

# Jason Zuzga

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## Education

### **Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania**, Department of English, Philadelphia, PA, 2006-2016

Ph.D. Thesis, *Uncanny World: Envisioning Nature in Documentary*.

-Degree awarded August 2016.

-Chair: Prof. Charles Bernstein.

-Winner of the 2016-2017 Diane Hunter Award for the best dissertation submitted for a Ph.D. in English during the calendar year.

- Summary: *Uncanny World* advocates for “the nature documentary” as a site of critical media analysis where language, and technology collide with the contingencies of evolution and ecology. Works considered span from Jacques Cousteau’s first full-length film to the BBC’s *Planet Earth*, from Isabella Rossellini’s *Green Porno* series to digital biomolecular animations. Audiences can glean from such complex works not only “information” but a sense of the self as radically vulnerable and as strangely implausible, queer as any slime mold, shark or slug.

Coordinator of Science and Literature Reading Group, 2008-2012.

Basic Wet Laboratory Techniques for Genomics Research for UPenn Faculty, 2011

Critical Writing Program Teaching Fellowship, Fall 2011-Spring 2012

Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, 2006-2011.

### **M.F.A. University of Arizona**, Tucson, AZ, 2002-2005

Dual degree in Poetry and Creative Nonfiction.

*100 Clews and Other Poems*. Master’s Thesis. Advisor: Prof. Jane Miller.

*The Shelter of No Shelter: Essays on Earthworks and Place*. Master’s Thesis. Advisor: Prof. Fenton Johnson.

Twice selected to teach Honors-Level Poetry Workshop

### **B.A. Brown University**, Providence, RI, 1991-1996

Comparative Literature, (English, French, Italian) 1996.

SEA semester in marine biology and oceanography on tall ship.

## Areas of Specialty (Teaching and Research)

Creative Writing: Poetry, Nonfiction, Fiction. Critical and Expository Writing; 20th- and 21st-Century Poetry and Poetics. 20th and 21st Century Cultural Studies, Literature, and Visual Media.

Documentary Media. Psychoanalysis. Environmental History. Literature and Science. Literature and Biology. Darwin and Evolution. Animal Studies. Queer Theory.

## Teaching Positions

### **Instructor: University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, Fall 2008—present.**

**Aging, Illness, Dying, Grieving: Studies in Disability.** seminar, Department of English / Department of Cinema Studies, Spring 2018.

**Gender/Sex/Queer**, auditorium lecture course, Department of English, Fall 2017.

**The Uncanny in Literature and Film: Haunted Places**, seminar, Department of English / Department of Cinema Studies, Fall 2017.

**Poetry of Frank O’Hara** MOOC Online course, Modern and Contemporary Poetry, Coursera, Spring 2017.

**Bad Kids: Misfits and Mayhem in Literature and Film**, seminar, Department of English/ Department of Cinema Studies, Spring 2017.

**20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century North American Poetry**, seminar, Department of English, Spring 2017.

**Creative Writing: Poetry and Fiction**, workshop, Department of English, Fall 2016.  
**Creative Writing: Poetry and Creative Non-Fiction**, workshop, Department of English, Summer 2016.  
**20<sup>th</sup> Century American Poetry**, seminar, Department of English, Spring 2016.  
**The Uncanny in Literature and Film: Haunted Houses and Habitats**, seminar, Department of English / Department of Cinema Studies, Spring 2016.  
**Seeing Animal: The Animal in Cinema**, seminar, Department of Cinema Studies, Fall 2015.  
**Bad Kids: Study of a Theme**, seminar, Department of English, Spring 2015.  
**Animal Tales: Speaking Animal**, seminar, Department of English, Spring 2015.  
**Science and Literature: Language, Love and Science Fiction**, seminar, Department of English, Summer 2014.  
**Pox, Pest, Plague: Literature and Medicine**, lecture course, Department of English, Fall 2013.  
**Poetry and Art in New York City from WWII to the Present**, seminar, Department of English, Spring 2013.  
**Documentary Media and Ecological Advocacy**, media workshop and seminar, Department of Cinema Studies / Department of the History and Sociology of Science, Spring 2013.  
**Frank O'Hara and Andy Warhol: Poetry /Painting**, critical and creative writing seminar, University of Pennsylvania Critical Writing Program. Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013.  
**Eros the Bittersweet: The Arts and Performance during the AIDS Crisis**, critical and creative writing seminar, University of the Arts Writing Program, Philadelphia PA, Fall 2012.  
**Introduction to Documentary Film Practice**, media workshop and seminar, University of Pennsylvania Critical Writing Program, Fall 2008, Spring 2009.

### **Teaching Assistant: University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, Fall 2007—Fall 2016**

**Queer Politics, Queer Communities**, Prof. Jeanne Vaccaro. Department of English, Fall 2016.  
**Feminist Theory**, Prof. Melissa Sanchez. Department of English, Fall 2015.  
**Film Theory**, Prof. Ekin Pinar. Department of Cinema Studies, Fall 2015.  
**World Cinema 1945 to the Present**, Prof. Timothy Corrigan. Department of Cinema Studies: Fall 2013.  
**Modern American Poetry**, Prof. Al Filreis. Kelly Writers' House, MOOC—Coursera, 2012 – Present.  
**World Cinema to 1945**, Prof. Peter Decherney. Department. of Cinema Studies: Fall 2012.  
**History of Animation**, Visiting Prof. Jayne Pilling. Department of Cinema Studies, Spring 2009.  
**History of Technology**, Prof. John Tresch. Department of the History and Sociology of Science, Spring 2009, Spring 2011.  
**Shakespeare**, Prof. Zachary Lesser. Department of English, Spring 2008.  
**Romantic Poetry**, Prof. Stuart Curran. Department of English, Fall 2007.

### **Instructor: CTY, Johns Hopkins University, 2005--Present**

One-on-one tutorials include **Crafting the Essay, Introduction to Poetry**

### **Instructor: University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, 2002- 2005.**

**Honors Undergraduate Poetry Workshop** Department of English, Fall 2003, Summer 2004.  
**Poetry: Sound and Image.** Seminar, The Poetry Center at the University of Arizona 2004.  
**First-Year Composition.** Fall 2002- Spring 2005.  
**Pre-Med Summer English Program for Indigenous Arizona Students.** Summer 2003, Summer 2004.

## **Publications**

**Heat Wake: Poems.** Saturnalia Books, 2016.  
(forthcoming) "LIVE from the Body: Charles Olson's "Proprioception" *Evening Will Come.* 2017.  
(forthcoming) Zuzga, Jason. "The Properties of Radio Broadcast as Poetic Medium: Francis Ponge's *Le Savon.*" *Jacket2.* 2017.

(submission under consideration) "Jacques Cousteau and Louis Malle's *The Silent World*: Witnessing the Human Animal in the Wake of WWII." *Film Quarterly*.

(submission under consideration) "Visual Strategies for a Hybrid Nature: Wide Angles, Collaboration, Dreamtime, and the Ecology of Reception in *Two Laws*" *Cinema Journal*.

**Atom's Licks**, poetry chapbook, Scharmél Iris Press 2014.

"My Parents' Bathroom" in *Dream Closet*. New York: Secretary Press, 2016.

"Homosexuals and Scenery" in *This Assignment Is So Gay: LGBTIQ Poets on the Art of Teaching*. Little Rock, AR, 2013.

"Review of *The Animal Gaze: Animal Subjectivities in Southern African Narratives* by Wendy Woodward" in *Safundi*, (Special Issue on Animal Studies and Ecocriticism) 2010.

"Nonfiction: A Frying Pan, editor's statement" in *A Best of Fence: The First Nine Years*, Fence Books, 2009.

"Open Pharynx: A Fantasia on the Development of Human Gills." With David Zuzga. In *Predictions: ChainLinks 4*. 2009.

"The Death of Robert Smithson," in *Seneca Review*, 2006.

"Donald Judd: Untitled Concrete Installation," *Cue*, 2006.

Poems published in a range of print and online periodicals, 1999-present, including

<i>Verse Daily</i>	<i>The Yale Review</i>	<i>LIT</i>
<i>The Awl</i>	<i>Gulf Coast</i>	<i>Volt</i>
<i>E-Verse Radio</i>	<i>jubilat</i>	<i>Elective Affinities</i>
<i>Sixth Finch</i>	<i>Fulcrum</i>	<i>Drunken Boat</i>
<i>Tupelo Quarterly</i>	<i>Tin House</i>	<i>EOUGH</i>
<i>The Paris Review</i>	<i>Painted Bride Quarterly</i>	<i>Apiary</i>
<i>Fence</i>	<i>Forklift Ohio</i>	<i>Provincetown Arts</i>
<i>White Wall Review</i>	<i>Five Finger Review</i>	<i>Tupelo Quarterly</i>
<i>out of nothing</i>	<i>Zoland Poetry</i>	

## Writing Fellowships

James Merrill Writer-in-Residence, Stonington, CT, 2005-2006.

Fine Arts Work Center Residential Fellowship in Poetry, Provincetown, MA, 2001- 2002.

Bread Loaf Poetry Scholarship, Middlebury, VT, 2004.

## Academic Conference and Guest Presentations

"The Future Is Kid Stuff" Queer Politics, Queer Communities. Department of English, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, Fall 2016.

"The Sound of Poetry" Poetry Workshop. Ursinus College, Collegeville PA, Fall 2015.

"The Sound of Poetry" Poetry Workshop. Fashion Institute of Technology, NYC, Fall 2015.

"Human Rights and Gay Marriage" Feminist Theory. Department of English, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, Fall 2015.

"James Robert Baker's Adrenaline" Sex and the City. Temple University, Philadelphia PA, Fall 2015.

*The Violent, Silent World: Ethical Orientation on Screen and at Sea*. Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference, Boston MA, 2012.

*My Neighbor Totoro*. screening and discussion, co-presenter. University of Pennsylvania Interdisciplinary Forum on Mental Health and Society: Cinema and Psychoanalysis. Philadelphia PA, 2011.

"Agriculture and Culture" History of Technology. Department of the History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, Spring 2011.

*Simulations and Artist's Renderings: The Objects of Microbiological Animation*. The Powers of Display: Cinemas of Investigation, Demonstration, and Illusion, University of Chicago: Department of Cinema & Media Studies Graduate Student Conference, Chicago, IL, 2011.

*The Virtual Life of the Inner Life of the Cell.* Penn Humanities Forum Conference: Virtualities, Philadelphia PA, 2011.

*Erasmus Darwin's The Botanic Garden as Poetic Hybrid.* Philomathean Society, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, 2010.

*The Triumph of the Organelle: Harvard's Biovision Project & the Animated Cell.* SLSA International Conference, Indianapolis IN, 2010.

*Encountering the Bio-Uncanny: Cousteau, Painlevé and the Eye of the Octopus.* Cinema Studies Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, 2010.

*Blood on the Calypso: Viewing Frenzy in Cousteau's & Malle's The Silent World.* Dialogues on Animality Conference, Slought Foundation, Philadelphia PA, 2009.

*Jacques Cousteau, Louis Malle, and the Elusive Genre of Nature Documentary.* Philadelphia Cinema and Media Seminar, Philadelphia PA, 2009. *Francis Ponge's Le Savon as live "Foamcast."* PSI Performance Studies Conference, NYU, New York City, 2007.

## Publishing and Editorial Work

**Nonfiction Editor.** *FENCE literary and arts journal.* Albany, NY, 2008-present.

**Editor.** With authors Jeffrey Inaba and Katharine Meagher. *World of Giving.* Baden, Switzerland: Lars Müller Pub, 2010. Print.

**Guest Editor.** With Dana Phillips, *Safundi.* Volume 11 Issue 1 & 2 (Special Issue on Animal Studies and Ecocriticism) January 2010. Journal.

**Guest Editor.** *Cue.* 4:1 (Winter 2007). Journal.

**Designer and Editor.** Poet Amy Clampitt Official Website. 2005.

**New Media Coordinator,** *The Borzoi Reader Online.* Website content creator in consultation with editors and authors. Alfred A. Knopf. New York, NY 2000 - 2002.

**Editorial Assistant to Poetry Editor and Fiction/Nonfiction Editor** Alfred A. Knopf. New York, NY 1998 -- 2000.

**Editorial Assistant to Senior Editor,** Ballantine Books. New York, NY 1997 -- 1998.

**Assistant to the President,** Harold Ober Associates Literary Agency. New York, NY 1996 --1997.

## Writing Contest Judge and Reader

Reader, Saturnalia Book Prize, 2017

The Dolman Prize, Ursinus College, Spring 2015.

Reader, Saturnalia Book Prize, 2015.

Reader, National Poetry Series, 2006.