



Cadell Last

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Profile

General thinker interested in synthesizing ideas from an interdisciplinary perspective in order to better understand the meaning of human existence and evolution.

Academic Experience

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL; BRUSSEL, BE. – 2014-PRESENT

Ph.D. candidate and researcher at the Evolution, Cognition, and COmplexity (ECCO) group at Global Brain Institute (GBI) focused on higher orders of human social dynamics related to observation, information, energy, and meta-systems.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO; TORONTO, ON. – 2011-13

Graduated from the University of Toronto (M.Sc.) focused on evolutionary anthropology. Specialized in understanding divergence throughout primate-human evolution.

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY; HAMILTON, ON. – 2007-11

Graduated with combined B.A. (Hon.) degree in biological anthropology and history. Specialized in primate social ecology, biocultural evolution, colonial-empire formation.

MOHAWK COLLEGE; HAMILTON, ON. – 2005-07

Graduated with a General Arts and Science diploma focused on a wide-ranging introduction to social sciences, natural sciences, and the humanities.

Academic Publications

Last, C. 2018. Symbolic Orders and Structure of Universal Internalization. In: *Evolution: Evolutionary Trends and Aspects*. Ed. L.E. Grinin & Korotayev, A.V. pp. 120-144. Volgograd: Publishing House 'Uchitel'.

Last, C. 2018. Cosmic Evolutionary Philosophy and a Dialectical Approach to Technological Singularity. *Information*, 9(4):78. DOI: 10.3390/info9040078.

Last, C. 2017. Big Historical Foundations for Deep Future Speculations: Cosmic Evolution, Atechnogenesis, and Technocultural Civilization. *Foundations of Science*, 22(1): 39-124. DOI: 10.1007/s10699-015-9434-y

Last, C. 2017. Global Commons in the Global Brain. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 114: 48-64. DOI: 10.1016/j.techfore.2016.06.013

Last, C. 2015. Information-energy metasystem model. *Kybernetes*, 44(8/9), pp. 1298-1309. DOI: 10.1108/K-11-2014-0231

Last, C. 2015. Human Metasystem Transition (HMST) Theory. *Journal of Evolution & Technology*, 25(1): 1-16.

Last, C. 2014. Human Evolution, Life History Theory, and the End of Biological Reproduction. *Current Aging Science*, 7(1): 1-8. DOI: 10.2174/1874609807666140521101610

Last, C. 2014. Global Brain and the Future of Human Society. *World Future Review*, 6(2): 143-150. DOI: 10.1177/194675

Last, C. & Muh, B. 2013. Effects of Human Presence on Chimpanzee Nest Location in the Lebialem-Mone Forest Landscape, Southwest Region, Cameroon. *Folia Primatologica*, 84: 51-63.

Last, C. 2013. The 10,000 Year Explosion: How Civilization Accelerated Human Evolution (2009) by Gregory Cochran and Henry Harpending. *vis-a-vis: Explorations of Anthropology*, 12(1): 120-3.

Working Papers / In Press

Last, C. 2018. A Reflective Note for Dialectical Thinkers. Submitted to: *International Journal of Zizek Studies*. Special Issue: What Went Wrong With Zizek? Working Paper.

Last, C. & Werner, B. 2018. Physics and Consciousness: A Philosophical Dialogue on the Nature of Subject-Object Division. Working Paper.

Last, C., Werner, B. & Van Weyenbergh, G. 2018. Physical Emergence of Subject-Object Division (and a dialectical approach to reconciliation). Working Paper.

Independent Academic Projects (Past and Present)

LESS THAN NOTHING ANALYSIS (BLOG, YOUTUBE) – 2018

In-depth literature review of fundamental questions on metaphysics

WHAT IS SEX? ANALYSIS (BLOG, YOUTUBE) – 2018

In-depth literature review of fundamental questions on sexuality

THE MONTPARNASSE INITIATIVE: SCHOOL OF THINKING (EDUCATION) – 2018

Think tank focused on exploring the foundations of academic structure

THE ADVANCED APES (BLOG, PODCAST, YOUTUBE) – 2012-2014

Popular science project focused on exploring questions related to human evolution

Grants and Awards

FORMWELTEN-INSTITUTE – 2018

Awarded to fund accommodations to participate in systemic research workshop (€500)

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND INTERDISCIPLINARY (CRI) – 2017

Awarded to fund travel and accommodations to present and participate in major system transition workshop (€750)

GLOBAL BRAIN INSTITUTE (GBI) / EVOLUTION, COGNITION, & COMPLEXITY (ECCO) INTERDISCIPLINARY PHD SCHOLARSHIP – 2014-18

Awarded to fund participation with research group and completion of interdisciplinary Ph.D thesis related to complex systems science (€24,000 per. year)

GLOBAL BRAIN INSTITUTE (GBI) GRANT – 2014

Awarded to fund conference travel and accommodations related to cybernetics and future studies (€1,500)

EVOLUTION, COGNITION, AND COMPLEXITY (ECCO) GRANT – 2013

Awarded to fund travel and accommodations while presenting at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (€1,000)

ONTARIO GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (OGS) – 2012-13

Awarded to fund a second year of M.Sc. research at the University of Toronto (\$15,000)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP – 2012

Awarded to fund proposed ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*) nocturnal behavioural research on St. Catherines Island (SCI) (\$1,500)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FELLOWSHIP GRANT – 2012

Awarded for conference participation and travel at CAPA 2011 and AAPA 2012 (\$880)

WILLIAM S. POLLITZER STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD – 2012

Awarded for essay prize on topic of identifying an important missing article in biological anthropology (\$500)

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES CONFERENCE GRANT – 2011

Awarded for podium presentation at CAPA 2011 in Montreal (\$150)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO GRADUATE FUNDING – 2011-12

Awarded for acceptance into the M.A. anthropology program (\$15,000 plus tuition)

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE ESSAY PRIZE – 2011

Awarded as essay prize for undergraduate history thesis (\$50)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD (USRA) – 2011

Awarded to fund proposed primate research project in Cameroon, Africa (\$6,000)

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION STUDENT PROJECT GRANT – 2010

Awarded for poster presentation at CAPA 2010 in Saskatoon (\$900)

CAPA 2010 STUDENT TRAVEL BURSARY – 2010

Awarded for poster presentation at CAPA 2010 in Saskatoon (\$100)

THE LORNA AND DAVID SOMERS AWARD – 2010

Awarded for service to the McMaster community and academic leaderships skills

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION STUDENT PROJECT GRANT – 2010

Awarded for primate volunteer field survey in Cameroon (\$1,500)

M.U.M.A. TRAVEL BURSARY – 2010

Awarded for primate volunteer field survey in Cameroon (\$500)

Presentations and Posters

BCSSS LECTURE SERIES - BERTALANFFY CENTRE FOR STUDY OF SYSTEMS SCIENCE (BCSSS) – 2018

Presentation: Global Brain Singularity: Universal history, future evolution and humanity's dialectical horizon

LARNACA CONFERENCE - INTEGRATION OF SYSTEM THINKERS (FORMWELTEN-INSTITUTE) – 2018

Presentation: History of Meta-Reflective Group Dynamics in Thinking

THE SCHOOL OF ADVANCED THINKING WORKSHOP (CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND INTERDISCIPLINARY (CRI)) – 2018

Presentation: Towards the Foundations for a School of Advanced Thinking

EVOLUTION, COGNITION, COMPLEXITY (ECCO) LECTURE SERIES (VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL (VUB)) – 2017

Presentation: Technological Singularity in the Big Historical Worldview

BIG HISTORY AND GLOBAL EVOLUTION (LOMONOSOV MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY) – 2017

Presentation: Technological Singularity in the Big Historical Worldview

SHAPING OUR MAJOR TRANSITION (CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND INTERDISCIPLINARY (CRI)) – 2017

Presentation: Metasystem Transitions: Thinking an Individuated Commons

EVOLUTION, COGNITION, AND COMPLEXITY (ECCO) LECTURE SERIES (VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL (VUB)) – 2017

Presentation: Consequences of the Symbolic-Imaginary for Big History

INTERNATIONAL BIG HISTORY ASSOCIATION (UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM (UA)) – 2016

Presentation: Big History and the Deep Future

OFFER NETWORK WORKSHOP (VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL (VUB)) – 2015

Presentation: Exploring the Global Commons

THE INFORMATION SOCIETY AT A CROSSROADS (VIENNA UNIVERSITY (VU)) – 2015

Presentation: Self-Actualization in the Commons

EVOLUTION, COGNITION, AND COMPLEXITY (ECCO) LECTURE SERIES (VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL (VUB)) – 2014

Presentation: Information-Energy Metasystem Model

REJUVENATION BIOTECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE (SENS FOUNDATION) – 2014

Poster: Life History Theory and the End of Biological Reproduction

INTERNATIONAL BIG HISTORY ASSOCIATION (DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA) – 2014

Presentation: The Future of Big History

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CYBERNETICS (GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY) – 2014

Presentation: Information-Energy Metasystem Model

WORLD FUTURE SOCIETY (WFS) – 2014

Poster: Global Brain and the Future of Human Society

CYPRUS SYMPOSIUM 'PATHWAYS TO INDEFINITE LIFESPANS' (UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA (UN)) – 2014

Presentation: Life History Theory and the End of Biological Reproduction

EVOLUTION, COGNITION, AND COMPLEXITY (ECCO) LECTURE SERIES (VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL (VUB)) – 2013

Presentation: Pathway to the Global Brain: A Theory of Human Metasystem Transitions

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM (ROM) – 2012

Presented: Conserving our Closest Relatives and Rural Development in Africa

MEDUSA LECTURE SERIES (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (UOT)) – 2012

Presented: Chimpanzee Group Nest Size in Equatorial West Africa and Group Nest Size Variability in the Lebialem-Mone Forest Landscape

CAPA 2011 CONFERENCE (UNIVERSITE DE MONTREAL (UM)) – 2011

Presented: Effects of Human Predation on Chimpanzee Nest Construction in South-West Cameroon

MEDUSA LECTURE SERIES (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (UOT)) – 2011

Presented: Effects of Human Predation on Chimpanzee Nest Construction in South-West Cameroon

USRA RECEPTION 2011 (MCMASTER UNIVERSITY) – 2011

Presented: Introduction to USRA research in South-West Cameroon

CAPA 2010 CONFERENCE (UNIVERSITY OF SASKATOON) – 2010

Poster: Chimpanzee Ecology and the Bushmeat Trade in South-West Cameroon

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM (MCMASTER UNIVERSITY) – 2010

Presented: Critique of the Upper Palaeolithic Language Hypothesis

UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY CONFERENCE (YORK UNIVERSITY) – 2010

Presented: German-Jewish reaction to the Third Reich 1933-38

Primary References

FRANCIS HEYLIGHEN, PH.D. – ASSOCIATE PROF. OF PHILOSOPHY/INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL)

+32-2-640-67 37 | fheyligh@vub.ac.be | Personal relation: PhD Supervisor

JOYCE PARGA, PH.D. – ASSOCIATE PROF. OF ANTHROPOLOGY (CAL STATE UNIVERSITY)

jparga2@calstatela.edu | Personal relation: M.Sc. Supervisor

TRACY PROWSE, PH.D. – ASSOCIATE PROF. OF ANTHROPOLOGY (MCMASTER UNIVERSITY)

905-525-9140 | prowset@mcmaster.ca | Personal relation: Undergraduate supervisor

Secondary References

STEFAN BLACHFELLNER, PH.D. – DIRECTOR OF BCSSS (BERTALANFFY CENTER FOR STUDY OF SYSTEMS SCIENCE)

stefan.blachfellner@bcsss.org | Personal relation: independent collaborator

PAUL LUSSIER, PH.D. – ASSOCIATE PROF. OF COMMUNICATIONS (YALE UNIVERSITY)

paul.lussier@yale.edu | Personal relation: independent collaborator

DAVID O'BRIEN, PH.D. – ASSOCIATE PROF. OF PHILOSOPHY (MOHAWK COLLEGE)

david.obrien@mohawkcollege.ca | Personal relation: college professor

CLEMENT VIDAL, PH.D. – RESEARCHER IN PHILOSOPHY, COSMOLOGY, COMPLEXITY (VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL)

contact@clemvidal.com | Personal relation: colleague at ECCO/VUB

FRANCOIS TADDEI, PH.D. – DIRECTOR OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES)

01 76 53 11 04 | francois.taddei@inserm.fr | Personal relation: independent collaborator

MARIOS KYRIAZIS, PH.D. – DIRECTOR OF ELPIS FOUNDATION FOR INDEFINITE LIFESPANS

drmarios@live.it | Personal relation: collaborator at ECCO/VUB

MARTA LENARTOWICZ, PH.D. – RESEARCHER IN SOCIAL SYSTEMS THEORY

marta.lenartowicz@mac.com | Personal relation: collaborator at ECCO/VUB