



Humanities Institute at Stony Brook

p r e s e n t s

Thursday, April 17th, 2013

4:00 p.m.

Humanities 1008

Reception to follow

Jesse Oak Taylor

Invisible Hands/ Carbon Footprints: Corporate Bodies, Undead Metaphors, and the Anthropocene

Ours is an undead economy, drawing its life from the physical stuff of death. The power enabled by fossil fuels arises from long-sequestered life, and a material residue of its combustion haunts the atmosphere. We imagine this phenomenon through the language of spectral embodiment to account for its distributed effects: modernity's ghost walks with carbon footprints. Taylor takes up these turns to the language of haunting in order to account for the distribution of agency through human and nonhuman bodies over the vast timescales that industrial modernity entails. These abstractions are grounded through a reading of Bram Stoker's enduringly popular *Dracula* as a means of conceptualizing the undead bodies of industrial modernity.

Jesse Oak Taylor is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Washington. His research focuses on industrialization and empire in the nineteenth century and their relevance for understanding the ongoing processes (and social and ecological consequences) of industrialization and development around the globe, balancing research on Victorian Britain and the British Empire with work on contemporary ecological theory, international development, and global health. His publications include articles on Dickens and Indra Sinha, and the forthcoming book *The Sky of Our Manufacture*.

