

Centre for Transnational Cultural Analysis

And

The Production of Literature
Lecture Series

## Nathan Hensley, Georgetown University "After it Almost Unmade"

Friday 13 October 2017, 3:00 pm Dunton Tower 1811 All are welcome!

At a moment when the capacity for consequential action feels diminished—diffused into ethers of climatalogical systems or tangled in webs of attenuation, restriction, and foreclosure by state and corporate systems—the problem of agency arises once again. This talk draws on ecological theory and archival research to sketch the dilemma of action now. Reading poetry about wreckage by Gerard Manley Hopkins and fragile, fragmentary verse-objects by Emily Brontë, it aims to show how literary performance might help us imagine possibility in a damaged present.

My task is done. Smudged fragment on mourning paper. Emily Brontë, 1844 (Berg Collection, NYPL).







