

# Michael Witgen

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## Employment

Assistant Professor, Department of History and the Program in American Culture  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Michigan  
Ph.D. University of Washington, 2004

Diversity Outreach Co-ordinator and Academic Counselor  
Regents College, Albany, New York 1992-1994

Assistant Director, Higher Education Opportunity Program  
Siena College, Loudonville, New York 1994-1996

## Education

PhD in History, University of Washington, 2004  
Dissertation: *An Infinity of Nations: How Indians, Empires, and Western Migration Shaped National Identity in North America*. Advisor: Richard White

MA in History, University of Washington, 1998

BA History and Political Science, Texas Christian University, 1998

## Book Manuscript

*An Infinity of Nations: How the Native New World Shaped Modern North America*,  
(Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, forthcoming), Early American Studies,  
Daniel K. Richter and Kathleen M. Brown, Series Editors

## Articles

“The Rituals of Possession: Native Identity and the Invention of Empire in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Western North America,” *Ethnohistory* , Volume 54, No.4, (Fall 2007)

## Public Talks, Conference Chairs and Presentations

Round Table: *Building on the Middle Ground: Framing Borderlands, Conquest, and American Indian History*, Organization of American History, annual conference March 2011

*Mapping Anishinaabewaki: Indians, Empires and the Cartographic Fabrication of the New World*, talk to be presented at the “Maps and Missionaries” Speaker Series, at the Center for Early Modern History, University of Minnesota, Fall 2010

Presented Paper *Mixed Blood Voters and the Politics of Indian Assimilation in the Old Northwest Territory* at the 2007 annual meeting of the Society for the Historians of the Early Republic, Wooster, MA.

Chair Violence on Early American Frontiers, panel at the 2007 annual meeting of the American Studies Association in Philadelphia, PA.

Presented paper “*Put Us Into Your Kettles*”: *Constructing and Deconstructing Space, Social Identity, and Empire in Colonial North America* at the 2006 annual meeting of the Organization of American historians in Washington, D.C.

Presented paper *The World Beyond the Atlantic: Writing Indigenous Narratives into the History of Early America* at the University of Michigan-University of Windsor joint colloquium Slavery and Freedom in the Atlantic World March 30 2006

Chair and Commentator for the Panel *Destinies Changed, Identities Altered: Native People of the Great Lakes Region, Post-Independence*, at the University of Toledo conference Cultures in Conflict: New Perspectives on Encounters with Native Peoples of the Americas

Presented paper at the Conference of the Western History Association, Las Vegas, Nevada, October 2004, *The Indigenous West and Western History*

Presented paper at the American Historical Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, January 2002, *Making New Western Indians: The Role of the Nation-State and Ethnography in the Creation of Naturalized Indian Identities*

Presented paper at the Conference of the Western History Association, San Antonio, Texas, October 2000, *To Form One Body: Making Boundaries, Constructing Identity in the Northwest Borderlands*

Presented paper, L’Ecole Des Haute Etudes en Science Social, Paris, France, January 26, 2000, *Nationalizing and Naturalizing Indian Historical Identity*

Presented paper, The Organization of American History Conference, Toronto, Canada, April 1999, *Ojibwe Shapeshifters: Ojibwe Migration, Adaptation and French Colonial Expansion in the American West*

Presented paper American Indian Professors Conference, Lawrence, Kansas, November 18, 1997, *Landscape and Identity in the Great Lakes During the Colonial Era*

Speaker, Onkwehonweh: Native American Educational Opportunities, State University of New York at Oswego, speaker, discussion panel on access and retention issues for Native students, October 1993

### **Fellowships**

Ford Foundation, Post Doctoral Fellowship, National Research Council, 2006-2007

Social Science Research Council, Dissertation Fellowship, 2001 – 2002

Johnson-Thomas Fellowship in Colonial History, University of Washington, 2001-2002

Ford Dissertation Fellow, National Research Council, 2000-2001

West European Research Travel Grant, Archives National de France, Paris, France and Archivio Segreto Vaticano, Rome, Italy, University of Washington, Summer 2000

Fulbright Fellowship, Archives National de France, Paris, France, 1999-2000

Dissertation Fellowship, Stanford University, Stanford, California, Spring 1999

Fellow, Harvard University, International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 1998

Fellowship, Tribal Histories Seminar, Darcy McKnickle Center for the Study of American Indian History, Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois, June-July 1997

## **Courses, University of Michigan**

### **Undergraduate Seminars**

AC/History 102 Freshman Seminar: Indians and Empires: American Indian History of the Great Lakes and Prairie West.

AC 350: Approaches to American Culture

AC 498/History 397: Undergraduate Reading Seminar: Indians and Empires in North America

### **Undergraduate Lecture Courses**

AC/History 367: American Indian History – From Origin Stories to the Occupation of Wounded Knee

History 373: History of the American West

### **Graduate Courses**

History 611: The Literature of American History

American Culture 697: Approaches to American Culture

AC 800/History 796: A Comparative History of North American Borderlands

## **Graduate Students, University of Michigan**

PhD advisor for:

Veronica Pasfield, American Culture

Michelle Cassidy, History

Rebecca Hill, History

Sophie Hunt, History

### **Dissertation Committees:**

Veronica Pasfield, American Culture

Elsbeth Martini, History

Nilanjana Majumdar, History

Morgan LaBin, History

### **Examination Committees:**

Veronica Pasfield, American Culture

Elsbeth Martini, History

Nilanjana Majumdar, History

Morgan LaBin, History

Ben Cronin, History

Michelle Cassidy, History

Rebecca Hill, History

Sophie Hunt, History

**Languages (fluent to proficient)**

French  
Ojibwe  
Spanish

**Memberships**

Organization of American History  
Western Historical Association  
American Historical Association  
Society for Historians of the Early Republic  
American Society for Ethnohistory

**Museum and Archival Work**

Consultant, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Tribal History Archive  
Consultant, National Museum of the American Indian