

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
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## JANE BENNETT

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

*Professor*, Department of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University, 2004- ;  
*Chair*, 2006-09

*Elizabeth Todd Professor*, Goucher College, 2000-2004; *Professor*, Department of Political Science, 1997-2004; *Chair*, 1994-2004; *Associate Professor*, 1993-97; *Assistant Professor*, 1988-92; *Associate Director*, Honors Program, 1994-99; *Director*, Division of Interdisciplinary Studies, 1992-93, 1996-97

### EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Political Science, 1986  
B.A., Siena College, *magna cum laude*, 1979

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books

*Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things*, Duke University Press, 2010

#### translations

chapter 1, "The Force of Things," translated into Polish for the catalogue to the exhibition of *Cecylia Malik in Bunkier Sztuki in Kraków*, ed. by Aneta Rostkowska, November 2013

chapter 1, "The Force of Things," translated into Spanish by Facundo Vega and Cecilia Padilla in *Revista Argentina de Ciencia Política*, no. 16 (2013)

chapter 4, "A Life of Metal" (*Ein Leben in Metall*), translated into German in *Living Metals: Erwin Rehmann*, art exhibition and catalog, edited by Christoph Rehmann-Sutter, Rehmann Museum, Laufenberg/Switzerland, November 2016

chapter 8, "Vitality and Self-Interest," translated into Italian in *Organisms*, exhibition catalog at the Modern and Contemporary City Gallery, Turin, Italy, edited by Gregorio Mazzonis, September 2016

#### reprints and excerpts

*CSPA Quarterly* (Center for Sustainable Practice in the Arts), #14, 2016 ("Thing-Power I: Debris" and "Thing-Power IV: Walking,

Talking Minerals")

*The Object*, Documents of Contemporary Art Series, ed. Antony Hudek, Whitechapel Gallery Publications, 2014

*Networks*, Documents of Contemporary Art Series, ed. Lars Bang Larsen, 2014

*Nature*, Documents of Contemporary Arts Series, ed. Jeffrey Kastner, 2012

*The Enchantment of Modern Life: Attachments, Crossings, and Ethics*, Princeton University Press, 2001

*Thoreau's Nature: Ethics, Politics, and The Wild*, Modernity and Political Thought Series, Sage Publications, 1994; Second edition, Rowman and Littlefield, 2002

*Unthinking Faith and Enlightenment: Nature and the State in a Post-Hegelian Era*, New York University Press, 1987

#### Edited Books

*The Politics of Moralizing*, co-edited with Michael Shapiro, with Introduction, Routledge, 2002

*In the Nature of Things: Language, Politics, and the Environment*, co-edited with William Chaloupka, with Introduction, Univ. of Minnesota Press, 1993

#### Published Interviews

"Eco-sensibilities: Interview with Jane Bennett," with Janell Watson, *Minnesota Review*, Issue 81, October 2013

"Agency, Nature and Emergent Properties: An Interview with Jane Bennett," (by Gulshan Khan) *Contemporary Political Theory* 8.1, February 2009; Revised and reprinted as "Vital Materiality and Non-Human Agency: An Interview with Jane Bennett," in *Dialogues with Contemporary Political Theorists*, Gary Browning, Raia Prokhovnik and Maria Dimova-Cookson, Palgrave, 2012, 42-57

"Vibrant Matter -- Zero Landscape: Interview with Jane Bennett," with Klaus Loenhardt, *Graz Architektur Magazin, GAM 07. Unfolding Active Agencies of Landscape*, April 2011

#### Recent Articles and Book Chapters

"Mimesis: Paradox and Encounter," *MLN: Special Issue on Lacoue-Labarthe*, forthcoming December 2017.

"Of Sympathies Alchemical and Poetic," *Rare Earth*, Tyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna (with Sternberg Press), 2015: 112-118. (revised version

of "Of Material Sympathies, Paracelsus, and Whitman," first appearing in *Material Ecocriticism*)

"Vibrant Matter," *Posthuman Glossary*, eds. Rosi Braidotti and M. Hlavajova, Bloomsbury Publishers, forthcoming 2017

"Whitman's Sympathies," *Political Research Quarterly* 69:3, September 2016: 607-620.

With published responses:

Romand Coles, "Walt Whitman, Jane Bennett, and the Paradox of Antagonistic Sympathy," 621-625

Cristin Ellis, "Numb Networks: Race, Identity, and the Politics of Impersonal Sympathies", 626-632.

"Vegetal Life and OntoSympathy" (with original drawings), in *Entangled Worlds: Religion, Science, and New Materialisms*, edited by Catherine Keller and Mary-Jane Rubenstein, Fordham University Press, forthcoming 2017, 89-110.

"Encounters with the Art-Thing," *Evental Aesthetics*, part of an issue devoted to *Vital Materialism*, vol. 3, no. 3, Winter 2014

"The Shapes of Odradek and the Edges of Perception," in *Grain/Vapor/Ray: Textures of the Anthropocene*, eds. Katrin Klingan, Ashkan Sepahvand, Christopher Rosol, and Bernd Scherer, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, and MIT Press, 2014, 13-28.

"Bilder von Odradek und die Ränder der Wahrnehmung," German translation of my "The Shapes of Odradek and the Edges of Perception," in *Das Anthropozan: Zum Stand der Dinge*, eds. Jürgen Renn and Bernd Scherer, Matthes & Seitz, Berlin 2015, 47-66.

"Ontology, Sensibility, and Action," my response in "Politics that Matter: Thinking about Power and Justice with the New Materialists," *Contemporary Political Theory*, 14(1), 2014, 63-89.

"Of Material Sympathies, Paracelsus, and Whitman," in *Material Ecocriticism*, eds. Serenella Iovino and Serpil Oppermann, Indiana University Press, 2014

"The Elements," *Postmedieval*, special issue on Ecomaterialism, vol. 4, issue 1, 2013

"From Nature to Matter," in *Second Nature: Rethinking the Natural through Politics*, ed. Crina Archer, Laura Ephraim, and Lida Maxwell, Fordham University Press, 2013, 149-160

"Systems and Things: A Reply to Graham Harman and Timothy Morton," *New Literary History*, vol. 43, no. 2, (2012), 225-233

Reprinted with a new introduction in *The Nonhuman Turn*, ed. Richard Grusin, University of Minnesota Press, 2014

"Earthling: Now and Forever?," in *Making the Geologic Now*, eds. Elizabeth Ellsworth and Jaime Kruse, Punctum Press, 2012, 244-46

"Stones," in *Stones According to Egill Sæbjörnsson*, Revolver Publishing / Künstlerhaus Bremen, 2012, 27-36

"The Crumpled Handkerchief," with William Connolly, in *Time and History in Deleuze and Serres*, ed. Bernd Herzogenrath, Continuum Press, 2012, 153-172

"Powers of the Hoard: Further Notes on Material Agency," in *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral: Ethics and Objects*, ed. Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, Punctum Books, 2012, 237-69

Reprinted (abridged), along with a new "Assignment," in *Add Metaphysics*, ed. Jenna Sutela, Aalto University Digital Design Laboratory, Finland (2013)

"Philosophy in the Wild: Listening to Things in Baltimore," with Alex Livingston, in *Scapegoat: Landscape/Architecture/Political Economy*, January 2012

"Too Soon for the Counter-Reformation," in *Truth and Democracy*, eds. Jeremy Elkins and Andrew Norris, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012, 154-158

"Author response," (to five reviews of *Vibrant Matter*,) in *Dialogues in Human Geography*, November 2011, 1: 404-406

"Green Materialism," in *Nature as a Force: Scientists, Social Scientists, and Ethicists in a Dialogue of Hope*, eds. T. Frank Kennedy and James Keenan, University of Toronto Press, forthcoming 2015

"Critical Dialogue: Jane Bennett's *Vibrant Matter* and Thomas Princen's *Treading Softly*," in *Perspective on Politics*, (2011), 9: 115-121

"On the Call from Outside," *The Immanent Frame*, Social Science Research Council, August 2010

"The Solar Judgment of Walt Whitman," in *A Political Companion to Walt Whitman*, ed. John Seery, University of Kentucky Press, 2010, 131-148

"The Force of Things," in *Political Matter: Technoscience, Democracy and Public Life*, eds. B. Braun and S. Whatmore, Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2010

"A Vitalist Stop on the Way to a New Materialism," in *New Materialisms: Ontology, Agency, and Politics*, eds. D. Coole and S. Frost, Duke University Press, 2010

"Thing-Power and an Ecological Sublime," in *The Sublime Now*, eds. Luke White and Claire Pajaczkowska, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009

"Thoreau's Techniques of Self," in *A Political Companion to Henry David Thoreau*, ed. Jack Turner, University of Kentucky Press, 2009

"Matérialismes métalliques," trans. P. Marrati, *Rue Descartes*, no. 59, Feb 2008

"Edible Matter," *New Left Review*, no. 45, May/June 2007

"Modernity and Its Critics," *Oxford Handbook of Political Science*, eds. John Dryzek, Bonnie Honig, Anne Phillips, Oxford University Press, 2005

“In Parliament with Things” in *Radical Democracy: Politics Between Abundance and Lack*, eds. Lars Toender and Lasse Thomassen, Manchester University Press, 2005

“The Agency of Assemblages and the North American Blackout,” *Public Culture*, vol. 17, no. 3, Fall 2005; Reprinted in *Political Theologies: Public Religions in a Post-Secular World*, eds. Hent de Vries and Lawrence E. Sullivan, Fordham University Press, 2006.

“The Force of Things: Steps toward an Ecology of Matter,” *Political Theory*, vol. 32, no. 3, June 2004

“Approaches to Contemporary Political Theory,” *Handbook of Political Theory*, eds. G. Gaus and C. Kukathas, Sage Publications (London), 2004

“The Moraline Drift,” in *The Politics of Moralizing*, Routledge, 2002

“Commodity Fetishism and Commodity Enchantment,” *Theory & Event*, vol. 5.1, Winter 2001

“Political Theory and ‘Weak Ontology,’” *Theory & Event*, vol. 4.2, Spring 2000

“The Order of Nature in Lucretius,” *Strategies*, Spring 2000

#### FELLOWSHIPS, AWARD, EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES

Visiting Professor, School of Social Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, May 2016

Editor, *Political Theory: An International Journal of Political Philosophy*, July 2012 - February 2017

Seminar Director, School for Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, Summer 2013, six-week seminar on “Ecomaterialism” with twenty graduate students from disciplines across the Humanities and Social Sciences

Symposium: “A Feeling for Things: Conversations around the work of Jane Bennett,” University of London, Birkbeck College, Institute for the Humanities, October 4-5, 2013, six presentations and my response

Fellow, Oxford University, Keble College and Department of Geography, Trinity Term 2011

Fellow, Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, University of London, May-July 2010

Book Review Editor, *Political Theory*, 2003-08

Advisory Board, Punctum Press, 2012-

Advisory Board, Book Series, “Reappraising the Political, eds. Jon Simons and Simon Tormey, Manchester University Press, 2003-

Visiting Professor, Department of Politics, University of Exeter, Fall 2003

International Advisory Editor, Book Series: "Taking on the Political,"  
Edinburgh University Press and New York University Press, 1998-2001

Editorial Board, *Critical Horizons*, 1999-

Editorial Board, *borderlands*, 2000-

Advisory Board, book series *Object Lessons*, Continuum-Bloomsbury, 2014-

Executive Committee, Foundations of Political Theory, APSA, 2002-05

Fellow, Department of Politics, University of Nottingham, May 2007

Fellow, Faculty of Philosophy, Australian National University,  
January-April 2000

Coordinating Editorial Committee, *Theory & Event*, 1999-

Advisory Board, Ashworth Centre for Social Theory, University of  
Melbourne, 1998-

Program Chair, Foundations of Political Theory Panels, American Political  
Science Association, 1997 (29 panels)

Fellow, Humanities Research Centre, Australian National  
University, May-August 1997

Book Review Editor, *Theory & Event*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996-99

## RECENT LECTURES

"The Phiz of *Leaves of Grass*," Rushton Lecture, University of Virginia,  
October 19-21, 2016

"On Influence," Keynote for conference on *Reason and Affect in the  
Anthropocene*, University of Copenhagen, May 2016

"Sympathy, Homomorphy, and Affective Tone," Keynote for conference on  
*Presumed Autonomy*, University of Stockholm, Sweden, May 2016

"Three Figures of Influence: Whitman, Caillois, Whitehead," lecture as Visiting  
Scholar, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, July 2016

"Sympathy in an Age of Anxiety," CUNY Political Theory Workshop, March 3,  
2016

"The Performances of Things," for the "Afterlives of Performance" at Museum  
of Modern Art, New York, September 2015

"The Soft Voice of Sympathy," Maxwell Lecture, University of Utah, October

2015

"Otherwise than Sovereignty," Potomac Center for the Study of Modernity, George Washington University, October 2015

"Leaning In: Walt Whitman and Alfred North Whitehead," Claremont Conference on Whitehead, June 2015

"Encounters with the Art-Thing," Keynote for the "Speculative Realism, Accelerationism, and Aesthetics" event at Center for the Humanities, CUNY Graduate Center, March 2015

"Anxiety, Whitman, Sympathy," Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, and Department of Performance Studies, New York University, October 2014

"Anxiety, Whitman, Sympathy," Humanities Center, SUNY Binghamton, September 2014

"Sympathetic Environments, Material Worlds," Department of English, University of Maryland, December 2014

"Thinking Subjectivity with Plants: Thoreau and Darwin," Thoreau Society and American Literature Association, May 2014

"Vegetal Life and OntoSympathy," Birkbeck College, University of London: Institute for the Humanities, public lecture in advance of a symposium on "A Feeling for Things: Conversations around the work of Jane Bennett," October 4-5, 2013

"Whitman and the Manners of Democracy," Cornell School for Criticism and Theory, July 2013

"The Shape of the Drop," for symposium on *The Secret Life of Plants*, Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities, Princeton University, May 3, 2013

"Impersonal Sympathy," public lecture, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture, Concordia University, Montreal, March 22, 2103

"Material Sympathies in Whitman's *A Song of the Rolling Earth*," Columbia University Seminar in Literary Theory, (respondent John McClure, Department of English, Rutgers), February 21, 2013

"Damaged Art and the Thrill of Recognition," Opening of *No Longer Art: Salvage Art Institute*, Buell Gallery, Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, November 14, 2012.

"Whitman's Postures," Conference on *Beyond Representation* (Art History), Institute for Fine Arts, New York University, September 27, 2012

Plenary Lecture, "Sympathy as Material Power," BABEL Conference: The Question of Disciplinarity in the Post/Medieval University, Boston, Sept 21, 2012

Lecture, "Art and Politics in Walt Whitman," University of Nottingham, UK, May 31, 2012

Lecture, "Hoarding and Material Agency," Center for Research on Socio-

Cultural Change, Manchester University, UK, May 29, 2012

"Ecology, New Materialism, and Critical Vitalism," Conference on Political Theory and Environmentalism, Cambridge University, UK, May 25, 2012

Plenary Lecture, "A Materialist and an Object-Oriented Philosopher Walk into a Bar," Conference on the Nonhuman Turn, Center for 21<sup>st</sup> c. Studies, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, May 2-4, 2012

"Thinking about Sympathy in an Age of Powerful Things," conference on "Romanticisms of the Contemporary," Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University, February 2012

"Strange Attractors: The Case of Hoarders and Things," Inaction in Action Conference, Program in Women, Gender and Sexuality, Johns Hopkins University, October 2011

Inaugural lecture for 2011-12 Theme: "Powers of the Hoard: Artistry and Agency in a World of Vibrant Matter," Vera List Center for Art and Politics, New School, September 2011

"Earthiness and Sympathy: A Sensibility for Speculative Realism," CUNY Graduate Center, September 2011

"The Material Life of Things," Red Room Philosopher's Lecture Series, Normal's Bookstore, Baltimore, August 2011

"What is Vibrant Matter?," Institute for Cultural Inquiry, Berlin, May 2011

"Over-consumption and the Power of Things," School of Environment and Geography, Oxford University, May 2011

"What is Human Creativity?," Mellon Workshop on Human Creativity, Oxford University, May 3-17, 2011

"The Politics of the Everyday," Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University, April 2011

"The Lively Materials of Architecture," School of Architecture, Princeton University, March 4, 2011

Keynote, "Powers of the Hoard: Notes on Material Agency," Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute Conference, George Washington University, March 11, 2011

Keynote, "The Objects of War," Conference on The Political Life of Things, Imperial War Museum, London, December 2010

"Is it important to maintain a distinction between human and machine?," Bard Conference on the Human, October 2010

"Reply to Stephen White: What is Continental Philosophy?" University College London, June 2010

"Whitman's Solar Judgment," seminar to Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, June 2010



"What is a new materialism?," Essex University Conference on Political Theory, June 2010

"The Strange Matter of Michel Serres," Humanities and Arts Research Centre, Royal Holloway University, University of London, May 2010

Keynote, "New Materialisms and Michel Serres's *Noise*," Conference on New Materialisms, Johns Hopkins University, April 2010

"Green Materialism," Departments of Philosophy and Department of Political Science, Siena College, March 2010

"Whitman's Solar Judgment," Department of Geography, Durham University, June 2009

"Response to my critics," workshop on *Vibrant Matter*, Department of Geography, Durham University, June 2009

"Impersonal Affect," Conference on "Democracy and the Passions," Cini Foundation, Venice, Italy, June 10-20, 2008

"Green Materialism," keynote, University of Essex Conference on Political Theory, U.K., June 12, 2008

"Vital Matter and Green Politics," Workshop on "The Physique of the Public," Goldsmiths University of London, June 6, 2008

"The Ecological Sublime," Tate Symposium on the Sublime, Tate Britain, October 19, 2007

"The Prodigious Idea of Inorganic Life," Theoretical Archeology Group, Columbia University, May 24, 2008

"Metallic Materialism," American Association of Geographers, Boston, MA, April 18, 2008

"Democratic Assemblages, or 'Small Agencies and their Accumulated Effects,'" American Political Science Association, August 2007

Keynote, "Latter-Day Vitalism and the Embryonic Stem Cell Debate," Conference on Stem Cell Identities, Governance and Ethics, University of Nottingham, May 2007

"The Culture of Life," Political Theory Colloquium, Pennsylvania State University, April 2007

"Impersonal Affect," Roundtable on Mediation/Ethics, Pembroke Center, Brown University, March 2007

"What is Vital Force?," Conference on New Materialisms, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, February 2007

Keynote, "From Nature to Materiality," Graduate Student Political Theory Conference on *Second Nature*, Northwestern University, February 2007

“Enchanted Materialism and the Political-Theological,” Conference on Living Together: Love, Religion, and Politics for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” Fordham University, January 2007

## TEACHING

Eco-philosophy, American political thought and literature, Contemporary Cultural Theory, History of Political Thought

Recent Graduate seminars: Spinoza and Ecophilosophy; Ecomaterialism; Romanticism and Radicalism; Hegel and Feminist Philosophy; Figures of Time: Whitehead, Bergson, Darwin; Politics and Poetics of Thoreau and Whitman

Recent Undergraduate courses: Political Persuasion: Classics of Political Thought; Dreams of America; Bodies and the State

Recent Ph.D. dissertations supervised:

Jennifer Lin (2010), “Active Eating: Spinozist Ontology and the Practice of Self-Discipline”

Dorothy Kwek (2011), "Spinoza's Theory of Power"

Stefanie Fishel (2011) "New Metaphors for Global Living"

John Duda (2012 Humanities Center), "The Idea of Self-Organization between Science and Politics"

Jake Greear (2013), "Ecocritical Practices: Walking, Working, and Tinkering"

Anatoli Ignatov (2014), "Ecologies of the Good Life: Forces, Bodies, and Cross-cultural Encounters"

Anna Blomme (2014), "The Senses of Climate Change"

Nicole Grove (2014), "Gamers, Hunters, Provocateurs: Digital Mediations of Violence and Gender in the Arab World"

Suvi Irvine (2014), "Don't Shoot the Messenger: Rethinking Cynicism and the Value of Political Critique"

Charles Dixon (2015) "A Demotic Void: Materialism, Capitalism, and Inequality"

Nathan Gies (2015), "Candor and Control: The Politics of Truthfulness in an Age of Openness"

Chad Shomura (2016), "The Bad Good Life: On the Politics of Impasse"

Katherine Goktepe (2016), "Four Democratic Practices"

Cara Daggett (2016), "Energy's Power: Fuel, Work, and Waste in the Age of the Anthropocene"