

Michael E. Sawyer, Ph.D.

University of Pittsburgh
526 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Michael.Sawyer@pitt.edu

21 April 2024

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

December 2023	University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA Director, The Graduate Program for Cultural Studies
August 2023 - 2026	University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA David C. Fredericks Honors College Electus Faculty Fellow Honors College DEI Committee Member
May 2023	University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA Director of Graduate Studies <i>Department of English</i>
August 2022	ONX Studio New York, NY Artist's Residency in Augmented Reality
August 2022 – May 2023	Pennsylvania State University State College, PA Visiting Scholar in the Humanities Institute
September 2021	University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Associate Professor with Tenure of African American Literature & Culture Faculty Affiliate Department of Africana Studies <i>Department of English</i>
June 2015 – May 2021	Colorado College Colorado Springs, Colorado Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) <i>Program in Race, Ethnicity, and Migration Studies</i> Assistant Professor (Joint Appointment October 2017) <i>Department of English</i> Founder and Director: <i>African Intellectual Project</i> (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

- *The Door of No Return: Being as Black* **Forthcoming Temple University Press**
- *Sir Lewis Trade Biography* **Forthcoming Legacy Lit/Grand Central Press**
- *Malcolm X in Context* Editor: Under Contract **Cambridge 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

- “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, Poiesis 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*: <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

- *truthout* “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/>
- *Chasing Leviathan: An Africana Philosophy of Temporality: Homo Liminalis* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njUOt2-3-58&list=PLOZYA1C71Cfa86g_vebd-WntxpCXUNrX4
- *Lyricism: Political Concepts* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yoxpHHd9pI>

- *Re-Thinking Malcolm X* with Peniel Joseph and John Drabinski
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJSFPTb9mg>
- *On Fugitive Aesthetics* with Fred Moten and Stefano Harney
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBJh-9caNf4>
- *RT Sputnik Orbiting the World* <https://www.rt.com/shows/sputnik/486147-prisons-pandemic-malcolm-x-philosopher/>
- *Always Already: A Critical Theory Podcast*
<https://alwaysalreadypodcast.wordpress.com/>
- *Parallax Views* with J.G. Michael <https://parallaxviews.podbean.com/e/malcolm-x/>
- *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/ntyj22x4ygwxs63lhgak84g2yhbzcy>
- New Books Network
- <https://newbooksnetwork.com/black-minded>

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

- “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 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)
- 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_XiyBt9G4BapJ1k)
- *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

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)