

# Crawford Comeaux

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**Mission:** Coevolve with all life.

**Approach:** Hello, World! I choose to collaboratively, peacefully, and fluidly coevolve with all life by mindfully embodying science and art, in love, to identify ways to sustainably contribute to all life's needs.

The previous sentence encodes core thought patterns I'm reconfiguring my mind with by using them as guides for how to make choices in my daily life. I chose these thought patterns after my introduction to category theory, using what I'd learned. I did this as one of many experiments in reprogramming my conscious experience to pull out of and stay out of a relapse into several addictions: information, porn, masturbation, sex, love, sugar, video games, social media, and people (ie. codependency). I'm having major success and am still sometimes surprised when I realize category theory is at the foundation of my recovery. Of course, how could it not be?

My successes throughout the testing process threw my life into joyful chaos. I chose homelessness to test hypotheses around living via giving economics. One of my experiments was to live out of my car. Another was to stay with a friend and live in service to her family for a month. I chose to live in a tent. I chose to live on a ship. I have learned to get from sea to shore and back. I had to learn how to acquire food without a job. I had to learn how to manage a kitchen on a ship, how to cook and heat myself on a ship.

During this time of testing, I was not in a position to continue deeply studying category theory while continuing this experimentation phase to its conclusion.

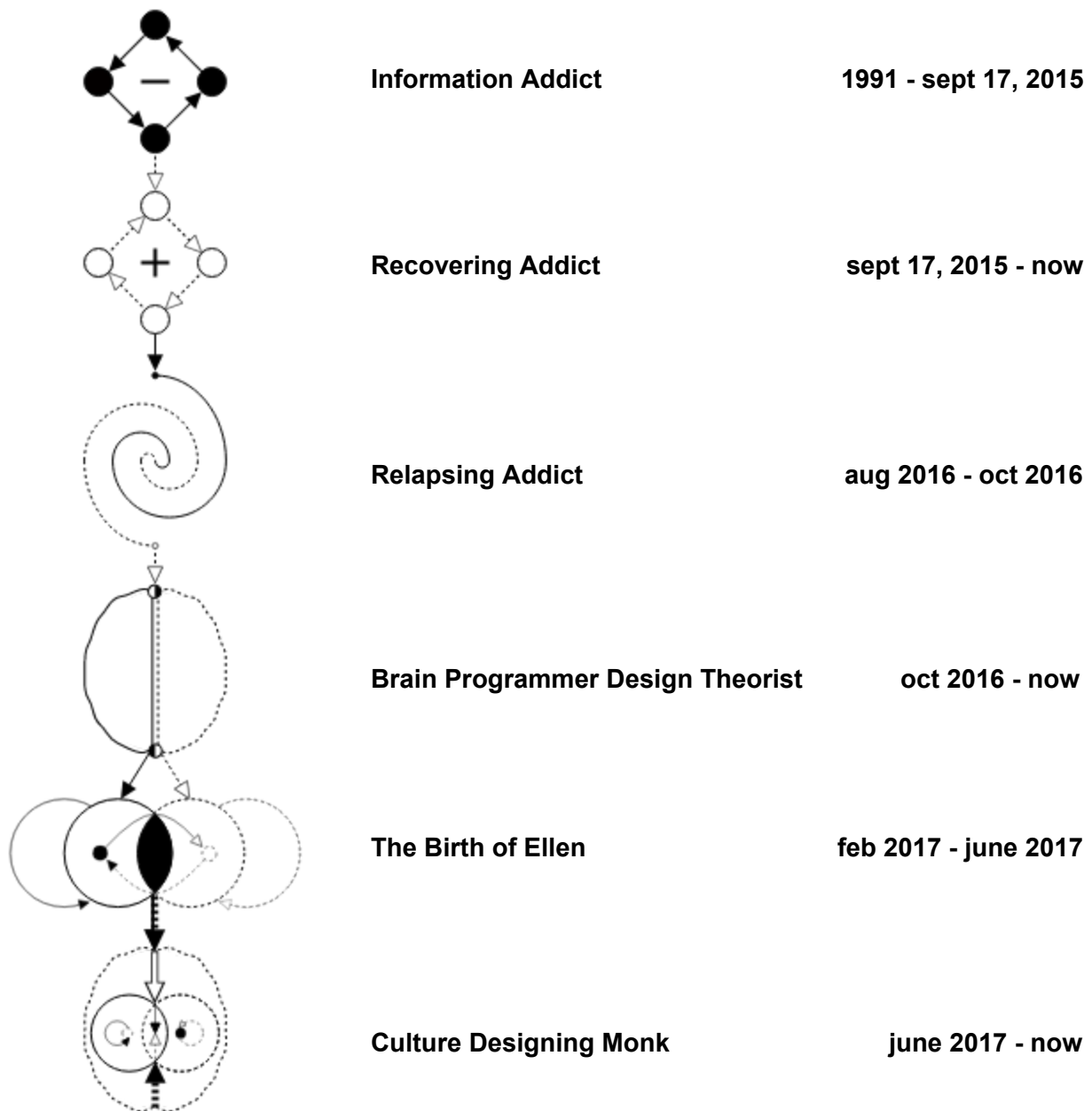
In June 2017, I retired from society's expectations and shifted from primarily participating in a capitalist economy to primarily participating in a giving economy. What I need, I ask for and receive from the world. What I have to give, I give without expecting reciprocation. I met my wife in October 2017 and she gave birth to our first child 3 months ago. We plan to open an experimental community homeschool where I would like to teach category theory and self programming. I am now at a point where I'm ready to continue my studies so I can learn how to present category theory to children.

I am a non-standard, non-academic applicant. If I'm being authentic, this CV will also be neither of those things. It, like me, is a work in progress. The live version can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/crawfordcv>.

## Recovery Timeline

This timeline is meant to portray personal growth, ideally leaving the reader with a sense of how much change I've undergone in the past 3 years. Note the rate of new phases/identities after Ellen emerged. Ellen is unique among the other identities because she is explicitly "Not Crawford" & identifies as a woman. She emerged by accident after I explored characteristics statistically correlated with gender & how I identified with them. She revealed to me the power of creating identities as learning tools and how it's perfectly natural for a human to do so joyfully. Ellen is a tulpa, a type of thoughtform originally conceived of in Tibetan Buddhism.



### **Additional Evolution of Identities**

<b>Bardic Abbottess</b>	<b>sept 2017 - now</b>
<b>Iggnnomic Co-Monk: Doctor Baby</b>	<b>oct 2017 - now</b>
<b>Bardic Gnome</b>	<b>jan 2018 - now</b>
<b>Troll Druid Community Organizer</b>	<b>april 2018 - now</b>
<b>Mister Rogers - Father</b>	<b>july 2018 - now</b>
<b>Crawpa the Time Traveler</b>	<b>sept 2018 - now</b>
<b>SSANTAG Crows</b>	<b>dec 2018 - now</b>

**Programming Languages I've Recently Used:** Python, Haskell

**Programming Language I Haven't Used Lately:** Javascript, Java, C++, C#, VB.NET

## **ACT2019 School Application**

### **An explanation of any relevant background I have in category theory or any of the specific projects areas:**

I have read the first three chapters of "Category Theory for the Sciences" and watched some "Category Theory for Programmers" videos. During this stage in learning Category Theory, I developed hypotheses that required testing before moving on. Part of my recovery process as an information addict has been to apply what I have learned when I learn it, rather than continuing to research.

I have applied the ideas from those lessons to help organize my thoughts around how to metacognitively reprogram myself. I've evolved myself through several identities, each having unique aspects of my mindset. I believe others are capable of learning to program themselves in a similar fashion because everyone already intuitively does it to varying degrees. My experience is directly relevant to autopoiesis.

### **The date I completed or expect to complete my Ph.D and a one-sentence summary of its subject matter:**

If I am to receive a Ph.D, I expect it would be in the case where I'm accepting an honorary one or some heretofore undeveloped future path for acquiring one. I am not pursuing a Ph.D in the traditional manner through academic institutions, as I find the operational & organizational cultures found in academia to be out of alignment with my values, in part due to the pressures of capitalism & the effects it has on institutions. My work has been in developing a programmatic concept of the self, inspired by neuroscience, psychology, computer science, philosophy, and category theory.

### **Order of Project Preference by Mentor:**

1. David Spivak
2. Bartosz Milewski or Mehrnoosh Sadrzadeh
3. Miriam Backens, Pieter Hofstra, Tobias Fritz

### **Commitment:**

I have booked my trip to London for July 13th. Once I know if I've been accepted to ACT2019 School, I will purchase a return trip.

## **Interest in the ACT School:**

One way I'm coevolving is by helping humanity learn how to program itself using natural languages as a key tool. If there exists a human programming language, it can be grounded in category theory. One reason to use a human programming language is for autopoiesis. According to my friends, I've been evolving at a faster rate than other people they know. As such, I am my own body of work. The fastest way for the world & I to currently benefit from mutual aid through my work is to interact with me. The next fastest way would be to help me compile my notes. I think my participation in ACT2019 School can be transformative for all involved.

David Spivak's project is particularly aligned with my research goals, as I've been experimenting in my daily life with my own categorical models of human adaptation, a specific type of autopoiesis. I developed these models with a limited understanding of category theory and mostly out of intuition; the school offers an opportunity to expand my working knowledge of CT and refine these theories.

Applying to the school is useful to me as a practice in abandoning self-limiting beliefs related to impostor syndrome. I see the school as an opportunity to build working relationships with people in my field.



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**Crawford Comeaux recommendation**

1 message

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**Jacqueline Lyle** <jackielyle@gmail.com>  
To: act2019school@gmail.com

Tue, Jan 29, 2019 at 6:59 PM

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter recommending Crawford Comeaux as an ideal participant in the Adjoint School ACT2019.

Crawford has spent most of his life studying mathematics and using math theory in a variety of practical and theoretical situations. He is an explorer of human behavior, complex systems, psycho-social functions and, often, his self-guided studies merge with his understanding of and his mathematical ability.

He is certainly not a nose-in-the-books mathematician. However, his life experiences and academic studies support the necessary knowledge that the Adjoint School ACT2019 program demands.

Most importantly, I recommend Crawford Comeaux because he will be an interested, active participant and one that brings refined interpersonal skills based in the practice of non-violent communication. He can discuss without condescending. He can counter another's opinion without disregarding the opinion of another.

I have worked with Crawford on community-based initiatives in Lafayette, LA, including an attempt to build a maker-space, the roll-out of a community-based tech-oriented not-for-profit that included a co-working space. In both instances, Crawford made important contributions, including pointing out pitfalls and weaknesses in our systems. In my work in the not-for-profit performing arts world, Crawford offered insights into my work, recognizing the value--or lack there of--regarding programming choices, artists fees, ticket prices and marketing.

His life experiences have increased his understanding of psycho-social conditions. Crawford approaches challenges with an open mind. This characteristic, in particular, makes him a valuable asset on many fronts, including the Adjoint School ACT2019.

Please consider his candidacy with the same consideration with which he has applied to your program.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Lyle, Creative Director, UpStage, Inc.

Realtor, Van Eaton & Romero, LLC

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[103 Glynnwood Ave.](#)  
[Lafayette, LA 70506](#)



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## Recommendation for Crawford Comeaux

1 message

**Rebecca Vitsmun** <rebeccavitsmun@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 28, 2019 at 4:26 PM

To: act2019school@gmail.com

ACT School:

While I have peripherally known of Crawford Comeaux for many years, I did not begin to know him well, first as a friend and later as a business consultant, until September of 2015.

Crawford will not be the typical candidate that is applying to this program. He will not be able to give you a way to discern his worth through a system of production that is measurable, outside of recommendations from people he has assisted through consultation. As an anti-capitalist, he does not value production as much as he values progress and trade. He has, on many occasions, traded his unique perspective for the ability to learn through contribution, and this trade has been extremely valuable to me personally. I believe this has especially been the case in circumstances where those viewing through a typical societal lens would find themselves stuck.

As someone who does work within the capitalist system and does place a value on production, Crawford has been a tremendous resource for me to move past points I was unable to see a way around on my own.

Professionally, I have recently walked away from a previous project I created and developed because it has become self-sustaining (Humanist Disaster Recovery Teams). As I look for a new project to work on, because of Crawford's cutting-edge perspective, I have attempted several times to work with him on a system that would value production, and this has not been a good fit. If what you would like is a business partner, that is not a role that I would recommend for Crawford, nor do I believe Crawford would attempt to make this seem like a role he is interested in. I believe he is best suited as a consulting contributor to an ongoing project at any stage of development, but with his strongest value add being at sticking points within a project.

Personality-wise, Crawford can be overly-playful at times, but I believe that these behaviors are necessary for maintaining his perspective, and it is very easy to redirect him if timelines and anxiety call for a more serious conversation.

Over the time that I have known him, he has repeatedly brought up category theory. I must confess, I have not had the time nor desire to take on learning category theory myself. I competed in math in high school and had trophies in Calculus I and II. I took college coursework through Linear Algebra and Foundations of Higher Mathematics (proof writing). Beyond that, I have not pursued math or work with computers. My work has centered around creating systems for volunteers to use to carry out their work without being a detriment to the system they are working within.

When working with Crawford, he will often assist by drawing what he calls category theory. I do not believe I have worked with Crawford in person a single time over the last 2 years without a reference to category theory and a drawing coming from our conversation.

In 2016, when Crawford began to first introduce me to category theory, I was highly skeptical and had him break down and explain it at length and I have become comfortable with this being a tool that he utilizes in assisting me.

I would like to see Crawford continue to learn more about category theory; he constantly revisits this subject with those around him who are going to him for consultation, including myself. I believe his continued growth in understanding category theory will benefit me in my work and future development, as well as many

others.

While it personally took me about a year of being skeptical of Crawford, I have become very comfortable and will seek his consultation prior to others when I need a unique perspective on solving real-world problems. I have, as a speaker at a national level within the secular movement, taken to jokingly calling him my "cult leader guru friend" as I reference him in conversation for his contributions.

I do know and understand that letters of recommendation are thought to have been written best when they only contain positive notions, but if I didn't know and state what I believe are the negative notions, I would tell you that I didn't know the person well enough to recommend them.

Thank you,

Rebecca Vitsmun  
Board Member  
[Humanists of Washington](#)  
Tacoma, WA  
405-758-8996

PS: My role in Humanists of Washington does not require the use of an internal email address. As the nonprofit world is one with a limited budget, I stated my preference for not having one.