Sabbatical Summary
Levi R. Bryant
Professor of Philosophy
Communications & Humanities
Fall 2012

My sabbatical was extremely productive and contributed substantially to both my professional development and my pedagogy. I began my sabbatical with the intention of investigating both philosophy of technology and ecology. My desire an ecological theory arguing that ecology ought not be understood as the study of natural ecosystems, but the investigation of relational networks. Any network of entities, whether natural or technological, would therefore constitute an ecosystem. The advantage of this approach would be that it would allow me to bring the methodological tools of ecology to the investigation of human social systems, showing how technologies and media, for example, constitute an ecosystem playing a role in how human beings develop and the nature of social relations. Moreover, this approach would allow us to see how society opens on to the broader natural world and is a part of that natural world.

My research culminated in the design of an honors philosophy course for Fall of 2013, as well as a number of publications and talks. In Fall of 2013 I will teach a course devoted to media, technology, and ecology, where we investigate the work of Stacy Alaimo (literature and animal studies), Andy Clark (philosophy of mind and technology studies), Mark Deuze (media studies), and Timothy Morton (eco-theory). This course will investigate ecology, media, and technology.

During Fall of 2012, I wrote a book, published a number of articles, and gave a number of talks investigating these issues. I list them below:

**Book**

*Onto-Cartographies: An Ontology of Machines and Media*, to be published with Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming.

**Articles**


**Talks**


5. “Three Theses for an Ontology of Networks”, Networked Humanities: From Within and Without the University, University of Kentucky, February 16, 2013.


