

Walter Johnson
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CURRICULUM VITAE

Education

Princeton University, 1989-1995, Ph.D. American History
University of Cambridge, 1988-1989, Post-graduate Diploma in History
Amherst College, 1984-1988, B.A. in History, *magna cum laude*

Employment

Winthrop Professor of History and Professor of African and African American Studies,
Harvard University, 2008-present
Director, Charles Warren Center, 2012-
Chair, Project on Justice, Welfare, and Economics, Harvard University, 2009-2012
Professor of History and of African and African American Studies, Harvard University,
2006-2008
Associate Professor of History and American Studies, New York University, 2000-2006
Director, American Studies Program, New York University, 2005-2006
Assistant Professor of History, New York University, 1994-2000

Fellowships and Honors

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, 2011
Radcliffe Institute Fellowship 2010-2011
American Philosophical Society Sabbatical Fellowship, 2010-2011
American Antiquarian Society, Elected Member, 2008
Rock Bridge High School Hall of Fame, 2006
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University, 2003-2004.
ACLS-Burkhardt Fellowship, 2001-2002.
Society of Fellows, New York University, 1999-2006.
Goddard Fellowship, New York University, 1998
Mellon Fellowship in Cultural Studies, Wesleyan University, 1996-97

Books, Articles, and Essays

River of Dark Dreams: Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom (Cambridge: Belknap
Press, 2013)
SHEAR Book Prize, Society of Historians of the Early American Republic, 2013

- Avery O. Craven Prize, Honorable Mention, Organization of American Historians, 2013
- Choice Outstanding Academic Title, 2013
- The Ghost of Slavery: Histories of Freedom*, with Richard Follett and Eric Foner (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011)
- The Chattel Principle: Internal Slave Trades in the Americas, 1808-1888* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004) {edited collection}
- Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (Boston: Harvard University Press, 1999)
- Francis B. Simkins Award (co-winner), Southern Historical Association, 2001
- John Hope Franklin Prize, American Studies Association, 2000
- SHEAR Book Prize, Society of Historians of the Early American Republic, 2000
- Frederick Jackson Turner Prize (co-winner), Organization of American Historians, 2000
- Avery O. Craven Prize, Organization of American Historians, 2000
- Selection, History Book Club, 1999
- Thomas J. Wilson Prize, Harvard University Press, 1999
- “What Do We Mean When We Say Structural Racism: A Walk Down West Florissant Ave., Ferguson, Missouri”, *Kalfou* (forthcoming Spring 2016)
- “Ferguson’s Fortune 500 Company” *Atlantic* (March 2015)
- “Brute Ideology”, *Dissent* (Fall 2014)
- “Allegories of Empire: *Django/Blackness/Blowback*”, *Transition* No. 112, (2013), 13-21
- “Agency: A Ghost Story”, in Richard Follett, Eric Foner, and Walter Johnson, *Slavery’s Ghost: The Problem of Freedom in the Age of Emancipation* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011)
- “White Lies: Human Property and Domestic Slavery aboard the Slave Ship *Creole*”, *Atlantic Studies*, 5:2 (August 2008), 237-264
- “Slavery, Reparations, and the Mythic March of Freedom”, *Raritan*, XXVII, number 2 (Fall 2007), 41-67
- “Slavery” in Bruce Burgett and Glenn Hendler, eds., *Keywords for American Cultural Studies* (New York: New York University Press, 2007), 221-224
- “Clerks All! Or, Slaves Without Masters”, *Journal of the Early Republic*, 26 (Winter 2006), 41-51
- “Whispers and Shadows: the Broken Narrative of Stolen Lives”, *Lincoln Center Theater Review*, No. 40 (Winter/Spring 2005), 14-16
- “State of the Field: Slavery,” <http://www.oah.org/meetings/2004/johnson.html>
- “The Future Store,” in Walter Johnson, ed., *The Chattel Principle: Internal Slave Trades in the Americas, 1808-1888* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004), 1-34
- “The Pedestal and the Veil: Rethinking the Capitalism/Slavery Question”, *Journal of the Early Republic* (Summer 2004), 299-308. Reprinted in John Lauritz Larson and Michael A. Morrison, eds., *Whither the Early Republic: A Forum on the Future of the Field* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005), 149-158
- “On Agency,” *Journal of Social History* (Fall 2003), 113-124
- “James Oakes and the Bourgeois Critique of Slavery,” in Winthrop Jordan, ed., *New Perspectives on American Slavery* (Oxford, MS: The University of Mississippi Press, 2003)

- “Time and Revolution in African America,” *Black Renaissance/Renaissance Noire* 3:3 (Summer/Fall 2001), 83-101. Reprinted in Thomas Bender, ed., *Rethinking American History in a Global Age* (Berkeley: The University of California Press, 2002) and Kathleen Wilson, ed., *The New Imperial History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004)
- “A Nettlesome Classic Turns Twenty-Five: Re-Reading Eugene D. Genovese’s *Roll, Jordan, Roll*” in *Common-Place* (www.common-place.org) June 2001.
- “Asking Questions, Reading Bodies” (excerpt from *Soul by Soul*) in Mark M. Smith, ed., *The Old South* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 2000)
- “Possible Pasts: Some Speculations on Time, Temporality, and the History of the Atlantic Slave Trade,” *Amerikastudien/American Studies*, 45:4 (December 2000)
- “The White Slave, the Slave Trader, and the Politics of Racial Determination in the 1850s South”, *Journal of American History*, 87:1 (June 2000), 13-38. Reprinted in J. William Harris, ed., *The Old South: New Studies of Society and Culture* (New York: Routledge, 2008), 195-221
- “Inconsistency, Contradiction, and Complete Confusion: The Everyday Life of the Law of Slavery,” *Law and Social Inquiry* 22:2 (Spring 1997), 405-33

Book Reviews

- Review of Greg Grandin, *The Empire of Necessity*, *TLS*, September 19, 2014
- Review of Sally Hadden, *Slave Patrols: Law and Violence in Virginia and the Carolinas* in *William and Mary Quarterly* (2002)
- Review of Philip D. Morgan, *Slave Counterpoint: Black Culture in the Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake and Lowcountry* in *American Historical Review* (2001)
- Review of Joanne Pope Melish, *Disowning Slavery: Gradual Emancipation and “Race” in New England, 1780-1860* in *Journal of American History* (1999), 242-243
- Review of Dell Upton, ed., *Madeline: Love and Survival in Antebellum New Orleans* in *Journal of Southern History* (Fall 1998), 300-301
- Review of Laird W. Bergad, Fe Iglesias Garcia, and Maria del Carmen Barcia, *The Cuban Slave Market, 1790-1800* in *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 28 (1996), 703-704
- "Lincoln Inside Out" review of Michael Burlingame, *The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln*, *Reviews in American History*, 24 (1996), 40-45

Selected Lectures and Addresses

- “Fergonomics” Keynote Address, Washington University 2014; Agricultural Studies, Yale University, 2015
- “Does it Make Sense to Say Slavery “Dehumanized” Enslaved People?” National Humanities Center 2013; Chabra Center, Northwestern University, 2015; History Department, Dartmouth College, 2015
- “Racial Capitalism” History Department, Stanford University, 2013; Simpson Center, University of Washington, 2013; Sunrise Lecture, DePauw University, 2014.
- “The Carceral Landscape: Slaves, Swamps, Forests, Horses, Dogs, and Birds”; Brown University, Slavery and Justice Initiative, 2010; Keynote Address, Society for the Study of Southern Literature, New Orleans, 2010; Keynote Address, Missouri

- Conference on History, 2011; Yale University, History Department, 2011; Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University, 2010; Gilder-Jordan Lecture, University of Mississippi 2013; Lampros Lecture, Weber State University, 2013.
- "Racism, Capitalism, and Imperialism: Ethnic Cleansing and Nation-Making in the United States of America", Tanner Lectures Comment, Stanford University, February 23, 2006; Keynote Address, Harvard Graduate Student Conference on International History, March 16, 2007
- "Clerks All! Or, Slaves Without Masters", Library Company of Philadelphia, October 27, 2005
- "The Negro Fever, the South, and the Movement to Re-open the Atlantic Slave Trade," History Department, Stanford University, November 22, 2004; History Department, Princeton University, January 14, 2005; History Department, University of Minnesota, March 25, 2005; E. A. Havens Center, University of Wisconsin, October 7, 2005; History Department, Harvard University, October 21, 2005; Planetary Perspectives Series, Rutgers University, February 14, 2006; History Department, University of Washington, 2009; Keynote Address, Graduate History Conference, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, 2009; Kramer Lecture, University of Pennsylvania, 2010; Keynote Address, New Perspectives on Slavery and Freedom, Northwestern University, 2010; ; Keynote Address, Purchased Lives, The Historic New Orleans Collection, 2015
- "Freedom's Servant: On History, Agency, and the idea of Reparations for Slavery," Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University, April 10, 2004; E. A. Havens Center, University of Wisconsin, October 8, 2005
- "Reparations as History," University of California Humanities Research Institute, University of California-Irvine, February 4, 2003
- "Freedom's Servant: Or, America™ as a Weapon of Mass Destruction," Keynote Address, Center for Modern and Contemporary Studies, UCLA, October 25, 2002
- "Reading the Antebellum Slave Market," Spencer Cave Lecture, Park University, February 11, 2002
- "The Lynch Mob, The Land Pirate, and the Spatial Reorganization of Slavery: Life and Death on the Cotton Frontier," Davis Center, Princeton University, February 8, 2002; American Studies Colloquium, Haverford College, November 15, 2002; Social Theory Seminar, New York University, December 6, 2002; Taft Lecture, University of Cincinnati, February 11, 2004; Natchez Conference, Natchez, Mississippi, February 13, 2004; Global Studies Program, University of Minnesota, March 25, 2005; Black Atlantic Series, Rutgers University, February 13, 2006
- "On Agency" Department of History, Stanford University, May 8, 2001; Southern Historical Association, New Orleans, Louisiana (in my absence), November 19, 2001; University of Washington conference in New Studies in American Slavery, Seattle, May 17, 2002
- "Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market," Pulliam Lecture for 2001, DePauw University, April 17, 2001; American Studies Lecture for 2001, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey, May 21, 2001; Turkish American Studies Associations Annual Lecture, Ankara, Turkey, May 23, 2001
- "The Slave Trade, the *Creole* revolt, and the Black Atlantic in the Nineteenth Century", Gilder-Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University, February 27, 2001

- "The Slave Trade in New York," Black History Month Lecture, Baruch College, February 8, 2001
- "The Slave Market in New Orleans and the Black Atlantic," Afro-Creole Lecture Series, Dillard University, January 25, 2001
- Slave Trade Sites in New Orleans," UNESCO Conference on "Breaking the Silence," Tulane University, August 28, 2000
- Discussion of *Soul by Soul*, WHAT (1300AM in Philadelphia), June 6, 2000
- "Time and Revolution in the Atlantic World," Department of History, Louisiana State University, March 28, 2000; University of California-Irvine, May 25, 2000; and Brandeis University, September 28, 2000; American Studies Lecture for 2001, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey, May 23, 2001; American Studies Lecture for 2001 Hacateppe University, Ankara, Turkey, May 24, 2001; American Studies Lecture for 2001, Ege University, Izmir, Turkey, May 26, 2001
- "The Future of the Past," Dean's Day, New York University, March 4, 2000
- Discussion of *Soul by Soul*, WNYC (820AM in New York), February 21, 2000
- "The History of the Domestic Slave Trade in the United States," Martin Luther King Scholarship Program, New York University, February 18, 2000
- Reading from *Soul by Soul*, Harvard Club of New York, February 16, 2000
- "Life in the Shadow of the Slave Market: The Making and (Occasional) Unmaking of the Old South" Department of History, University of Michigan, February 9, 2000
- "Time and Revolution in African America", UNESCO/NYU/Schomburg conference on "Slave Routes: The Long Memory", October 8, 1999
- "Writing American History in the Age of Global Capital: Some Speculations on Time, Temporality, and the History of the Atlantic Slave Trade," 2nd NYU/OAH Conference on Internationalizing American History, Florence, Italy, July 5-8, 1998 and Columbia University Early American Seminar, April 13, 1999
- "Acts of Sale," Honors College, Rutgers - Newark, February 17, 1997
- "The Strange Story of Alexina Morrison: Race, Sex, and Resistance in Antebellum Louisiana," Department of History, UCLA, May 24, 1996
- "Commerce, Sex, and Slave Rebellion: New Orleans De-limits the Slave Market, 1804-1864," Society of Fellows of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Princeton, November 1, 1993

Conference Papers and Comments

- Comment on panel on "New Legal Histories of Slavery," American Society of Legal History, Dallas, Texas, November 2009
- Comment on panel on "Commodification and its Discontents: Race, Identity, and the Market in United States History", American Historical Association, Chicago, Illinois, January 9, 2000
- "Expanding the Boundaries of Legal History" Roundtable Participant, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Lexington, Kentucky, July, 16, 1999
- "Internationalizing the U. S. History Survey", Faculty Resource Network Seminar on Internationalizing American History, New York University, June 11, 1999
- "Rethinking American History: Locating an International and Global Context", Faculty Resource Network Seminar on Internationalizing American History, New York University, June 10, 1999

- “Subverting the Slave Traders’ Pageant: How Slaves in the Market Estimated and Manipulated Buyers,” Organization of American Historians, Toronto, Ontario, April 22, 1999
- “Reading Bodies and Marking Race in the Antebellum Slave Market,” Social Science History Association, Chicago, Illinois, November 23, 1998
- “Teaching African-American History in the Twenty-first Century,” Teaching Forum, Princeton University, October 28, 1998
- “Rethinking the Legal History of Whiteness,” American Society of Legal History, Seattle, Washington, October 23, 1998
- “Careers in History”, Leadership Alliance Summer Fellowship Program, NYU, May, 1998
- "Thinking the Black Atlantic in the Age of Global Capital: Some Speculations on Time, Temporality, and the Atlantic Slave Trade," Conference on New Perspectives on the Slave Trade, Rutgers University, November 20, 1997
- "A World Made out of Slaves: Slaveholders and the Slave Market," Southern Historical Association, Atlanta, Georgia, November 8, 1997
- "The Chattel Principle: The Slave Trade in the Daily Life of Slavery," Institute for Historical Research, Rutgers University, September 23, 1997
- "Some Speculations on Time, Temporality and the Atlantic Slave Trade," Conference on Internationalizing American History, Florence, Italy, July 8, 1997
- "Slavery, Whiteness, and the Market," American Civilization Seminar Columbia University, February 24, 1997; Collegium for African American Research, Liverpool, UK, March 24, 1997; African American Studies Works in Progress Series, Princeton University, October 9, 1997
- "Accountability and Identity on the Antebellum Mississippi," American Historical Association, New York, January 4, 1997
- "The White Woman Enslaved," Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University, October 21, 1996. This paper was subsequently exhibited, in my absence, at the First Annual Gender Studies Festival, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, December 5-8, 1996
- “Rethinking Resistance: Whiteness, Slavery, and the Strange Story of Alexina Morrison,” Social Science History Association, New Orleans, October 11, 1996
- “Frederick Douglass: A Study in Literary and Historical Self-Representation,” NEH/Faculty Resource Network Seminar on African American Autobiography, New York, June 23, 1996
- “Using Slave Narratives as Evidence for Writing History”, NEH/Faculty Resource Network Seminar on African American Autobiography. New York, June 18, 1996
- “The Strange Story of Alexina Morrison: Race, Sex, and Resistance in Antebellum Louisiana,” Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Chapel Hill, NC, June 12, 1996
- “Dialogues of Investigation and Manipulation: Eavesdropping on Masters and Slaves in the Market,” American Historical Association, Chicago, January 7, 1995
- “Bargaining: Information and Opportunity in the New Orleans Slave Pens,” Social Science History Association, Atlanta, October 13, 1994
- “Masters and Slaves in the Market,” Department of History, University of California-Santa Barbara, February 4, 1994 and Department of History, College of William and Mary, February 7, 1994

Courses Taught

Harvard University

Graduate:

Slavery, Capitalism, and Imperialism: The United States in the 19th Century
Introduction to American Studies
Political Economy of Modern Capitalism (with Chris Desan)
Transnational America from Above and Below (with Vincent Brown)

Undergraduate:

Slavery, Capitalism, and Imperialism: The United States in the 19th Century
Bodily Functions
History of the Present: Harvard in Allston

New York University

Graduate:

Slavery and the South;
Slavery, Race and Law;
Commerce and Culture;
Local and Community History;
Approaches to American Capitalism;
U.S. Culture in the Era of the Mexican-American War;
Introduction to Historical Method;
Introduction to American Studies

Undergraduate:

U.S. to 1865;
 Money and Manners;
 Honors Seminar;
 History Workshop: Slavery and Race in the United States;
 Empire for Liberty: The United States in the Nineteenth Century

Advising

Harvard University

Graduate Students in History: Andrew Baker, Jeremy Zallen, Joshua Specht, Tsione Wolde-Michael, Rhae Lynn Barnes

Graduate Students in African and African American Studies: Emily Owens

Graduate Students in the History of American Civilization: Erin Dwyer, Augustine Sedgwick, Katherine Stevens

Undergraduate Students in History: Branden Adams (2011), Kelly Lee (2007)

New York University

Graduate Students in History: Joy L. Anderson (2001); Mary Niall Mitchell (2001); Katherine Louise Culkin (2002); Michell Paige McElya (2003); Wendy Ann Gaudin (2005); Taja-Nia Henderson; William Armshaw; Devon Turner.

Graduate Students in American Studies: Peter James Hudson (2007); Adam John Waterman (2007); Manu Matthew Vimalassery (2010); Dawn Peterson.

Academic Service

Director, Project on Justice, Welfare, and Economics, Harvard University, 2009-present

Faculty Associate, Center for History and Economics, 2008-present

Selection Committee, American Council of Learned Societies, 2006-2011

Steering Committee, Project on Justice, Welfare, and Economics, Harvard University, 2008-2009

Selection Committee, Mellon Foundation, 2006

Director of American Studies, NYU, 2005-2006

Executive Committee, New York Council on the Humanities, 2004-2006

Steering Committee, International Center for Advanced Study, New York University, 2003-2006

Director of Graduate Study, Dept. of History, New York University, 1997-98, fall 2000

Director of Graduate Study, American Studies Program, New York University, 2002-2003

History Department, New Initiatives Committee (elected member), 2004-2005

Faculty Resource Network, New York University, host for visiting scholars, summers 1995, 1997, 1999, 2004

Leadership Alliance, New York University, mentor, summers 1995, 1998, 2003

English as a Second Language Teacher: Led evening classes in advanced English for recent immigrants, Princeton, NJ, 1992-1993 and Amherst, MA, 1987-1988

Peer Review

American Quarterly

Radical History Review

Journal of Southern History

American Historical Review

Gender and History

Cornell University Press

Harvard University Press

W. W. Norton and Co.

New York University Press

University of North Carolina Press

Louisiana State University Press

Swarthmore College Honors Program

References

Professor Ira Berlin, Department of History, University of Maryland

Professor Drew Gilpin Faust, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University

Professor Richard White, History Department, Stanford University