

DR. JOEL R. WENDLAND-LIU
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ACADEMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, Grand Valley State University. (August 2023 – present)

Associate Professor, Integrative, Religious, Intercultural Studies Department, Grand Valley State University. (2018 – 2023).

Graduate School Faculty, Program in Social Innovation, Grand Valley State University. (2017 – present).

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Washington State University, American Studies, 2002.

Master of Arts (M.A.), University of Texas at El Paso, History, 1998.

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), The Evergreen State College, 1996.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Research interests and specialties

Critical race theories; racial formation theories; U.S. multi-ethnic literature; critical literary theory; space and place; Marxist theory and studies; U.S. history; civil rights history; migration histories, cultures, and experiences; globalization and neoliberalism; social innovation research; diversity in the U.S.; social innovation; intergroup dialogue and intercultural communication.

Published monographs

2025. *Simply to be American? U.S. Radical Literature in the Era of Monopoly Capitalism*. Wilmington, Delaware: Vernon Press.

2022. *Mythologies: A Political Economy of U.S. Literature, Settler Colonialism, and Racial Capitalism in the Long Nineteenth-Century*. New York: International Publishers.

2016. *The Collectivity of Life: Spaces of Social Mobility and the Individualism Myth*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books.

Scholarly articles, book chapters, and other selected writings

2025. Foreword to *Proletarian Literature in the United States*. Edited by Michael Gold et al. New York: International Publishers, reprint. [1935].

2024. Transition and Revolution: Exploring Maurice Dobb's Life and Work. In Tony Pecinovsky and Shannon O'Neill (eds.), *Books to Change The World: International Publishers at 100* (pp. 65-84). New York: International Publishers.
2024. with Phillips, A., and Luo, R. Shifting the Paradigm: A Critical Review of Social Innovation Literature. *International Journal of Innovation Studies*, 8, no. 1 (March): 45-58. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijis.2023.08.003>.
2023. with Pena, D. Everything is Primitive Accumulation? *Fudan: Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* 17 (June): 336-360. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40647-023-00396-8>.
2022. Conversion, Assimilation, or Sovereignty: Native Shape Shifting and Settler Colonialism in James Fenimore Cooper's *The Oak Openings*. *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association*, 54, 1: 17-42. <https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/140/article/872459>.
2022. Marxism, Democracy, and Lenin's Commune against Capitalism. *Fudan: Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 15: 277-297. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40647-021-00342-6>.
2021. "We are here": Self-writing, and "Angle of Vision" in the Works of John Edgar Wideman, bell hooks, and Jesmyn Ward. *MELUS* 46, 3: 188-209. <https://doi.org/10.1093/melus/mlab033>.
2021. Black Republicans, Natives, and Anti-colonial Resistance in James Fenimore Cooper's *The Oak Openings* and Andrew J. Blackbird's *The History of the Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan*. *Interdisciplinary Literary Studies*, 23, 2: 266-287. <https://doi.org/10.5325/intelitestud.23.2.0267>.
2021. "Indifferent Commodities" and "Abstract Labor-power": Angela Davis' Critique of White Supremacy and Racial Capitalism. *Peace, Land, and Bread*, 4 (May): 127-149. <https://www.peacelandbread.com/post/indifferent-commodities-and-abstract-labor-power>.
2021. Emerging from Neoliberalism? White Supremacy, Culturalism, and Class in the U.S. In Vesna Stankovic Pejnovic (Ed.), *Beyond Capitalism and Neoliberalism*. (pp. 193-215). Belgrade: Institute for Political Studies.
2020. A Culture of Human Liberation: U.S. Communist Writers in the 20th Century. In Tony Pecinovsky (Ed.), *Faith in the Masses*. (pp. 249-288). New York: International Publishers.
2020. "Out of the death of slavery": A Return to Marx's Civil War Writings. *Crossings: ULAB Journal of English Studies*, Special Volume, 20 (March): 98- 116. https://sah.old.ulab.edu.bd/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/08/Out-of-the-death-of-slavery_WendlandLiu.pdf.
2018. with Lake, D. Practical, Epistemological, and Ethical Challenges of Participatory Action Research: A Cross-Disciplinary Review of the Literature. *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*, 22 (September): 11-42. <https://openjournals.libs.uga.edu/jheoe/article/view/1399>.
2016. with Peterson, R. Lessons from E. San Juan Jr. on Resistance, Diversity and Anti-Materialism in the Academy. *Kritika Kultura* (26). <https://ajolbeta.ateneo.edu/kk/articles/77/827>.
2012. Becoming Working Class: Writing, Realism, and Radicalism in Alexander Saxton's *Grand Crossing*. *Interactions*, 21-22 (Spring-Fall), 95-11.
2012. Illegal Noise: The Sound of Change in H.T. Tsiang's *And China Has Hands*. *EurAmerica*, 42(3), 419-457. <https://www.ea.sinica.edu.tw/QDown.ashx?ID=5881>.

2010. with Peterson, R. M. Performing Ethnography and Identity in Sui Sin Far's Short Fiction. In Tanfer Emin Tunc and Elisabetta Marino (Eds.), *Positioning the New: Chinese American Literature and the Changing American Literary Canon*. (pp. 158-174). Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
2007. Orientalism and the U.S. Empire: A Reading of Royall Tyler's *The Algerine Captive*. *Nature, Society and Thought*, 20(2), 161-189. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/220301816>.
2007. Still Not Getting by in Bush's America. In D. Stanley Eitzen and Janis E. Johnson (Eds.), *Inequality: Social Class and Its Consequences*. (pp. 95-96). Boulder, Colorado: Paradigm Publishers.
2006. U.S. Global AIDS Policy is Ineffective. In Margaret Haerens (Ed.), *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*. (pp. 151-161). Detroit: Thompson Gale.
2004. The CPUSA in American Life. In Robbie Lieberman (Ed.), *History in Dispute: The Red Scare After 1945*. (pp. 86-90). Detroit: St. James Press.
2003. "Mutual Dependence" and Subversive Work: Exploring Dialectics of Race, Gender, and Labor in the Antebellum United States. *Nature, Society and Thought*, 16(1), 5-31.

Selected conference papers and public presentations

2024. North American Labor History Conference. Detroit, MI. "Souls of the Laborers': Labor, Racial Capitalism, and Du Bois's Critique of Monopoly Capitalism." (October 12).
2023. International Publishers 100th Anniversary Symposium. New York, NY. "A Marxist Classic: Maurice Dobb's Studies in the Development of Capitalism." (October 26). (Invited speaker).
2023. 16th Annual Forum of the World Association of Political Economy. Fuzhou, China (presented virtually). "Everything is primitive accumulation?" (September 27).
2023. 37th annual MELUS conference, Indianapolis, Indiana. "The 'Grim' and the 'Utopian': Social Power, Subjectivity, and Coalitions in Marge Piercy's and Octavia Butler's Time Travel Novels." (April 21).
2022. 63rd annual convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Minneapolis/Virtual. "I would have called her Ishmael': Conditionality, time, and the construction of history in Octavia Butler's *Kindred*." (November 17).
2022. Writing the Midwest: A Symposium of Scholars and Creative Writers, Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, Lansing, Michigan. "Andrew Blackbird's Magic Kettle: Settler Colonialism and Racial Formation in West Michigan." (June. 3).
2022. Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters Annual Conference, Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters, Virtual. "Race and Utopia in Marge Piercy's *Woman on the Edge of Time*." (March 11).
2021. Yale University, Reckoning with Empire: The Right to Self-Determination in Historical View. "Before and After the UN Resolution: Radical Black Self-Determination Struggles in the U.S." Virtual/New Haven. (November 12-13).

2021. 62nd Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association. “‘Poor people *did* get together’: Marge Piercy’s *Woman on the Edge of Time* and John Edgar Wideman’s *Fanon*.” Milwaukee, WI. (November 5).
2021. MELUS Virtual Conference, Moderator and Respondent for two panels: “Capitalism and Waste” and “Exploring Intersections of Identity, Fear, and Economics.” Virtual. (April 8-10).
2019. 61st Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association. “‘We are still here’: Native Refusals of Elimination in Cooper’s *The Oak Openings*.” Midwest Modern Language Association. Chicago, IL. (November 16).
2019. Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association 2019 Conference, “Bees and Magic Kettles: A Textual Analysis of Settler Colonialism and Racial Formation in West Michigan, 1820-1890.” Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, Cincinnati, OH. (October 13).
2018. American Studies Association Conference, “‘*We Are Here*’: Space and the Subversion of Dominant Narratives in *Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward,” American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA. (November 8).
2018. 32nd Annual MELUS Conference, “Writing Honestly: Art and the Subversion of Dominant Narratives in *Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward,” Society for Multi-ethnic Literature of the United States, Las Vegas, NV. (May 4).
2017. 38th International American Studies Conference, “Formation to Systems Theory: Racism in American Culture and Society,” American Studies Association of Turkey, Ankara, Turkey. (November 2).
2017. The Marxist Classes, “Ideology, Insidious Individualism, and Insurrection: Angela Davis and the Critique of Racial Capitalism,” Longview Publishing Company, Online webinar. (May 24).
2017. Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters Annual Conference, “The Ethics of ‘Great Time’ in John Edgar Wideman’s *Fatheralong*,” Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters, Kalamazoo, MI. (March 10).
2016. The 58th Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association, “Border Crossings: Gender and the Ethics of ‘Great Time’ in John Edgar Wideman’s *Fatheralong*,” Midwest Modern Language Association, St. Louis, MO. (November 12).
2016. 61st Annual BAAS Conference/46th Annual IAAS Conference, “Translating the Everyday into Radical Critiques of the Self,” The Irish Association for American Studies/British Association for American Studies, Belfast, Northern Ireland (UK). (April 9).
2015. South Central Modern Language Association, “Movement, Narrative, and Becoming: Radical Critiques of Ideologies of Self,” Nashville, TN. (November 1).
2014. Capitalism and Socialism: Utopia, Globalization, and Revolution, “Oral Narratives and Utopia,” Center for Communal Studies, Southern Indiana University, New Harmony, IN. (November 8).

2014. 6th Annual Conference of the Society for U.S. Intellectual History, “Bodies in Space: Working-Class Intellectuals Re-Define American Mythology,” Society for U.S. Intellectual History, Indianapolis, IN. (October 12).
2014. EcoJustice and Activism Conference, “Oral History and Critical Literacy,” Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI. (March 28).
2014. 28th Annual MELUS conference, “A Geosemiotics of Autobiography: A Spatial Reading of Social Mobility Narratives in the Late 20th century,” Society for the Study of Multiethnic Literatures in the U.S., Oklahoma City, OK. (March 6).
2013. 5th Annual Conference of the Society for US Intellectual History, “A Geosemiotics of the Social Mobility Myth,” Society for US Intellectual History, Irvine, CA. (November 3).
2013. North American Labor History Conference, Moderator for Panel: Transnational Migrations and Radical Labor, Wayne State Department of History, the Walter P. Reuther Library, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. (October 25).
2013. 27th Annual MELUS Conference, “White Identities and the Possibility for Inter-racial Politics in the Fiction of Sui Sin Far and H.T. Tsiang,” Society for the Study of Multi-ethnic Literature in the United States, Pittsburgh, PA. (March 14).
2012. 34th Annual North American Labor History Conference, “Literature as Labor History: The Case of H.T. Tsiang’s *And China Has Hands*,” Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. (October 16).
2012. Working Class/Poverty Class Academics 16th International Conference, “Identifying Effective Pedagogies of Class,” Madison, WI. (June 15).
2011. Working-Class Studies Association Conference, “Boundaries and Intersections: Race, Gender and the Great Recession and Recovery,” Chicago, IL. (June 25).
2010. Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, “‘Born a Bohemian’: Subverting Horatio Alger Myths in the Stories of Edith Easton/Sui Sin Far,” Minneapolis, MN. (October 2).
2002. Third Annual Hull-House Conference: Hull-House Magazine and the Chicago Cultural Front, “Becoming Working Class: Writing and Partisanship in Alexander Saxton’s *Grand Crossing*,” Chicago, IL. (April 12).
2000. 22nd Annual Conference of the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association, “Captivity and Socialist Freedom in Lloyd L. Brown’s *Iron City*,” Albuquerque, NM. (September 23).

Academic book reviews and public-facing writings

More than 50 public-facing writings related to my research and teaching fields—commentary, analysis, reportage, movie reviews, and book reviews—have appeared in numerous magazines, newspapers, and online forums including: CounterPunch, ZNetwork, Clamor Magazine, Political Affairs, Monthly Review, People’s World, Common Dreams, Against the Current, CGTN.com, and People’s Daily Online.

More than 60 book reviews for academic audiences have been published by *Middle Ground Journal*, *Choice: Current Reviews of Academic Literature*, *American Studies Journal*, *Science*

and Society, Ethnic Studies Review, Journal of American Ethnic History, H-Net History and Theory, Journal of the History of Radicalism, Marxism and Philosophy: Review of Books, International Journal of Labor and Society, and American Communist History.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Specific professional training: *Online/hybrid certified; experienced in the use of learning management system software and technologies such as Panopto, Padlet, and Camtasia. Inclusive teaching practices, mentoring minoritized students, encouraging student success, assessing student work with new technologies, and student-centered and self-directed learning experiences.*

Grand Valley State University (2009-present)

Undergraduate courses taught: Integrative Studies Senior Seminar (Capstone); Life Journeys; Voices of the Civil Rights Movement; The Immigrant Experience; Introduction to Intercultural Competence; Intercultural Competence Practicum; Introduction to Liberal Education/Reflect, Connect, Engage; Diversity in the United States; Interdisciplinary Research Methods; Dialogue, Integration and Action/Collaborative Communication; Mass Culture and American Society/American Society and Media; Leadership Portfolio Development; Visionary American Leaders/Thinkers; Integrative Studies Internship and Practicum.

Graduate courses taught: Research methods for social inquiry (Professional Master of Arts in Social Innovation).

Bowling Green State University (2001-2003)

Courses taught: Introduction to Ethnic Studies; Literature of Black Nationalism.

Washington State University (1998-2001)

Courses taught: Introduction to Composition; Introduction to American Studies; Introduction to Comparative American Cultures.

Directed Student Learning

Supervised graduate thesis projects, supervised research for senior theses, McNair Scholarship Research, Student Scholars Day presentations, student teaching apprenticeships, and independent research and readings.

Teaching Awards

- Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award, GVSU-GSA (December 8, 2023).
- Faculty Excellence Award, Student Senate, GVSU (April 27, 2019).
- Outstanding Faculty Award, Oliver Wilson Freshman Academy, GVSU (April 14, 2015).

UNIVERSITY, PROFESSIONAL, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Committee member, Brooks College Personnel Committee.
Inclusion Advocate, Grand Valley State University.
Manuscript reviewer for several journals and book publishers.
Faculty adviser, Students for Justice in Palestine, Grand Valley State University.
Committee Chair, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Grand Valley State University.
Committee Chair, IRIS Department Curriculum Committee.
Committee Chair, IRIS Department Awards Committee.
Convener, Michigan Writers Club.
The executive committee of the African American Equality Commission.
Book Review Editor, H-History-and-Theory Network.
Faculty Advisor and Host, Teach-In: Power, Privilege, and Difficult Dialogues.
Respondent, Multi-ethnic Literatures of the U.S. Annual Conference.
Book Reviewer for *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* (American Library Association).
Committee Member, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Grand Valley State University.
Permanent Chair, Literary Criticism Section, Midwest Modern Language Association.
Committee Member, Graduate School Council, Grand Valley State University.
Subcommittee member, Curriculum Review, Graduate Council.
Faculty Partner, Grand Valley State University Student Success Network.
Committee member, IRIS Department Awards Committee.
Committee Chair, IRIS/Liberal Studies Department Assessment Committee.
Fund-raising volunteer, Grand Rapids Chinese Language School.
Committee Member, Brooks College Faculty Council.
Workshop Organizer, Teach-in: Power, Privilege, and Difficult Dialogues. Committee Member, Brooks College Representative to GVSU *Lanthorn* Editorial Board.
Committee Member, University Assessment Committee.
Co-facilitator, Academic Success Institute.
Faculty Mentor, Grand Valley State University Recovery Camp.
Faculty Advisor, AIS Honor Society.
Committee Member, Diversity Working Group—Departmental Self-Study Review.
Committee Member, McNair Selection Committee.
Faculty Advisor, National Society of Black Engineers—GVSU Chapter.
Workshop Organizer, Intercultural Community of Practice.
Student Recruitment Participant, Awards of Distinction Scholarship Competition.
Program/Director Coordinator, Coordinator of Special Projects, Kutsche Office of Oral History.
Workshop Organizer, Faculty Writing Group.
Master of Ceremonies, Sonia Manzano: Black Latinos and the Civil Rights Movement.

Professional memberships

American Association of University Professors

American Studies Association

Marxist Literary Group

Midwest Modern Language Association

Society for the Study of Multi-ethnic Literatures of the U.S.