**Jim Wynter Porter**

Email: porter50@msu.edu

Cell: 517-614-4806

## EDUCATION

**PhD History**

Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI. May 5th, 2017

Major field: history of science (biology and psychology). Minor fields: 20th century US history, history of education, and 20th century European history. Comprehensive exams and oral defense: passed with distinction.

**Dissertation:** *Constructing the “Gifted” and “Academically Talented” Student: “Intelligence,” Intelligence Testing, and Educational Opportunity in the Era of Brown v. Board and the National Defense Education Act*.

**Advisors:** Dr. John Waller (primary), Drs. Richard Bellon, Lewis Siegelbaum and Helen Veit.

**MFA** **Creative Writing**

American University. Washington, DC. 2001 Thesis: *Strange Antennae and Other Stories*

University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Fairbanks, AK. Transfer, 1999

**MS** **Education**

University of Rochester. Rochester, NY. 1994

**BA** **Biology (graduated with distinction)**

University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA. 1992

**Biology/Environmental Science**

University of California, Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz, CA. Transfer, 1989

**FELLOWSHIPS**

2015 **Spencer Foundation**/**National Academy of Education Dissertation Fellowship,** Psychometrics and Self-Fulfilling Prophecies: Analyzing Debates about Intelligence and Educational Opportunity in the Post-WWII United States from 1945-1975. ($27,500)

2014 **National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation ImprovementGrant**

(award #1431314). Supported wide-ranging archival research related to dissertation. ($15,000)

2010-2015 **University Distinguished Fellowship**, MSU. Five-year full tuition Three-year teaching assistantship, two-year fellowship.

1993-1994 **Cohen Fellowship,** University of Rochester. Merit-based, full tuition, awarded once annually.

1992-1993 **St. Edward’s Fellowship,** University of Virginia/St. Edward’s School, Oxford, UK. Competitive one year teaching appointment.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2010-2017 **Doctoral student** and University Distinguished Fellow, Department of History, MSU. Independent Instructor, Teaching and Research Assisstant.

## 2013-2015 Assistant Editor, *Endeavour*: a quarterly magazine reviewing the history and philosophy of science, technology and medicine.

2012 **Ad Hoc Reviewer,** *Endeavour*.

2004-2009 **Lecturer,** Creative Writing and English Literature. Department of English, Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI.

2002-2004 **12th Grade English Teacher**, Gaithersburg High School. Montgomery County Public Schls., MD.

2000-2002 **5th** **Grade Homeroom Teacher,** Norwood School. Bethesda, MD.

1994-1998

1999-2000 **7th and 8th Grade English Teacher,** Norwood School. Bethesda, MD.

1998-1999 **Graduate Teaching Assistant,** University of Alaska. Fairbanks, AK.

1997-2002 **S.E.E.D. Leader (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity),** Norwood School. Organized and led year-long reading/discussion workshops for faculty and administration to promote a better understanding of diversity in the school place within the contexts of race, class, gender and sexual orientation.

1992-1993 **St. Edward’s Fellow,** St. Edward’s School. Oxford, England.

**PUBLICATIONS**

2017 Porter, Jim W. “A Precious Minority”: Constructing the “Gifted” and “Academically Talented” Student in the Era of *Brown v. Board* and the National Defense Education Act. (acceptedin *Isis: A Journal of the History of Science Society*, forthcoming September, 2017).

2015 Porter, Jim W. “Experimental Psychology: 1875-1950.” *A Companion to the History of American Science*, Mark A. Largent and Georgina Montgomery, editors. London: Wiley-Blackwell publishers, 2015.

2009 Porter, Jim W. Interview: “A Conversation with Visiting Writer Richard McCann,” *The Red Cedar Review*, vol 45, 2009.

**WORKS IN PROGRESS**

2015-2017: “Equal Educational Opportunity” by “Individual Ability”: The Entanglement of Racism, Individualism and Intelligence Testing in a post-WWII Educational Context.

“Pygmalion’s Menagerie: Animal Models, Boundary Disputes and the Critical Reception of Robert Rosenthal and Leonore Jacobson’s *Pygmalion in the Classroom.*

“Margaret Mead, Kenneth Clark and Horace Mann Bond: The Ironies of Anti-racism and Individual “Intelligence” in a post-WWII Context.”

“Costumes, Roles, and Rituals: The Expanding Contexts of the SS RuSHA Racial Exam.”

“Jensen and the Geneticists: How the Idea of a Gene is Like the Idea of IQ.”

WRITING SAMPLES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

**TEACHING**

2011-2016 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of History, Integrative Arts and Humanities, and Integrative Social Sciences, MSU. **Courses**: US and the World, (African American History from Reconstruction Era to the Present); Self, Society and Technology (Nature and Nurture-A History of Ideas); History of Medicine: American and European Health Care since 1800; and Time Space and Change (A History of Social Theory, Activism and Popular Music). **Research Assistant**: assembled a comprehensive annotated bibliography on slavery, health and medicine (2013), performed discourse analysis of Congressional Records in regard to implicit theories of heredity (2017).

2013 **Independent Instructor**, Department of History and Lyman Briggs College, MSU. **Course**: An Introduction to the History and Philosophy of Science.

2004-2009 **Lecturer**, Department of English, MSU. **Courses** (developed and taught): Readings in Contemporary Literature, Introduction to Creative Nonfiction, Introduction to Creative Writing, Introduction to Fiction Writing, Writing as Exploration, The Creative Process, English Literature in Modern Media and Culture, and American Literature Since 1950.

2002-2004 **Teacher** (12th grade), Gaithersburg High School, Montgomery County, MD. Developed and taught curricula for on-level, honors, and AP Literature and Composition. Instructed students in a variety of compositional modes from narrative to argumentative to literary critical. Employed historicist, formalist, and reader response perspectives to teach a wide range of English and world literature, both ancient to modern.

2000-2002 **Teacher** (5th grade), Norwood School, Bethesda, MD. Developed and taught curricula for classical and medieval world history (Rome, Islam, Europe, and

1994-1998 Northern Africa), math, world geography, spelling, grammar, composition, and literature. Composition instruction spanned a variety of genres from creative to persuasive writing.

## 1999-2000 Teacher (7th/8th grade), Norwood School, Bethesda, MD. Taught curriculum that spanned Renaissance English through 20th -century American literature.

1998-1999 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of English, University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Taught two sections of freshman composition and rhetoric (ENG 111).

1992-1993 **Teacher**, St. Edward’s School, Oxford, UK. Taught biology as the St. Edward’s Fellow (a one year post) as stipulated by the national curriculum (UK GCSE) for the UK equivalent of 8th, 9th and 10th grade. Also designed and taught a course in American studies (history, literature, and film) for the UK equivalent of 11th and 12th grade.

TEACHING EVALUATIONS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

**CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

2017 **Histories of Measurement and Self-Making**, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands (June 29th-June 30th, *upcoming*): paper presentation on “The National Defense Education Act and the Individualization of “Intelligence.”

2016 **American Educational Research Association (AERA)**, Washington, DC (April 8th-12th): poster presentation on “James B. Conant and *The American High School Today*: Constructing the “Gifted” and “Academically Talented” Child, 1955-1960.”

2016 **National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation (NAEd/Spencer)**, Washington, DC (March 16th–18th): paper presentation, “Intelligence Testing and Educational Policy after World War II: The National Defense Education Act and *The American High School Today*.”

2015 **History of Science Society (HSS)**, San Francisco, CA (Nov. 19th-22): paper presentation, “James Bryant Conant and *The American High School Today*: Constructing the ‘Gifted’ and ‘Academically Talented’ Child, 1955-1960.”

2015 **National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation** **(NAEd/Spencer)**, Washington, DC (Oct. 28th–Oct 31st): poster presentation on “Psychometrics and Self-Fulfilling Prophecies: Analyzing Debates about Intelligence and Educational Opportunity in the Post-WWII United States from 1945-1975.”

2013 **Migration Without Boundaries**, Michigan State University (Oct. 4th and 5th). Invited to serve as a discussant on the "Health in Migration" panel.

2012 **Migration Without Boundaries**, Michigan State University (Oct. 5th and 6th). Invited to present a paper, “The Resettlement of Poland: Reconsidering Forced Mobilization in the Context of Property and Personhood,” for a panel, Migration and the State.

**AWARDS**

2015 **HSS/National Science Foundation Travel Grant**

To present at Annual History of Science Society meeting, 2015: San Francisco.

2015 **MSU Department of History/Graduate School Travel Grant**

2013 **The Jeff Rooney Paper Prize**, awarded annually by Department of History, MSU for best paper.

2006 **Finalist: *Quarterly West* Novella Contest,** a national level contest in a premier creative writing journal.

2002 **Department of Literature Award for Academic Excellence,** American University

1999-2001 **Graduate Assistantship/Scholarship,** American University

1998 **Graduate Assistantship/Scholarship,** University of Alaska, Fairbanks

1988-1990 **University of California Regents Scholarship,** University of California, Santa Cruz.

## TEACHING CERTIFICATION

## Maryland State Teaching Certificate: English 7-12

## New York State Permanent Teaching Certificate: Biology-General Science 7-12, English 7-12, Elementary K-6.

# REFERENCES: AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST