

WALTER BENN MICHAELS
Department of English
University of Illinois at Chicago
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Degrees held:

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, 1970
Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara, 1975

Academic Employment:

Assistant Professor of English, Johns Hopkins University: 1974-1977
Assistant Professor of English, U. of California, Berkeley: 1977-1980
Associate Professor of English, U. of California, Berkeley: 1980-1986
Professor of English, U. of California, Berkeley, 1986-1987
Professor of English and the Humanities, Johns Hopkins University: 1987-2001
Professor of English, U. of Illinois at Chicago, 2001- present.

Academic Honors and Awards:

Johns Hopkins University Centennial Fellow, 1976
American Council of Learned Societies Fellow, 1978
Regents' Junior Faculty Fellow, University of California, Berkeley, 1978
Director, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, 1985
Humanities Research Grant, U. of California, Berkeley, 1986
Sunderland Fellow, U. of Michigan Law School, 1987
Joseph Warren Beach Lecturer, U. of Minnesota, 1987
Whitney J. Oates Fellow in the Humanities, Princeton University, 1989
Leventritt Lecturer in the Arts, Harvard University Museums, 1994
Plenary Speaker, International Conference of the Narrative Society, April 1995
Director, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar, 1995
Distinguished Professor of American Literature, Tel Aviv University, May 1996
Professor, School of Criticism and Theory (Cornell University), 1997
Vardi Lecturer, Tel Aviv University, 1999
First Ian Watt Lecturer in the History and Theory of the Novel, Stanford University, 2001
Plenary Speaker at the Conference on "The Future of Culture," Hitotsubashi University, 2002
Keynote Speaker at the *Calibrations* Conference, Texas A&M University, 2002
Inaugural American Studies Lecturer, University of Wisconsin, 2002
Presidential Keynote Speaker at the MMMLA, Chicago, 2003
Lahey Lecturer, Concordia University, 2005
Landsdowne Visitor, University of Victoria, 2005
Distinguished Fall Speaker, University of Kentucky, 2006
Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar, 2006-07
The Lionel Trilling Seminar, November, 2007

Service on Editorial Boards and Prize Committees:

Glyph (1976-81)
Representations (1982-88)
ELH (1988-2001)
American Quarterly (1989-1992)

Yale Journal of Law & the Humanities (1988-1998)
Arizona Quarterly (1988-present)
Nineteenth Century Studies (1995-present)
The Johns Hopkins University Press (1993-1997)
Cambridge University Press American Literature (1999-present)
Phi Beta Kappa Book Awards, Christian Gauss Prize Committee (2000-03)

Administrative Appointments:

Founder and Director, Program in Comparative American Cultures (1995-1997)
Director, Graduate Placement (1989, 1991, 1993, 1995-97)
Selection Committee, National Endowment for the Humanities Dissertation Fellowship (1994)
Minority Fellowship Committee (1993-1996)
Johns Hopkins Public Interest Investment Advisory Committee (1994-1996)
Chair, Department of English, JHU (1998-2001)
Campus Promotion and Tenure Committee, UIC, 2002
Head, Department of English, UIC (2002-present)
Member 2010 Strategic Thinking Committee, UIC (2003-2005)

Doctoral Dissertation:

"Henry James: Visionary Tourist"
Translations from French:

(In collaboration with June P. Wilson)
Elise, or The Real Life by Claire Etcherelli
Papillon by Henri Charriere
--and some ten other books

Books and Monographs:

The Gold Standard and the Logic of Naturalism (U. of California Press: Berkeley, 1987).
Our America: Nativism, Modernism and Pluralism (Duke University Press: Durham, 1995).
The Shape of the Signifier: 1967 to the End of History (Princeton University Press: Princeton, 2004). Translated into Japanese by Reiichi Miura and published as *Signifiant No Katachi* (Tokyo 2006).
Promises of American Life: 1880-1920 in Volume Three of the *Cambridge History of American Literature* (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 2005).
The Trouble with Diversity (Holt Metropolitan Books: New York, 2006).

Essays and Reviews:

"Ezra Pound and Scotus Erigena." *Paideuma*, Vol. 1, no. 1 (Spring 1972), 37-54.
"A Note on Lincoln Steffens and Pound." *Paideuma*, Vol. 2, no. 2 (Fall 1973), 209-210.
Review: "Walker Percy, The Message in the Bottle." *The Georgia Review*, Vol. 29, no. 4 (Winter 1975), 972-975.
"Writers Reading: James and Eliot." *MLN*, Vol. 91, no. 5 (October 1976), 827-849.
Review: "Walker Percy, The Message in the Bottle." *The Georgia Review*, Vol. 29, no. 4 (Winter 1975), 972-975.
"Walden's False Bottoms." *Glyph* 1 (1977), 132-149.
"The Interpreter's Self: Peirce on the Cartesian 'Subject.'" *The Georgia Review*,

- Vol. 31, no. 2 (Summer 1977), 383-402. Reprinted in *Reader-Response Criticism: From Formalism to Post-Structuralism*. Edited by Jane P. Tompkins. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980, pp. 185-200.
- "Saving the Text: Reference and Belief." *MLN*, Vol. 93, no. 5 (December 1978), 771-793.
- "Against Formalism: The Autonomous Text in Legal and Literary Interpretation." *Poetics Today*, Vol. 1, no. 1-2 (Autumn 1979), 23-34. Reprinted with revisions as "Against Formalism: Chickens and Rocks" in *The State of the Language*. Edited by Leonard Michaels and Christopher Ricks. Berkeley: The University of California Press, 1980, pp. 410-420.
- "The Road to Viet Nam." *MLN*, Vol. 94, no. 5 (December 1979), 1173-1175.
- "Sister Carrie's Popular Economy." *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 7, no. 2 (Winter 1980), 373-390.
- "Philosophy in Kinkanja: Eliot's Pragmatism." *Glyph 8* (1981), 170-202.
- "Fictitious Dealing A Reply to Leo Bersani." *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 8, no. 1 (Autumn 1981), 165-171.
- Review: "Fredric Jameson, Fables of Aggression." *Structuralist Review*, Vol. 2, no. 2 (Winter 1981), 85-89.
- "Against Theory." In collaboration with Steven Knapp. *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 8, no. 4 (Summer 1982), 723-742. Reprinted in *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*, ed. Leitch et al (New York, 2001), and numerous other anthologies.
- "Is There a Politics of Interpretation?" *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 9, no. 1 (September 1982), 248-258.
- "Getting Physical: Frost." *Raritan*, Vol. 2, no. 2 (Fall 1982), 103-113.
- "Dreiser's Financier: The Man of Business as a Man of Letters" in *American Realism: New Essays*. Edited by Eric J. Sundquist. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982, pp. 278-295.
- "Romance and Real Estate." *Raritan*, Vol. 2, no. 3 (Winter 1983), 66-87. Reprinted with revisions in *The American Renaissance Reconsidered*, Selected Papers from the English Institute, 1982-83, edited by Walter Benn Michaels and Donald Pease. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984, 156-182.
- Review: "Philip Bobbitt, Constitutional Fate: Theory of the Constitution." *Texas Law Review*, Vol. 61, no. 4 (December 1982), 765-776. Reprinted as "The Fate of the Constitution" in *Interpreting Law and Literature*, ed. by Sanford Levinson and Steven Mailloux. Northwestern U. P., 1988, 383-391.
- "A Reply to Our Critics." In collaboration with Steven Knapp. *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 9, no. 4 (June 1983), 790-800.
- "The Phenomenology of Contract." *Raritan*, Vol. 4, no. 2 (Fall 1984), 47-66.
- "The Gold Standard and the Logic of Naturalism." *Representations 9* (Winter 1985), 105-132.
- "Response to Perry and Simon." *Southern California Law Review*, Vol. 58, no. 2 (January 1985), 673-681.
- "A Reply to Richard Rorty: What is Pragmatism?" In collaboration with Steven Knapp. *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 11, no. 3 (March 1985), 466-473.
- "Corporate Fiction." In *Reconstructing American Literary History*, Harvard English Studies 13, edited by Sacvan Bercovitch (Cambridge: 1986), 189-219.
- "Against Theory 2: Hermeneutics and Deconstruction." In collaboration with Steven Knapp. *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 14, No. 1 (August 1987), 49-68.
- "The Souls of White Folk." *Literature and the Body: Selected Papers from the English Institute*, 1986, edited by Elaine Scarry (Baltimore, 1988), 185-209.
- "An American Tragedy, or the Promise of American Life." *Representations 25* (Winter 1989), 71-98. Reprinted in *The New American Studies*, ed. with an intro. by Philip Fisher (Berkeley, 1991), 171-198.
- "The Contracted Heart." *New Literary History*, Vol. 21, No. 3 (Spring 1990),

495-531.

- "The Vanishing American." *American Literary History*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (Summer 1990), 220-241. Reprinted in *The American Literary History Reader*, ed. by Gordon Hutner, Oxford U.P.: 1995.
- "Die Oberflache Der Photographie." In James Welling, ed. by Ulrich Loock and translated by Margret Joss (Bern, 1990), 79-89.
- "Intention, Identity, and the Constitution." In collaboration with Steven Knapp. In *Legal Hermeneutics*, edit. by Gregory Leyh (Berkeley, 1992), 187-199.
- "The New Modernism." *ELH* 59 (Spring 1992), 257-267.
- "Race into Culture: A Critical Genealogy of Cultural Identity." *Critical Inquiry* 18 (Summer 1992), 655- 685. Reprinted in *Identities*, ed. by K.A. Appiah and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., U. of Chicago Press: 1995. Reprinted with revisions in *Cultures of U.S. Imperialism*, ed. by Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease, Duke U.P.: 1995.
- "The Victims of New Historicism." *Modern Language Quarterly* 54 (March 1993), 111-120. Reprinted in *The Uses of Literary History*, ed. by Marshall Brown, Duke U.P.: 1995.
- "Reply to John Searle." In collaboration with Steven Knapp. *New Literary History* 25 (Summer 1994), 669- 675.
- "The No-Drop Rule." *Critical Inquiry* 20 (Summer 1994), 758-769. Reprinted in *Identities*, ed. by K.A. Appiah and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., U. of Chicago Press: 1995.
- "Jim Crow Henry James?" *The Henry James Review*, Vol.16, No. 3 (Fall, 1995), 286-291.
- "`You who never was there': Slavery and the New Historicism, Deconstruction and the Holocaust." *Narrative*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (January 1996), 1-16.
- "Posthistoricism." *Transition* 70, Vol. 6. No 2 (1996), 4-19.
- "Response to My Critics." *Modernism/Modernity*, Vol. 3, No. 5 (September 1996), 121-126.
- "Autobiography of an Ex-White Man: Why Race is Not a Social Construction." *Transition* 73, Vol. 7, No. 1 (1998), 122-43. Reprinted in *The Futures of American Studies*, ed. by Donald E. Pease and Robyn Wiegman (Duke University Press 2002), 231-247.
- "Local Colors." *MLN* 113 (1998), 734-756.
- "Political Science Fictions." *New Literary History*, Vol. 31, No. 4 (Autumn 2000), 649-664.
- "The Shape of the Signifier." *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 27, No. 2 (Winter 2001), 266-283.
- "Empires of the Senseless." *Radical History Review* 85 (Winter 2003), 105-113.
- "The Difference between White Men and White Men: Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!*" in *Faulkner in the Twenty-First Century*, ed. by R.W.Hamblin and Ann J. Abadie (University Press of Mississippi: Jackson, 2003), 137-53.
- "Not a Matter of Interpretation." In collaboration with Steven Knapp. *San Diego Law Review* Vol. 42, No. 2 (Spring 2005), 651-668.
- "The Neoliberal Imagination." *N+1* (Spring 2005).
- "Photographs and Fossils" in *Photography Theory*, ed. By James Elkins (Routledge 2007), 431-450.
- "The Death of a Beautiful Woman: *Memento*, Deconstruction and the Idea of Form." Forthcoming in *Fictions*.

Selected Interviews

- "Against Identity: An Interview with Walter Benn Michaels," conducted by Jeffrey Williams. *The Minnesota Review* n.s 55-57 (October 2002), 125-142.
- "Ideology Instead of Identity - And a Lot More Extremism," conducted by Jennifer Howard. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (Sept. 22, 2006).

"Is Diversity Enough?" conducted by David Moberg. *In These Times* (October 9, 2006).

Interview forthcoming in *Contexts* (general interest journal of the American Sociological Association).

Interview forthcoming in *Hustler*.