

Michael E. Sawyer, Ph.D.

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CURRENT AND PAST POSITIONS

Academic Employment

- September 2021 **University of Pittsburgh** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Associate Professor with Tenure of African-American
Literature and Culture
Department of English
- June 2015 – May 2021 **Colorado College** Colorado Springs, Colorado
Assistant Professor (Tenure Track)
Program in Race, Ethnicity, and Migration Studies
Assistant Professor (Joint Appointment October 2017)
Department of English
Founder and Director: *African Intellectual Project* (October
2018)
- Jan 2019- May 2019 **United States Air Force Academy** Colorado Springs, CO
Distinguished Visiting Professor of English and the Fine Arts
- 2013 – June 2015 **Wheaton College** Norton, Massachusetts
Visiting Lecturer of Political Science and African, African-
American & Diaspora Studies

EDUCATION

- 2015 **Brown University, Ph.D.** (May 2015)
Department of Africana Studies

Dissertation Project: *Homo Liminalis: The Tears of the Caterpillar*
Committee: B. Anthony Bogues (Chair); Anani Dzidzienyo (Brown);
Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg (Brown); Ronald A. Judy (University of
Pittsburgh); David F. Krell (University of Freiburg); John Edgar
Wideman (Emeritus)
- 2014 **Brown University, M.A.**
Department of Comparative Literature

Thesis: *The Blackness of the Body: Melville's Benito Cereno*: Advised by
Professor Kenneth Haynes
- 2010 **University of Chicago, M.A.**
Committee on International Relations

1989

United States Naval Academy, B.S.
Department of Political Science

PUBLICATIONS

Books in Press

- *An Africana Philosophy of Temporality: Homo Liminalis* Palgrave Press (ISBN 978-3319985749 Nominated for the First Book Award by the American Philosophical Association and the MLA October 2018)
- *Black Minded: The Political Philosophy of Malcolm X* (ISBN 978-0745340746) Pluto Press March 2020

Books in Preparation

- *Racial Justice in the Time of Plague: Political Concepts* Editor Forthcoming Fordham University Press
- *The Door of No Return: A Phenomenology of Black(ness)*
- *Check Point-Lima* (Under Review) Literary Fiction
- *Life on Earth* with Emilio Cruz (Literary Fiction)
- *Animal | Human | Apparatus*
- *If Holden Caulfield Was Black* (Literary Fiction)

Single-Authored Articles/Reviews/Chapters in Press

- “Shattering Perspectives” a review of a Teaching Collection of African Ceramics installed at Gregory Allicar Museum of Art at Colorado State University *African Arts Journal* (Forthcoming)
- “Crépuscle with RA Judy: A Review of *Sentient Flesh: Thinking in Disorder, Poiesis in Black*” *New Formations: A Journal of Culture / Theory / Politics* (Forthcoming)
- Book Review “Peniel Joseph’s *The Sword and the Shield: The Revolutionary Lives of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.*” *American Political Thought* <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/712345>
- “Post-Truth, Social Media, and the ‘Real’ as Phantasm” chapter in the volume *Relativism and Post-Truth in Contemporary Society: Possibilities and Challenges* edited by Steve Fuller, Mikael Stenmark, and Ulf Zackariasson Palgrave Press (ISBN 978-3319965581) September 2018
- “Temporalità radicale, realismo fittizio e rivoluzione come contesto” *Filosofia politica*. 3 Dec 2017. ISBN: 0394-7297. Pp. 445-458
- “Undoing the *Phaedrus*: Melville’s Re-Reading of Plato” *The C.L.R. James Journal* November 2017 ISBN: 2167-4256

- “Two Silenced Instruments” *Front Row Center: Photography by Larry Hulst*. Exhibition Catalog: Fine Arts Center, Colorado Springs: 2017
- “Sacrifice” *Political Concepts* (<http://www.politicalconcepts.org/sacrifice-michael-sawyer/>) October 2015
- Book Review: *Archipelago: A Novel* by, Monique Roffey *Small Axe Salon: 15* <http://smallaxe.net/wordpress3/reviews/2014/02/27/notes-on-archipelago-a-novel/> Fall 2015
- “Critical Intervention/Review of Keith Sandiford, *Theorizing a Colonial Caribbean-Atlantic Imaginary: Sugar and Obeah*” *The C.L.R. James Journal* 20:1, Fall 2014 (pp. 17-24)

Book Chapters/Articles in Preparation or Under Review

- “Melville’s Meditation on the *Long Shipwreck of the Middle Passage*” book chapter in *Companion to Melville* edited by Wyn Kelley and Christopher Ohge, Wiley Blackwell (Forthcoming Fall 2021)

Media Appearances

- RT *Sputnik Orbiting the World* <https://www.rt.com/shows/sputnik/486147-prisons-pandemic-malcolmx-philosopher/>
- *Always Already: A Critical Theory Podcast* <https://alwaysreadypodcast.wordpress.com/>
- *Parallax Views with J.G. Michael* <https://parallaxviews.podbean.com/e/malcolmx/>
- *Harvard Book Store Black Minded Book Release Event* <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/michael-e--sawyer>
- *Black Agenda Report Book Forum*
- <https://www.blackagendareport.com/bar-book-forum-michael-sawyers-black-minded>
- *A Correction: A Podcast*
- <https://www.acorrectionpodcast.com/phoneyeconomy/ntyj22x4ygwsx63lhgak84g2yhhzc>
- New Books Network
- <https://newbooksnetwork.com/black-minded>

AWARDS AND HONORS

- *Lloyd E. Worner Teacher of the Year Award* 2017
- Recipient of the Professor R. Bruce Lindsay Graduate Fellowship (Brown University)

INVITED TALKS

- “Elements of *A Door of No Return: A Phenomenology of Black(ness)*” The Texas A&M University Philosophy Colloquium College Station, TX (April 7, 2021)
- “The Threshold of the Door of No Return” Brown University Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice’s Advanced Knowledges Group Providence, RI (March 19, 2021) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lm9qTiluF08>

- “On Fugitive Aesthetics” with Stefano Harney and Fred Moten at Colorado College Colorado Springs, CO (March 11, 2021) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBJh-9caNf4>
- “Cognition in Shades Darker Than Blue” at the University of Ghana School of Languages Seminar, Accra, Ghana (March 4, 2021) <http://www.languages.ug.edu.gh/events/sol-seminar-series>
- “Mother Tongue: The Philosophy of Malcolm X” at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY (Feb. 22, 2021) <https://livestream.com/accounts/7326672/mothertongue/videos/217899725>
- “The Phenomenology of Blackness” Carl J. Worrell Annual Lecture on Literature at St. John’s College, Santa Fe, NM (Nov. 22, 2019)
- “Melville, The Middle Passage and Black Subjectivity”: Diverse Lineages of Existentialism II: Washington, D.C. (June 2019)
- Special Programming Consultant Mountain Film Festival Telluride, Colorado (May 2019) <https://www.tellurideinside.com/2019/05/mountainfilm-dr-michael-sawyer-to-moderate-symposium-on-equity.html>
- The Discourse of Race in the Art of Herman Melville: Hemingway Society Boise State University February 11, 2019 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoCGzG5_5no&feature=youtu.be)
- Ralph Ellison and W.E.B. Du Bois on Education: Department of Comparative Literature: Brown University December 1, 2017
- Political Philosophy of Malcolm X: University of Bologna March 27-March 30, 2017
- Meditations on Police Violence: Brown University April 7, 2017
- La Momma Morta: Italian Opera and the Speculative Real: Brown University May 12-13, 2017
- “It Was All A Dream” Gallery of Contemporary Art: University of Colorado: Colorado Springs March 9, 2017
- Keynote Address for Dedication of Buffalo Soldier Memorial City of Colorado Springs June 2016
- Keynote Address United States Air Force Academy Black History Month Celebration Dinner February 2016

CURATION

- ~~Stop~~ *Resist(ing): Eight Minutes and Forty-six Seconds* w/ Nicholas Payton October 29, 2020
- Nicholas Payton with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic performs the *Black American Symphony* and *Sketches of Spain* October 2019 (https://www.npr.org/2019/11/06/776741412/nicholas-payton-reimagines-musical-tradition-with-black-american-symphony?fbclid=IwAR2icbvqUQZ5t1e_tJges_uZumuCY1PaeTvtwDQJ85mR_XjyBt9G4BapJ1k)
- *Black Art(s): Radical Potentialities* with Prof. Melina Abdullah (April 2018)

- *Black Art(s): Radical Potentialities* with Talib Kweli at Colorado College (March 2019)
- The Pharoah Sanders Quartet at Colorado College (October 2018)

EDITORIAL BOARDS

- Political Concepts: A Critical Lexicon (Editorial Board and Executive Committee)
- American Writer's Museum Project Advisory Board 2021

OTHER RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Areas of Interest: Africana Political Thought and Philosophy; Post-Colonial Studies; Critical Race Theory; Political Theory; Political Philosophy; Naval History and Tactics; Revolt, Revolution & Rebellion; Literary Theory & Criticism; History of the American, French, & Haitian Revolutions; Slavery; Mass Incarceration; Creative Writing; African-American Music: The Italian Renaissance

Workshops

- Oxford Symposium on Population, Migration, and the Environment paper presentation "*All Along the Watchtower: The Radical Other and Internal Migration*"
- *Bologna/Duke Summer School of Global Studies and Critical Theory* (Summer 2014)
- *Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice Graduate Student's Colloquium* –Coordinator (Fall 2013)
- *The Fanon Reading Group*- Coordinator (Ongoing)
- *The School of Criticism & Theory* at Cornell University (Summer 2013)
- *Rethinking Diaspora* at Harvard University (Fall 2012)
- *Callaloo Fiction Workshop* (Summer 2012)

Language Proficiency

- Italian (Basic speaking/Intermediate-Advanced Reading)
- German (Intermediate to Advanced Reading)
- French (Basic Speaking/ Intermediate to Advanced Reading)
- Spanish (Basic Speaking/ Intermediate to Advanced Reading)

Non-Academic Employment

- Cape Horn Structured Finance (Managing Partner)
- PricewaterhouseCoopers (Manager Real Estate Financial Advisory Services)
- J.P. Morgan Securities (Vice President-Fixed Income/Derivative Trading)
- Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc. (Vice President Fixed Income)
- United States Navy (Special Duty-Cryptology Officer)