

## Curriculum Vitae

### John Michael

Chair, The English Department  
Professor of English and of Visual and Cultural Studies  
University of Rochester  
Rochester, New York 14627  
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#### EDUCATION

Ph.D. The Johns Hopkins University, 1984.  
B. A. Cornell University, 1975; cum laude in English, and “with distinction in all subjects.”

#### PUBLICATIONS

##### Books:

Identity and the Failure of America from Thomas Jefferson to the War on Terror.  
Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008.

Anxious Intellectuals: Academic Professionals, Public Intellectuals, and Enlightenment Values. Durham, N. C.: Duke University Press, 2000.

Emerson and Skepticism: The Cipher of the World. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.

##### Articles and Reviews:

“The Presence of Immigrants, or Why Mexicans and Arabs Look Alike,” Storia della Storiografia (Special Issue: Making Sense of Presence: Philosophy, History and Politics) 55(2009): 144-58.

“Liberal Justice and Particular Identity: Cavell, Emerson, Rawls,” 64:1 Arizona Quarterly (Spring 2008) 27-47.

“Identity, Masochism, and the Democratic Intellectual in the War on Terror” in The Hedgehog Review Special Issue: Intellectuals and Public Responsibility (Spring 2007) pp. 71-80.

Review: George Snedeker, The Politics of Critical Theory: Language/ Discourse/ Society in Socialism and Democracy 19(2005) 1.

“Beyond Us and Them: Identity and Terror from an Arab-American’s Perspective,” in SAQ: Special Issue: Palestine America 102(Fall 2003) 4: 701-728.

“Democracy, Aesthetics, Individualism: Emerson as Public Intellectual,” in Nineteenth-Century Prose: Special Issue: Ralph Waldo Emerson Bicentenary 30(Spring/Fall 2003) 195-226; reprinted in Ralph Waldo Emerson: Bicentenary Appraisals ed. Barry Tharaud (Trier: Wissenschaftlicher Verlag, 2006) pp. 91-116.

“Intellectuals in a Time of Terror,” Politics and Culture: An International Review of Books 4: 2002 online (<http://politicsandculture.neu.edu>).

- “After 9/11: Intellectuals and the Clash of Cultures,” Socialism and Democracy 16 (Winter-Spring 2002) 1: 137-43.
- Review: Eduardo Cadava, Emerson and the Climates of History, in American Literature 72 (2000) 3: 630-31.
- Review: Richard Waswo, The Founding Legend of Western Civilization from Virgil to Vietnam, in Passages: Journal of Transnational and Transcultural Studies 1 (1999) 2: 302-304.
- “Science Friction and Cultural Studies: Intellectuals, Interdisciplinarity, and the Profession of Truth,” Camera Obscura 37 (January 1996) 125-56.
- “Making a Stand: Standpoint Epistemologies, Political Positions, Proposition 187,” Telos 108 (Summer 1996) 93-103.
- “Prosthetic Gender and Universal Intellect: Stephen Hawking’s Law,” in Boys: Versions of Contemporary Masculinity ed. Paul Smith (New York: Westview Press, 1996).
- Review: Richard E. Brantley, Coordinates for Anglo-American Romanticism: Wesley, Edwards, Carlyle and Emerson, in Studies in Romanticism 35 (1996) 3: 474-77.
- “The Revolt Against the Eggheads,” Rochester Review (Winter 1995-96) 14-15.
- “Critical Intellectuals and Identity Logic: Politics, Representation, and Community in the U. S.,” Telos 101 (Fall 1994) 117-136.
- “Tradition and the Critical Talent,” Telos 94 (Winter 1992-93) 45-68.
- Review: Stanley Cavell, Conditions Handsome and Unhandsome: The Constitution of Emersonian Perfectionism, in Modern Philology 91 (1993) 2: 260-67.
- “Thematics of Sexcess: Intellectuals, Popular Culture, and Hybris,” in Crossing Borders: American Literature and Other Artistic Media (Warsaw, Poland: Polish Scientific Publishers, 1992) 69-78.
- “The Intellectual in Uncivil Society: Michnik, Poland, and Community,” Telos 88 (Summer 1991) 141-154.
- “Fish Shticks: Rhetorical Questions in Doing What Comes Naturally,” diacritics 20 (Summer 1990) 54-74.
- Review: Representative Men: The Collected Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson, vol. 4. edited by Douglas Emory Wilson, introduction and notes by Wallace E. Williams, in Resources for American Literary Study.
- “Vanguard and Critique,” Telos 83 (Spring 1990) 289-204.
- “Narration and Reflection: the Search for Grounds in Poe’s ‘The Power of Words’ and ‘The Domain of Arnheim,’” Arizona Quarterly 45 (Autumn 1989) 3: 1-22.
- “History and Romance, Sympathy and Uncertainty: the Moral of the Stones in Hawthorne’s The Marble Faun,” PMLA 103 (March 1988) 150-161.
- Review: Donald Pease, Visionary Compacts: American Renaissance Writings in Cultural Context, in Genre 20 (Spring 1987).
- Review: Ernst Mandel, Delightful Murder: A Social History of the Crime Story, MLN 102 (December 1987).
- Review: Evan Carton, The Rhetoric of American Romance: Dialectic and Identity in Emerson, Dickinson, Poe, and Hawthorne, in Genre 20 (Spring 1987).
- “Emerson’s Chagrin: Benediction and Exhortation in Nature and ‘Tintern Abbey,’” MLN 101 (December 1986) 5: 1067-1085.

- Review: Julie Ellison, Emerson's Romantic Style, in Genre 18 (Fall 1985).
- Review: Michael Colacurcio, The Province of Piety: Moral History in Hawthorne's Early Tales, in MLN 100 (December 1985).
- Review: Carolyn Porter, Seeing and Being Seen: The Plight of the Participant Observer in Emerson, James, Adams, and Faulkner, in MLN 97 (December 1982).
- Review: Michel Beaujour, Miroirs d'encre: rhetorique de l'autoportrait, in MLN 96 (December 1981).

#### WORK UNDER CONSIDERATION OR IN PROGRESS

Articles "Death, Love, and Emerson's Poetry" (forthcoming); "The American Novel and Early Cinema"; Book MS in Progress: "Modern Poetry in Nineteenth-Century America: Poe, Whitman, Dickinson and Death."

#### SELECTED LECTURES AND TALKS

- "Hayden White and Literary Studies," Between History and Narrative: Colloquium in Honor of Hayden White, 2009.
- "John Adams and the Appetite for Popularity," Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, 2008.
- "Crusades: Narratives as Failed Contact or the Place of the Missing Arabs," International Conference on Narrative, 2008.
- "The Law of Hospitality and the Limits of Community, or Why Arabs and Mexicans Look Alike," American Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2007.
- "What's Home Got to do with It?": Western Discourses of Identity and Belonging in The Kingdom of Heaven (Ridley Scott 2005)", Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, 2007.
- "Dangerous Cosmopolitanism: Frederick Douglass and the Beginnings of U. S. Imperialism," The University of Western Ontario, 2007.
- "Cartoon Crises, The Clash of Universalisms, and the Failure of Ethics in Moslem Europe," MLA 2006.
- "20/20 Hindsight: Iraq after Three Years," Amnesty International Talk and Roundtable, Rochester, 2006.
- "Douglass in Haiti, or the Failures of American Men," International Conference on Melville and Douglass, New Bedford, 2005.
- "Global Identity and American Ethnicities: The Case of the Arab American," Duke University, 2003.
- "Frederick Douglass: Public Images, Private Life," Frederick Douglass Conference, Howard University, 2003.
- "Douglass, Melville, and Identity, a response," Frederick Douglass Conference, University of Rochester, 2003.
- "Identity, Terror, and Dissent," Friends of the Rochester Public Library, 2003.
- "Jefferson's Headaches: Race and Obsession in Notes on the State of Virginia and in American Culture Today," Works in Progress Seminar, The Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies, University of Rochester,

2002.

- “Intellectuals in a Time of Terror,” Lehigh University, Spring 2002.
- “Nature and Obsession in Jefferson’s Notes on the State of Virginia,” MLA Conference, New Orleans, 2001.
- “After 9/11: Intellectuals and the Clash of Cultures,” Roundtable on Globalization, University of Rochester, 2001.
- “Frederick Douglass and the Obsession of Self-Inscription,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, New Orleans, 2000.
- “Ahab’s Crew: Narrative, Obsession, and the American Character,” Narrative: an International Conference, Atlanta, 2000.
- “Young Americans: Herman Melville and American Popular Culture,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Coral Gables, 1999.
- “Jefferson’s Melancholy Science: Indices of Loss in Notes on the State of Virginia,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Newport, 1998.
- “Frederick Douglass and ‘Our Composite Nationality,’” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Pittsburgh, 1996.
- “Recent Biographies of Whitman and Emerson,” Bookshelf National Public Radio, WXXI, Rochester, N. Y. February 9, 1996.
- “Hume and the Common Sense: Politics, Aesthetics, Community,” MLA Conference, Chicago, 1995.
- “Forget Cooper: Race and Nation in Last of the Mohicans,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Dallas, 1995.
- “Universal Intellect and Prosthetic Gender: Hawking’s Law,” Critical Colloquium Series, University of Rochester, 1995.
- “Intellectual Work, Critical Resistance, and Cultural Studies,” Marxist Literary Group Conference, Pittsburgh, 1995.
- “Lydia Maria Child and the Management of the American Male,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Conference, Rochester, 1994.
- “Neo-Colonialism, Race, and Culture,” NEMLA, Pittsburgh, 1994.
- “Imaging the Universal Intellectual: Stephen Hawking in Errol Morris’s A Brief History of Time,” Society for Cinema Studies Conference, Syracuse, 1994.
- “Historicizing the Text: Crevecoeur, Iconography, and Dissent,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Conference, Norman, 1993.
- “Crevecoeur and the Contexts of U. S. National Identity,” Semiotic Society of America Conference, St. Louis, 1993.
- “The New Neo-Colonialism and the Critical Importance of Cultural Studies,” Critical Colloquium Series, University of Rochester, 1993.
- “Theory as a Political Force,” Salzburg Seminar on Literature as Political Force, Salzburg, Austria, 1993.
- “Gender, Race, and National Identity in Contemporary U. S. Cinema,” Marxist Literary Group Conference, Pittsburgh, 1993.
- “The Popular Sublime: Grand Canyon and Thelma and Louise,” NEMLA, Philadelphia, 1993.
- “Modernity and Politics: The Literary Intellectual in Eastern Europe,” SUNY Geneseo, 1992.
- “Multiculturalism and the American Subject,” International Conference on Persons,

- Passions, and Pleasures, Berkeley, 1992.
- “Vortex, History, and the Essay: A Reply to Christine von Beulow,” Walter Benjamin, Crossing Borders Colloquium, Miami University, 1992.
- “Intellectuals and Uncivil Society,” Faculty Colloquium Series, University of Rochester, 1991.
- “Crossed Borders: Multiculturalism, Intellectuals, and Hybris,” International Conference on Boundaries and Borders, University of Silesia, Cieszyn, Poland, 1991.
- “Puritans and Prostitutes: Thematics of Sexcess in Contemporary American Movies,” Conference on American Literature and Other Media,” University of Lodz, Poland, 1991.
- “Writing Off the Margins of American Identity: Maxine Hong Kingston,” Conference on American Writing From the Margins, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland, 1991.
- “Why We Can’t Think Straight: Devolution in Critical Theory,” Seminar on the Theory of Culture, Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, Poland, 1991.
- “American I. D.: Political Correctness, Repression, and Identity,” English Institute, University of Silesia, Poland, 1991.
- “History, Institution, Polemic in Contemporary American Theory,” Institute of Polish Philology, University of Silesia, Poland, 1991.
- “The Postmodern Situation in American Criticism,” English Institute, University of Warsaw, Poland, 1991.
- “Politics After Marx: History After Structuralism and the Current Situation in Poland,” UCLA Paris Program in Critical Theory, Paris, France, 1990.
- “Winning Discourse: Thinking Communities in the New Pragmatism,” Colloquium on Critical Theory, University of Rochester, 1989.
- “Freud’s Science,” Humanities Lecture Series, SUNY Geneseo, 1989.
- “Reflection and Alterity: Skepticism and Moral Thought in Poe’s Mixed Doubles,” MLA, 1988.
- “Paul and the Problem of Anti-Semitism,” Humanities Lecture Series, SUNY Geneseo, 1988.
- “Outside In: The Problem of Voice in Zora Neale Hurston’s Their Eyes Were Watching God,” African-American Literature Colloquium, SUNY Geneseo, 1988.
- “Anti-theory and the Political Consequences of Pragmatism,” Colloquium on Critical Theory, University of Rochester, 1988.
- “James Fenimore Cooper’s Historical Sublime,” University of Rochester, 1987.
- “Exegesis and Self-Identity: Emerson Among the Unitarians,” NEMLA, 1987.
- “Upstate New York and the American Sublime,” Annual Meeting Plenary Address, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, 1986.
- “James Fenimore Cooper and the American Sublime,” English Department Colloquium Series, SUNY Geneseo, 1986.
- “Feminism and Romance: Social and Literary Conventions in Hawthorne’s Blithedale Romance,” NEMLA, 1986.
- “History and Sympathy in Hawthorne’s The Marble Faun,” SUNY Albany, 1986.
- “The Other’s Roman Face: The Aspect of the City in Hawthorne’s The Marble

Faun," MLA, 1985.  
"Death and Friendship: Charles Emerson and the Other Self in Nature," Reed College, 1985.

### PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Chair, "Obsessional Narratives, Narratives of Obsession: Cross Cultural Perspectives," Narrative, an International Conference, Atlanta, 2000.  
Chair, "Mourning in America: Loss, Rejection, and the Idea of a New World Nation," Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, 1998.  
Fellow, Salzburg Seminar, Literature as Political Force, Salzburg, Austria, 1993.  
Respondent, Walter Benjamin, International Conference on Critical Theory, SUNY Buffalo, 1990.  
Moderator and Discussant, "Undergraduate Education in a Research University," Rochester Weekend, University of Rochester, 1990.  
Chair, "Re-Forming the New England Transcendentalists," NEMLA, 1989.  
Speaker and Discussant, "Writing and Thinking: Writing at the Graduate Level," Workshop on Writing in the Humanities, The University of Rochester, 1989.  
Seminar Leader, "Disciplining Foucault," Faculty Seminar in Philosophy and Theory, SUNY Geneseo, 1987.  
Invited Participant, Institutions of Academia Conference, The Johns Hopkins University, 1986.  
Seminar Leader, "The American Landscape and American Literature," The New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, 1986.

### HONORS AND AWARDS

Presidential Fellow, Salzburg Seminars, Salzburg, Austria, 1993.  
Fulbright Lecturing Award, Instytut Anglistyki, Uniwersytet warszawski, Poland, 1990-91.  
CIES Fellowship, Summer Polish Institute, University of Pittsburgh, 1990.  
Junior Faculty Research Fellowship, University of Rochester, 1989.  
William B. Kenan Teaching Fellowship for Excellence and Innovation in Undergraduate Teaching, The Johns Hopkins University, 1981-82, 1982-83.  
Humanities Center Fellowship for Study in Paris, The Johns Hopkins University, 1980-81.  
Human Biology Fellowship, The Johns Hopkins University, 1979-80.  
Graduate Fellowship, The Johns Hopkins University, 1977-79.

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Advisory Board, Journal of Narrative Theory, 2000-  
Editorial Board, Telos, 1990-98.  
Member, Steering Committee, Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Conference, Rochester, 1994.  
Tenure and Promotion Referee for (most recently) Princeton University, University

of Michigan, Georgia Technological Institute, New York University.  
Outside Reader, Westview Press, University of Minnesota Press, Harper Collins,  
University of Chicago Press, Johns Hopkins University Press, University of  
Oklahoma Press, PMLA.  
Consultant and Interviewer, Fulbright Poland-America Scholar Exchange Program,  
Warsaw, Poland, 1990.  
Reviewer, NEH Grant Application to support reprinting of George Ripley's  
Specimens of Foreign Standard Literature, ed. Walter Harding, 1989.  
Faculty Mentor, McNair Program, 2006.  
Faculty Mentor, NEH Younger Scholars Program at the University of Rochester,  
1988-89, 1989-90.  
Secretary and Chair, The New England Transcendentalist Panel, NEMLA, 1987-  
1989.  
Consultant with Walter Harding for the NEH Summer Seminars, 1985-1987.  
Member, Steering Committee, The Northeast Central Renaissance Conference at  
SUNY Geneseo, 1986.  
Assistant Editor, Glyph Textual Studies, 1979-1981.

#### DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Chair of the English Department, University of Rochester, 2007-  
Member, Steering Committee for the UR Program in Literary Translation, 2006-  
Member, College Committee on Humanities Labs, 2007-  
Chair, Department Search Committee in Film Studies, 2006-2007.  
Visual and Cultural Studies Core Faculty, 2004-  
Chair, Department Speaker's Committee, 2005-2007.  
Member Executive Committee, The Frederick Douglass Institute for African and  
African-American Studies, 2000-  
Associate, Susan B. Anthony Women's Studies Center, 1989-  
Freshman Advisor, 1994-2008.  
Graduate Admissions Committee, English, (latest) 2004-2005.  
Graduate Admissions, Visual and Cultural Studies, (latest) 2004-2005.  
Co-Chair, The Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American  
Studies, 2003-2004.  
Curriculum Director, The Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-  
American Studies, 2000-2003.  
Member, Advisory Committee for Visual and Cultural Studies, University of  
Rochester, 2002-2003.  
Interim Director, The Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American  
Studies, 1999-2000.  
Member, Dean's Advisory Committee on African and African-American Studies,  
1998-99.  
Director of Graduate Studies, English Department, 1997-2001.  
Director of Graduate Studies, Susan B. Anthony Institute for Women's Studies,  
1998-99.  
Member, Susan B. Anthony Institute for Women's Studies, Curriculum Committee,

1996-2001.

Director of Undergraduate Studies, English Department, 1989-96.  
Member, College Writing Committee, 1992-1999.  
Member, Sproull Fellowship Committee, 1996.  
Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, English Department, 1995-96.  
Member, Film Studies Steering Committee, 1993-94.  
Member, Susan B. Anthony Women's Studies Center Research Committee, 1993-94.  
Member, Susan B. Anthony Women's Studies Center Steering Committee, 1991-93.  
Member, Search Committee, Susan B. Anthony Chair in Women's Studies, 1991-92, 1992-93.  
Chair, Susan B. Anthony Women's Studies Center Post-Doctoral Fellowship Committee, 1991-93.  
Member, Faculty Council Steering Committee, 1991-92.  
Representative, Faculty Council, 1991-93.  
Member, Comparative Arts Steering Committee, 1992.  
Member, Graduate Studies Committee, English Department, 1991-92.  
Member, Staffing Committee, English Department.  
Member, Committee on Committees, English Department, 1991-94.  
Member, Janet Kafka Fiction Prize Committee, 1989-90.  
Member, Commission on Enrollment, College of Arts and Science, 1990.  
Graduate Placement Officer, English Department, 1988-89.  
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on the Graduate Curriculum, English Department, 1988-89.  
Member, Scheduling Committee, English Department, 1988-1997, 1998-2001.  
Coordinator, American Civilization Program, SUNY Geneseo, 1986-1988.  
Member, College Senate, SUNY Geneseo, 1985-88.  
Member, Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, SUNY Geneseo, 1987-88.  
Member, Faculty Affairs Committee, SUNY Geneseo, 1985-87.  
Member, Fine Arts Core Committee, SUNY Geneseo, 1985-87.  
Member, Policy Committee, English Department, SUNY Geneseo, 1984-85.  
Coordinator, English Faculty Colloquium Series, SUNY Geneseo, 1984-85.  
Coordinator, Honors Program in Humanistic Studies, The Johns Hopkins University, 1981-83.

## TEACHING

### Positions:

Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, English Department, University of Rochester, 1988-  
Professor of Visual and Cultural Studies, University of Rochester, 2004-  
Professor Ndzwyczajny, Instytut Anglistyki, Uniwersytet warszawski, Poland, 1990-91.  
Assistant Professor, English Department, SUNY Geneseo, 1984-1988.  
Teaching Assistant, The Humanities Center and The English Department, The Johns Hopkins University, 1978-1984.



Courses Taught at the University of Rochester:

Undergraduate Courses: Translation Studies; Poe, Whitman, Dickinson; Black Intellectuals, Great Books; Race and Representation in American Culture; Whitman and Melville; National Identity and Cultural Forms; American Literature; American Romantics; American Realists; The Whitman Tradition in American Poetry; Narrative; Classical and Scriptural Backgrounds to English Literature; Utopian Imagination; Fictions and Reality; Sex and Violence in the Cinema; The Sixties on Film.

Graduate Seminars: Aesthetics and Ethics; Henry James; Cosmopolitanism and American Literature; Aesthetics and Power; Hawthorne and the Theory of American Literature; Literary Criticism and the Public Sphere; National Identity and American Romance; Intellectuals and the Public Sphere; American Romantics; Theory, Pragmatism, and Politics; Antebellum American Culture and Crisis; Intellectual Enlightenment and Power.

#### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Modern Language Association  
American Studies Association  
Marxist Literary Group  
Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies  
Society for Cinema Studies