

JONATHAN ARAC

Curriculum Vitae

02/10

**Department of English**  
**University of Pittsburgh, 526 Cathedral of Learning**  
**4200 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260**  
**(412) 624-6506**      [jarac@pitt.edu](mailto:jarac@pitt.edu)

**Current Position:** Andrew W. Mellon Professor of English, University of Pittsburgh and Founding Director, Humanities Center at the University of Pittsburgh

**Previous Position:** Harriman Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, 2001-06; department chair 2001-05

Earlier faculty positions at Princeton University, University of Illinois at Chicago, Duke University

#### EDUCATION:

Harvard University: PhD, 1974; MA, 1968; BA, 1967, summa cum laude

#### AWARDS and Concurrent Positions:

Adjunct Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, 2010-11

Visiting Professor, Amerikanistik, University of Augsburg, 7/09

Drue Heinz Distinguished Visiting Professor of American Literature, Oxford University, Hilary Term, 2005 and 2000

Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching, Initiative on Doctorate: team leader of partner department working group, 2002-05

Avalon Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities, Northwestern University, 4-6/2000

Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences, Fellowship, 2000-01 (declined)

Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award, Pitt, 1998

Finalist, Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, Pitt, 1997 (group of five)

Faculty, School of Criticism and Theory at Dartmouth College, summer 1990

NEH Fellowship for Independent Study and Research, 1994-95; 1986-87

NEH Division of Education: "Reading Literature: A Humanities Sequence for College Freshmen" (8/84), \$42,853 for department

Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, 1978-79

Junior Fellowship, Society of Fellows, Harvard University, 1970-73

Ford Foundation Graduate Prize Fellowship, Harvard University, 1967-70

Harvard College National Scholarship, 1963-67 (honorary)

#### OFFICES:

MLA Executive Council, 2010-14

Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, Successful Societies Program: planning committee

2001-02; Chair of Advisory Committee, 2002—; Humanities Initiative Steering Committee

MIT Corporation Visiting Committee for Humanities, 2002--

Board of Editors, American Literature, 2000—2002

MLA JSTOR Committee, 2000

MLA Publications Committee, 1997--2000

External Examiner for MA in English, Hong Kong University, 1995-97

International Advisory Board, Research Institute on Postmodern Studies (Beijing), 1994--99

American Comparative Literature Association Committee on the State of the Discipline, 1992-93  
American Council of Learned Societies, American Studies Advisory Committee, 1990-93  
PMLA Advisory Committee (specialist for comparative literature and literary theory), 1990-94  
Editor, Social Foundations of Aesthetic Forms, book series from Columbia University Press (13 titles, 1989-96)  
Supervising Committee, English Institute, 1985-88 (Chair, 1987-88)  
Editorial Board, Comparative Literature, since 1989  
Editorial group, boundary 2, since 1979

### **CONSULTATIONS:**

Advisory Editor, Oxford History of the Novel in English, 11 vols. ed. Patrick Parrinder (in progress). Responsibility for the 3 volumes on novel in United States.  
Principal Consultant, "Michel Foucault," produced by Robert Malesky for National Public Radio series, "A Question of Place: Sound-Portraits of Thirteen Twentieth-Century Humanists" (aired 12/80)  
NEH Panelist: Basic Research (2/84); Summer Stipends (comparative literature, 12/84); Fellowships (American literature, 8/86, 8/94; comparative literature 8/88; English literature 8/90)

### **Papers and lectures:**

Since 1976 I have presented some thirty-five papers at the MLA convention. I have also spoken at: American Antiquarian Society, American Comparative Literature Association, American Historical Association, American Philosophical Association (Western Division), American Studies Association, Association of Departments of English, Berlin Institute for Critical Theory, China Society of Sino-Foreign Literary and Art Theories, English Institute, Historical Society, Huntington Library, MMLA, NEMLA, and Society for the Study of Narrative Literature. In addition, I have served on panels or given presentations sponsored by 63 colleges and universities in the US and Canada and 22 universities in 11 other nations.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **BOOKS:**

Commissioned Spirits: The Shaping of Social Motion in Dickens, Carlyle, Melville, and Hawthorne (1979; pb. with new Preface, Columbia UP, 1989). 200 pp.

Critical Genealogies: Historical Situations for Postmodern Literary Studies (Columbia UP, 1987; pb. 1989). 350 pp.

"Huckleberry Finn" as Idol and Target: The Functions of Criticism in Our Time (U of Wisconsin P, 1997). 264pp.

The Emergence of American Literary Narrative, 1820-1860 (Harvard UP, 2005). 267 pp.

Impure Worlds: The Institution of Literature in the Age of the Novel (Fordham UP, forthcoming 2010). 192 pp.

Against Americanistics. (forthcoming, Duke UP). 85,000 words.

Editor, with Wlad Godzich and Wallace Martin, The Yale Critics: Deconstruction in America (U of Minnesota P, 1983). 3d printing, 1987. *Theory and History of Literature*, vol. 6. 222 pp.

Editor, Postmodernism and Politics (U of Minnesota P and Manchester UP, 1986). 3d printing, 1989. *Theory and History of Literature*, vol. 28. 171 pp.

Editor, After Foucault: Humanistic Knowledge, Postmodern Challenges. (Rutgers UP, 1988). 2d printing, 1991. 208 pp.

Editor, with Barbara Johnson, Consequences of Theory. (Johns Hopkins UP, 1990). *Selected Papers from the English Institute, 1987-88*. New Series, no. 14. 219 pp.

Editor, with Harriet Ritvo, Macropolitics of Nineteenth-Century Literature: Nationalism, Exoticism, Imperialism. (1991; pb. Duke UP, 1995). *New Americanists Series*. 309 pp.

Editor, with Ronald A. T. Judy, Ralph Ellison: The Next Fifty Years, a special issue of boundary 2 30.2 (2003). 223 pp.

#### **Selected PORTIONS OF BOOKS:**

##### **45 total, including:**

"F. O. Matthiessen: Authorizing an American Renaissance," in The American Renaissance Reconsidered, ed. Walter Benn Michaels and Donald E. Pease (Johns Hopkins UP, 1985), pp. 90-112. Reprinted in New Political Science, no. 15 (1986), pp. 21-38.

"The Politics of The Scarlet Letter," in Ideology and Classic American Literature, ed. Sacvan Bercovitch and Myra Jehlen (Cambridge UP, 1986), pp. 247-66.

"Foucault and Central Europe: A Polemical Speculation," in Critical Essays on Michel Foucault, ed. Karlis Racevskis (G. K. Hall, 1999), pp. 260-70. Reprinted from boundary 2 21.3 (1994): 197-210. Translated in Panorama (Sofia, Bulgaria) 16 (1995): 104-109.

"Criticism between Opposition and Counterpoint," in Edward Said and the Work of the Critic: Speaking Truth to Power, ed. Paul A. Bové (Duke UP, 2000), pp. 66-77. Reprinted from boundary 2 25.2 (1998).

"The Impact of Shakespeare," in Cambridge History of Literary Criticism: The Romantic Age, ed. Marshall Brown (Cambridge UP, 2000; pb., 2007), pp. 272-95.

"The Birth of Whose Nation? The Competing Claims of National and Ethnic Identity and the "Banning" of Huckleberry Finn," in Claiming the Stones/Naming the Bones: Cultural Property and the Negotiation of National and Ethnic Identity, ed. Elazar Barkan and Ron Bush (Los Angeles: Getty Institute, 2002), pp. 302-314.

"Paul de Man's Ambivalence," in Time and the Literary, ed. Jay Clayton et al. (Routledge, 2002),

pp. 121-44. Essays from the English Institute.

"Huckleberry Finn," in The Novel, ed. Franco Moretti (Princeton UP, 2006), 1: 841-54. First published in Italian in Il romanzo, ed. Franco Moretti, vol. 5 (Einaudi, 2004).

"Global and Babel: Language and Planet in American Literature," in Shades of the Planet, ed. Wai Chee Dimock and Lawrence Buell (Princeton UP, 2007), pp. 19-38.

Afterword, Signet Classic ed. Uncle Tom's Cabin (2008), pp. 509-18.

"Violence and Voice in a Recent New York Novel," in Who Can Act for the Human? Ed. Taieb Belghazi and Mohamed Ezroua (Press of Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco, 2008), pp. 11-16.

"1846, Late July: While living at Walden Pond, Henry David Thoreau is arrested for refusing to pay his poll tax," in New Literary History of America, ed. Greil Marcus and Werner Sollors (Harvard UP, 2009), pp. 263-268.

"Hawthorne and the Aesthetics of Romance," Cambridge History of the American Novel, ed. Leonard Cassuto et al. (Cambridge UP), forthcoming.

#### **ESSAYS:**

#### **55 total, including:**

"Why Does No One Care about the Aesthetic Value of Huckleberry Finn?" New Literary History, 30.4 (1999): 769-84.

"Truth," PMLA 115.5 (2000): 1085-88

"Anglo-Globalism?" New Left Review new series no. 16 (July-Aug 2002): 35-45. Translated into Korean in Creation and Criticism no. 119 (2003): 100-116.

"Toward a Critical Genealogy of the US Discourse of Identity: Invisible Man after Fifty Years," boundary 2 30.2 (2003): 195-216.

"Global and Babel: Two Perspectives in the Language of US Literature," ESQ 50.1-3 (2004): 94-119 (special issue on "American Literary Globalism").

"Babel and Vernacular in an Empire of Immigrants: Howells and the Languages of American Fiction," boundary 2 34.2 (2007): 1-19; also in Critical Zone [Hong Kong and Nanjing] 3 (2008): 95-112.

"What Good Can Literary History Do?" American Literary History 20 (2008): 1-11. Twentieth Anniversary Special Issue.

"Literary History in a Global Age," New Literary History 39 (2008): 747-60.

“Fragments of Bercovitch’s America,” RSA Journal: Rivista di Studi Americani 19 (2008): 86-88.

“Violence and the Human Voice: Critique and Hope in Native Speaker,” boundary 2 36.2 (2009): 55-66.

“What Kind of History Does a Theory of the Novel Require?” Novel: A Forum on Fiction 42.2 (2009): 190-95.

“Reckoning with New Literary History,” New Literary History 40 (2009), forthcoming.

“Imperial Eclecticism in Moby-Dick and Invisible Man: Literature in a Postcolonial Empire,” boundary 2 37.3 (2010) special issue on “Philology and the Future of Critical Reading,” forthcoming.

#### **OTHER MEDIA:**

Columbia University Center for Jazz Studies online dialogue on Huckleberry Finn and Blues  
<<http://www.jazzstudiesonline.org/files/ThreeViewpoints.pdf>>

Interviewed, MLA/NPR “What’s the Word?” #252 on George Orwell and Language

#### **Doctoral Students:**

I have served on committees for 75 completed dissertations, 21 as Director. These students currently hold positions at the following colleges and universities:

Adelphi, American in Dubai, Baruch—CUNY, Barnard, Baylor, Boise State, Cal State—Sacramento, Canisius, Carnegie Mellon, Central Florida, Chicago, Columbia, Connecticut, Dalton School, DePaul, Duke, East Tennessee State, Florida Atlantic, Georgetown, Georgia State, Goddard, Harvard, Hobart and William Smith, Indiana, Indiana of PA, James Madison, Louisiana State, Mansfield, Marymount Manhattan, Massachusetts, Michigan—Dearborn, MIT, Nebraska, NYU, North Carolina, Northeastern, Northampton CC, Northwestern, Penn, Penn State, Pitt, Princeton, Quinnipiac, Rice, Rutgers, Salem State, San Francisco State, Stanford, Stony Brook, Syracuse, Temple, Tennessee, Texas State, UCLA, Vassar, Virginia, Wayne State, Washtenaw (MI) CC, West Virginia, William Jewell, Wisconsin--Madison