

Michael E. Sawyer, Ph.D.  
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**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| September 2025         | <b>University of Pittsburgh</b> Pittsburgh, PA<br>Professor of African American Literature & Culture<br>Department of English  |
| December 2023          | <b>University of Pittsburgh</b> Pittsburgh, PA<br>Director, The Graduate Program for Cultural Studies  |
| August 2023 - 2026     | <b>University of Pittsburgh</b> Pittsburgh, PA<br>David C. Fredericks Honors College Electus Faculty Fellow<br>Honors College DEI Committee Member   |
| May 2023               | <b>University of Pittsburgh</b> Pittsburgh, PA<br>Director of Graduate Studies<br><i>Department of English</i>   |
| August 2022            | <b>ONX Studio</b> New York, NY<br>Artist's Residency in Augmented Reality  |
| August 2022 – May 2023 | <b>Pennsylvania State University</b> State College, PA<br>Visiting Scholar in the Humanities Institute   |
| September 2021         | <b>University of Pittsburgh</b> Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania<br>Associate Professor with Tenure of African American Literature & Culture<br>Faculty Affiliate Department of Africana Studies<br><i>Department of English</i> |
| June 2015 – May 2021   | <b>Colorado College</b> Colorado Springs, Colorado<br>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* Pluto Press March 2020 (ISBN 978-0745340746)
- *Sir Lewis* Hachette/Legacy Lit (ISBN 978-1538769744) Published internationally in Brazil, the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Russia, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Bulgaria

### Books in Preparation

- *The Door of No Return: Being as Black* **Forthcoming February 2025**  
**Temple University Press**
- *Elements of Black Critical Thought* Series Editor Under Contract  
**Cambridge University Press**
- *Check Point-Lima* (Under Review) Literary Fiction
- *Life on Earth* with Emilio Cruz (Literary Fiction)
- *If Holden Caulfield Was Black* (Literary Fiction)

### Single-Authored Articles/Reviews/Chapters in Press

- “So What: Kind of More or Less Than All Blue(s)” *b20: boundary 2 online*
- “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: 2022. 362-372.
- Book Review of Zakiyyah Iman Jackson’s *Becoming Human in Modern Philology* <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/721658>
- “Toni Morrison’s Trans-Subjective and Trans-Generational Phenomenology of Temporality” *Duquesne Studies in Phenomenology* <https://dsc.duq.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1013&context=dsp>
- “Descension: The Fanon Zone(s)” *Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy* <http://www.jffp.org/ojs/index.php/jffp/article/view/1030>

- “Crépuscle with RA Judy: A Review of *Sentient Flesh: Thinking in Disorder, Poiēsis in Black*” *New Formations: A Journal of Culture / Theory / Politics*  
<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/799712>
- 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)

## **Media Appearances**

- The Black Studies Podcast 9 July 2024  
<https://blackstudiespodcast.substack.com/p/michael-e-sawyer-department-of-english>
- Lyricism: Political Concepts 4 March 2024  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yoxpHHd9pI>
- Chasing Leviathan: An Africana Philosophy of Temporality: Homo Liminalis 11 February 2024 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njUOt2-3-58&list=PLOZYA1C71Cfa86g\\_vebd-WntxpCXUNrX4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njUOt2-3-58&list=PLOZYA1C71Cfa86g_vebd-WntxpCXUNrX4)

- truthout 23 December 2023 "What would Malcolm X say about Gaza and Black Resistance" <https://truthout.org/articles/what-would-malcolm-x-say-about-gaza-and-black-resistance-in-the-us-today/>
- Re-Thinking Malcolm X with Peniel Joseph and John Drabinski 10 November 2023 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJSTFPtb9mg>
- Black Agenda Report Book Forum 5 August 2020 <https://www.blackagendareport.com/bar-book-forum-michael-sawyers-black-minded>
- RT Sputnik Orbiting the World 18 April 2020 <https://www.rt.com/shows/sputnik/486147-prisons-pandemic-malcolmx-philosopher/>
- On Fugitive Aesthetics with Fred Moten and Stefano Harney 11 March 2021 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBJh-9caNf4>
- New Books Network 17 December 2020 <https://newbooksnetwork.com/black-minded>
- A Correction: A Podcast 18 August 2020 <https://www.acorrectionpodcast.com/phonyeconomy/ntyj22x4ygwsx63lhgak84g2yhhzcz>
- Harvard Book Store Black Minded Book Release Event 19 June 2020 <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/michael-e--sawyer>
- Parallax Views with J.G. Michael 11 June 2020 <https://parallaxviews.podbean.com/e/malcolmx/>
- Always Already: A Critical Theory Podcast 1 June 2020 <https://alwaysalreadypodcast.wordpress.com/2020/06/01/sawyer-interview/>

***Sir Lewis Media Tour Appearances (February-March 2025):***

- BBC Radio (Sports Radio), Interview with Jonathan Legard, February 17, 2025

- Associated Press (Print Interview), Interview with James Ellingworth, February 21, 2025
- The Race F1 Podcast, Interview with Edd Straw, February 25, 2025 [Listen on Apple Podcasts](#)
- Bob Varsha Sports Broadcasting and Commentary, Radio Show/Podcast Interview, February 27, 2025
- Exhaust Notes Podcast, Interview, February 27, 2025 [Listen to the Episode](#)
- KDKA-TV Pittsburgh "Pittsburgh Today Live," In-Studio TV Interview, March 4, 2025
- KTBC-TV Austin "Good Day Austin," Live TV Interview, March 4, 2025
- WFUV-FM New York, Taped Sports Radio Interview, March 4, 2025 [Watch on YouTube](#)
- Sports Byline USA "Titillating Sports," Live Sports Radio Interview with Rick Tittle, March 4, 2025
- Sports Byline USA, Taped Sports Radio Interview with Ron Barr, March 4, 2025
- WKNY-AM Kingston "AM Drive Sports Show," Live Radio Interview, March 5, 2025
- WKXL AM & FM Concord "Cali and Company," Taped Radio Interview, March 5, 2025 [Listen on SoundCloud](#)
- KNML Radio Albuquerque "The Opening Drive," Live Sports Radio Interview, March 5, 2025
- This Dream House Podcast, General Interest Podcast Interview, March 5, 2025
- KOA Radio Denver, News Radio Interview, March 5, 2025

- KSL NewsRadio Salt Lake City, News Radio Interview, March 5, 2025
- WCNC-TV Charlotte, TV Interview with Colin Mayfield, March 5, 2025
- 90.5 WESA Pittsburgh (NPR Affiliate), In-Studio Radio Interview, March 6, 2025
- WFAA-TV Dallas "WFAA Midday," Live TV Interview, March 6, 2025
- WSOY Radio Decatur "Byers & Co," Live Radio Interview March 7, 2025
- Sports Byline USA / Sirius XM "Sports Overnight America," Taped Radio Interview with Fred Wallin, March 7, 2025
- Sports Byline USA "Sports Byline Saturday with Jeff Rich," Taped Radio Interview, March 8, 2025
- KNWA-TV Fort Smith "Good Day NWA," Live TV Interview, March 10, 2025
- WCSX Radio Detroit, Taped Radio Interview with Jim O'Brien, March 10, 2025
- WTNH-TV Hartford "CT Buzz," Live TV Interview, March 10, 2025
- KSTU-TV Salt Lake City, Live TV Interview for KSTU-TV Newscast, March 12, 2025
- KRCL Radio Salt Lake City "Radioactive," Taped Public Radio Interview, March 12, 2025
- Interview with Mike Tillery (Sports Print), March 13, 2025  
KDVR-TV/KWGN-TV Denver, Live TV Interview on KDVR 11a Newscast, March 14, 2025

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Collegium of Scholars Inductee 2022 (Morehouse College)
- *Lloyd E. Worner Teacher of the Year Award* 2017
- Recipient of the Professor R. Bruce Lindsay Graduate Fellowship (Brown University)

## **INVITED TALKS**

- *Ramifications of Ramifications: Toni Morrison's Third World* Decolonial Education and Liberatory Learning, Bucknell University, 28 March 2025
- “Malcolm 100X: A Radical Centenary” The New School, New York City, 28 February 2025
- “Concerning Any Violence Necessary” Humanities Center Carnegie Mellon University **22 Feb 2024**
- Department of Political Science University of Oregon **25 January 2024**
- Postcolonial Spatialities: Stanford University Humanities Center **25 Oct 2023**
- “Ishmael, Jack-the-Bear, and Beloved at Threshold of the Door of No Return” New York University Department of Comparative Literature **13-14 April 2023**
- Book Duet with Adrian Beatty, The University of Pittsburgh Humanities Institute, **6 April 2023**
- “Problems of Form in Literature and Philosophy” MLA Annual Convention, San Francisco **January 2023** (with R. Lanier Anderson (Stanford), Akeel Bilgrami (Columbia), Judith Butler (Berkeley), Robert Pippin (Chicago), and Michael Sawyer (Pitt))
- “Lyricism” Political Concepts: The Literary Addition Brown University **3-4 March 2023**
- “In Conversation with Damon Young” University of Pittsburgh David C. Fredericks Honors College **13 February 2023**
- “Black Masculinity” Cumbre International Afro Descendencia University of Puerto Rico **20 March 2023**
- “Thinking in Motion: Embodied Radical Praxis of Malcolm X” Young India Research Council **9 April 2022**
- “Race and Media Philosophy” webinar with Michael Sawyer and Armond Towns, Digital Culture & Media Initiative Penn State University **30 March 2022** <https://dcmi.la.psu.edu/2022/05/06/video-race-and-media-philosophy-webinar-with-michael-sawyer-and-armond-towns/>



- Thurman Thursday Book Discussion *Black Minded* with Prof. Michael Sawyer, Ph.D. Morehouse College Atlanta, GA **10 February 2022**
- “Re-Thinking Malcolm X” Peniel Joseph and Michael Sawyer (in conversation) University of Maryland, College Park, MD **20 November 2021** <https://youtu.be/IJSTFPtb9mg>
- “(Dis)Able(d) Blackness” Brown University Prosthetic Lives Symposium Providence, RI **5-6 November 2021**
- “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](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](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**

- *PMLA* Advisory Committee (July 2023 – June 2026)
- *Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy* (Co-Editor)
- *Political Concepts: A Critical Lexicon* (Editorial Board and Executive Committee)
- *Critical Times* (Editorial Collective 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

### **Board Membership**

- *Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council*, Director on the Board of Directors 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2027 <https://www.pittsburghartscouncil.org/>

### **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 and Intermediate Reading)
- German (Intermediate Reading)
- French (Basic Speaking and Intermediate Reading)
- Spanish (Basic Speaking and Intermediate 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)