

JOHN SAMUEL CARSON

University of Michigan
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Michigan
Department of History

Associate Professor, 2004-
Assistant Professor, 1998-2004

Cornell University
Department of Science & Technology Studies
Cornell Society for the Humanities

NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 1996-1997
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, 1997-1998

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Department of History

Ph.D.; January 1994

Dissertation: "Talents, Intelligence, and the Constructions of Human Difference in France and America, 1750-1920"

Committee: Daniel T. Rodgers (chair); Gerald L. Geison, Elizabeth Lunbeck, Lorraine Daston

Awards and Honors: 1994 Forum for the History of the Human Sciences Dissertation Prize

Harvard University, Department of Philosophy

B.A. *cum laude*; June 1976

Awards and Honors: Harvard Club of Philadelphia Scholarship; National Merit Scholarship; DaLite Screen Foundation Inc. Scholarship

SELECTED AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science Fellowship, 2013-14

Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin Fellowship, 2013-14

Cheiron Book Prize (outstanding monograph in history of the social/behavioral/human sciences), 2010

Newhouse Center for the Humanities Fellowship, Wellesley College, 2008-2009

Forum for History of Human Science Best Article Award, 2003

ACLS Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship, 2002-2003 Competition Year

Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Fellowship at the National Humanities Center, 2003-2004

Cornell University Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1997-1998

Derek Price Award of the History of Science Society for an outstanding *Isis* article, 1996

Cornell University Science & Technology Studies Postdoctoral Assistantship, 1996-1997

Wellcome Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, 1994-1995

Forum for History of Human Science Dissertation Prize, 1994

NSF-NATO Post-doctoral Research Fellowship, 1993-1994

Garden State Graduate Fellowship, 1980-1984

 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Measure of Merit: Talents, Intelligence, and Inequality in the French and American Republics, 1750-1940 (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007); winner of the 2010 Cheiron Book Prize

Articles

- “Intelligence Testing,” in *Information: A Historical Companion*, eds. Ann Blair, Paul Duguid, Anja Goeing, and Anthony Grafton (Princeton, Princeton University Press, forthcoming)
- “‘Every Expression Is Watched’: Mind, Expertise, and Display in the Nineteenth-Century English Courtroom,” *Social Studies of Science* 48 (2018): 891-918
- “Equality, Inequality, and Difference: Genius as Problem and Possibility in American Political/Scientific Discourse,” in *Genealogies of Genius*, eds. Joyce E. Chaplin and Darrin M. McMahon (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), pp. 43-62
- “Intelligence, History of the Concept,” in *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 2nd ed., ed. James D. Wright (Oxford: Elsevier, 2015), vol. 12, pp. 309-12
- “Mental Testing in the Early Twentieth Century: Internationalizing the Mental Testing Story,” *History of Psychology* 17 (2014): 249-55
- “Has Psychology ‘Found Its True Path’? Methods, Objectivity, and Cries of ‘Crisis’ in Early Twentieth-Century French Psychology,” *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 43 (2012): 445-54
- “In Search of the Bourgeois Self: Essay Review of *The Post-Revolutionary Self*,” *Isis* 99 (2008): 587-91
- “The Science of Merit and the Merit of Science: Mental Order and Social Order in Early Twentieth-Century France and America,” in *States of Knowledge: The Co-Production of Science and Social Order*, ed. Sheila S. Jasanoff (London: Routledge, 2004), pp. 181-205
- “The Culture of Intelligence,” in *The Cambridge History of Science*, volume 7, *Modern Social Sciences*, eds. Theodore Porter and Dorothy Ross (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003), pp. 635-48
- “Differentiating a Republican Citizenry: Talents, Human Science, and Enlightenment Theories of Governance,” *Osiris*, vol. 17: *Science and Civil Society*, eds. Thomas Broman and Lynn Nyhart (2002): 74-103; winner 2003 Best Article Award, Forum for the History of the Human Sciences
- “Abnormal Minds and Ordinary People: American Psychologists Discover the Normal,” in “*Normalität*“ *im Diskursnetz: Soziologischer Begriffe*, eds. Jürgen Link, Thomas Loer, and Hartmut Neuendorff (Heidelberg: Synchron, 2003), pp. 85-99
- “Opening the Democracy Box,” *Social Studies of Science* 31 (2001): 425-28
- “Minding Matter/Mattering Mind: Knowledge and the Subject in Nineteenth-Century Psychology,” *Studies in the History and Philosophy of the Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 30 (1999): 345-76
- “Army Alpha, Army Brass, and the Search for Army Intelligence,” *Isis* 84 (1993): 278-309; winner 1996 Derek Price Award of the History of Science Society

Articles – Popular

“Merit matters in US immigration, but agreeing on what 'merit' means is complicated,” *The Conversation*, March 20, 2018

 SELECTED PAPERS DELIVERED

“Quantification—Its Affordances and Limits.” Keynote address for the XVII International Conference on Scientometrics and Informetrics (ISSI 2019); Sapienza University, Rome, Italy; September 3, 2019

- “Victims of Folly or Fraud’: Unsoundness of Mind in Anglo-American Medical Jurisprudence.” Histories of Knowledge: A Workshop on Intellectual History and History of Science; Stevanovich Institute, University of Chicago; Chicago, IL; April 20-21, 2018
- “Quantifying the ‘Normal Mind.’” Toward a Global History of Data, Measures, and Indicators Symposium, International Congress on the History of Science and Technology; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; July 23-29, 2017
- “The Unsound of Mind and the Ambiguities of Citizenship.” *Forms of Life, Language, and Citizenship* Workshop; Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany; May 28-29, 2015
- “Medical Categories, Legal Definitions, and the Curious Status of the Unsound of Mind.” *Mental Troubles, Bodily Troubles, Medical Categories: What Kinds of Stories Can We Write?* Workshop; Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany; July 14, 2014
- “Unsoundness of Mind Between Law and Science.” *Réunion Quantification* Workshop; Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany; April 23-24, 2014
- “A Difficult Father, a Dutiful Daughter, and £40,000: Contesting Mental Soundness in English (and American) Civil Law, 1745-1830.” Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany; March 4, 2014
- “Measuring Up: Testing, Expertise, and Public Reason.” BiCoDa conference, *The States’ Stakes in Science*; Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung, Bielefeld, Germany; July 10-12, 2013
- “Education, Orthodoxy and the Sciences of Mind in Nineteenth-Century France.” *Shaping Education and Distributing Areas of Knowledge in France, England, Germany and the U.S., 1750-1950* Workshop; Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany; June 7, 2013
- “Equality, Inequality, and Difference: Genius as Problem and Possibility in American Political/Scientific Discourse.” *Genealogies of Genius* conference; Huntington Library; San Marino, CA; May 18-19, 2012
- “The Sciences of Human Nature and Their Histories.” *Human Nature in the Public Sphere* workshop; Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; April 30, 2012
- “Measurement and Its Ambivalences: Assessing Mind and Merit in Early Twentieth-Century France and America.” *Measurement and Knowledge: The Quantification of Bodies and Minds* Spring 2009 Mellon Lecture Series; Tulane University, New Orleans, LA; March 20, 2009
- “Drawing Things Together: STS and the History of Science.” STS Circle, Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; November 3, 2008
- “Between Medical Authority and Legal Precedent: Adjudicating ‘Unsoundness of Mind’ in Nineteenth-Century Anglo-American Jurisprudence.” Davis Center, Princeton University; Princeton, NJ; October 24, 2008
- “What is Human about the Human Sciences? Cries of ‘Crisis’ in Turn-of-the-Century French Psychology.” *Crisis Debates in Psychology: Causes, Contexts, and Consequences* Workshop; Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany; October 10-12, 2008
- “Measuring Minds/Making Citizens: Intelligence, Inequality, and the Science of Merit.” History of Psychiatry and Psychology Seminar Series, British Psychological Society; London; May 12, 2008
- “Theaters of Proof: Mind and Its Experts in the Nineteenth-Century English Courtroom.” *Histories of the Human Sciences: Different Disciplinary Perspectives* Conference; University of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, PA; May 6, 2006
- “Science Studies and Its Boundaries.” *New Perspectives on the Disciplines* Mellon Project workshop, “What is Science Studies?”; University of Chicago; Chicago, IL; Nov. 11, 2005
- “American Psychology and the Seductions of IQ.” John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute Seminar presentation, Duke University; Durham, NC; March 1, 2005
- “Democratic Citizenship and the Meaning of Intelligence.” *The Self as Scientific and Political Project in the Twentieth Century: The Human Sciences Between Utopia and Reform* NSF workshop; Penn State University; University Park, PA; October 10-11, 2003

- “Vive la différence! Intelligence and Its Cultures in France and America.” *The Cognitive and Institutional Differentiation of Psychological Objects* workshop; Research Group on Psychological Thought and Practice in Historical and Interdisciplinary Perspective; Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie des Wissenschaften; Berlin, Germany; November 1-2, 2002
- “The Elusivity of the Normal: Abnormal Minds in the Science of Intelligence.” *The Normal and the Abnormal: Historical and Cultural Perspectives on Norms and Deviations* workshop; University of Manchester; Manchester, England; July 10-11, 2002
- “Metaphors, Expertise, and Trust in Election 2000.” *The Machinery of Representation: Voting Technologies and the 2000 Presidential Election* workshop; John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; March 16-17, 2001
- “Making Medicine Legal: Credibility and Display in the Nineteenth-Century English Courtroom.” American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting; Princeton, NJ; October 19-21, 2000
- “The Normal and the Pathological in American Sciences of Mind.” Cardiff University conference, “Demarcation Socialised: or, Can We Recognise Science When We See It?”; Cardiff, Wales; August 25-27, 2000

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- "What does the “merit” in merit-based immigration mean? Depends on whom you ask." Interviewed by Cynthia Canty for Stateside, Michigan Radio; April 17, 2018 (<https://www.michiganradio.org/post/what-does-merit-merit-based-immigration-mean-depends-whom-you-ask>)
- "Merit-based Immigration." Interviewed by Garland Nixon and Lee Stranahan for Fault Lines, Sputnik International; March 27, 2018 (https://sputniknews.com/radio_fault_lines/201803271062957287-trying-times-for-the-fbi/)

SELECTED UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University

- Associate Chair, History Department, University of Michigan, 2018-2020
- Bentley Chair search committee, History Department, University of Michigan, 2019-2020
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, History Department, University of Michigan, 2014-2017
- Executive Committee, History Department, University of Michigan, 2012-13, 2018-2020
- Director, Digital History Workshop, Rackham/Mellon Initiative, University of Michigan, 2015-2017
- Director, Program in Science, Technology, and Society, University of Michigan, 2004-10, 2012-13, 2020-
- Senate Assembly member, University of Michigan, 2009-2012
- Committee on University Values, University of Michigan, 2012-2015

National/International

- Member of Governing Council, History of Science Society, 2009-2012
- Member of Nominating Committee, History of Science Society, 2011
- Member of the Dibner Committee, History of Science Society, 2002-2005
- Member of the Derek Price Prize Committee, History of Science Society, 1997-2000
- Chair, Book Prize Committee, Cheiron, 2001-2006
- Program Chair, 1997 Annual Meeting of Cheiron; June 19-22, 1997; University of Richmond
- Chair, Forum for History of Human Science, 2010-2014
- Editorial Board, *Isis*; 2009-2011, 2020-
- Editorial Board, *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*; 2000-2002, 2005-
- Editorial Board, *History of Psychology*, 2015-2018