Runner 2049*.” Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland, May 19, 2018.

“Mistaking Lack for Debt—and Its Consequences.” Plenary Lecture. Debt In History Conference. Toronto, Ontario, May 18, 2018.

“Resistance to Empire: *Star Wars* and the Ubiquity of Rebellion.” Clark University, Worcester, MA,

- April 15, 2018.
- “Self-Destruction and the Natural World.” Plenary Lecture, LaConference, Vancouver, BC, April 7, 2018.
- “Bill Murray and the Barber Paradox.” SUNY Albany, April 12, 2017.
- “The Paranoid Thriller and a Suspect Law.” Tulane University, March 11, 2017.
- “The Direction of Our Desires.” Dawson College, Montreal, QC, November 11, 2016.
- “Avoiding Real Animality.” Claremont Graduate School, Real Encounters Symposium, Claremont, CA, April 12, 2015.
- “Buster Keaton vs. Charlie Chaplin.” Colorado State University, Colorado Springs, CO, October 16, 2014.
- “The Strange Career of the Mirror Stage.” Psychoanalysis on Ice Conference, Reykjavik, Iceland, October 9, 2014.
- “Why We Don’t Bring Up Baby: The Trauma of Comedy.” Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, September 25, 2014.
- “Psychoanalytic Film Theory.” Craft of Criticism Conference, Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN, April 25, 2014.
- “The Satisfaction of an Ending.” Loyola University, Baltimore, MD, April 15, 2014.
- “Flight into Reality.” Real Deceptions: The Inaugural Eckstein Symposium in Media Studies, Claremont, CA, April 26, 2013.
- “Reality Television and Capitalist Subjectivity.” University of California Riverside, Riverside, CA, April 23, 2013.
- “Hegel and Comedy.” The New School, New York, NY, April 9, 2013.
- “Le regard à travers les caméras de surveillance et sur Facebook.” Université de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec, December 21, 2012.
- “David Lynch’s Material Girls.” Penn State University, State College, PA, October 24, 2011.
- “The Crisis of Capitalism on *Mulholland Drive*.” Penn State University, State College, PA, October 24, 2011.
- “The Violent Walter Benjamin.” UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, April 7, 2011.
- “Abandoning Reality in *Inception*.” Pomona College, Claremont, CA, April 7, 2011.
- “Hegel and the Analyst.” Brunel University, London, UK, March 14, 2011.
- “Imaginary and Real in the Cinema.” Brunel University, London, UK, March 13, 2011.



“Visions of Plenitude and Excess.” Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK, March 11, 2011.

“Christopher Nolan’s Ethics of the Lie.” University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois, October 26, 2010.

“Lacan and Žižek.” University of Illinois, Champagne, Illinois, October 26, 2010.

“Maternity Divided: *Avatar* and the Enjoyment of Nature.” SUNY, Binghamton, February 24, 2010.

“The Political Cut.” Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, February 26, 2009.

“The Escape from Enjoyment.” International Touch Me Festival, Zagreb, Croatia, December 20, 2008.

“Fantasizing the Cut.” Holy Cross University, February 26, 2008.

“The Case of the Missing Signifier.” Plenary Presentation, 12th Annual Convention of the Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society, Rutgers, New Jersey, October 20, 2006.

“Beyond Bare Life.” Pomona College, April 27, 2006.

“Between Desire and Fantasy: The Reorientation of Lacanian Film Theory.” The Humanities Center at Harvard University, November 20, 2001.

## **BOOK SERIES EDITOR**

Bloomsbury Press Film Theory in Practice series, editor  
Northwestern University Press Diaeresis series, co-editor

## **BOARD POSITIONS**

*American Imago*, editorial board member  
Badiou Seminar Translation Project, advisory board member  
*Cinémas*, editorial board member  
*Ecranosphere*, editorial board member  
*International Journal of Žižek Studies*, editorial board member  
*Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society*, editorial board member  
Contemporary Psychoanalytic Studies, Brill Press, editorial board member  
*World Picture*, board member

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., 1996, English, The Ohio State University, Columbus.  
Dissertation: “The Empty Subject: The New Canon and the Politics of Existence”  
Director: Walter A. Davis.  
M.A., 1991, English, The Ohio State University, Columbus.

B.A., 1989, English, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana.

### **SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*  
Sartre and the French New Wave  
Introduction to Psychoanalytic Theory  
Existentialism and the Teen Film  
Hegel's *Aesthetics*  
Philosophy and Film: German Idealism  
Giorgio Agamben and the Disaster Film  
Godard and Badiou  
François Truffaut  
Global Cinema

### **REFERENCES**

Slavoj Žižek, Senior Researcher, University of Ljubljana, szizek@yahoo.com  
Robyn Warhol, Professor of English, The Ohio State University, warhol.1@osu.edu  
Richard Boothby, Professor of Philosophy, Loyola University Maryland, boothby@loyola.edu