

Curriculum Vitae

Wilfred M. McClay

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland,
Ph.D. in History, 1987.

St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland,
B.A. *cum laude*, 1974.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

William E. Simon Distinguished Visiting Professor, School of Public Policy, Pepperdine University,
Malibu, CA, August 2009-May 2010.

Fullbright Senior Lecturer in American History, University of Rome, January-May 2007.

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Chattanooga, TN,
SunTrust Bank Chair of Excellence in Humanities and Professor of History, 1999---

Georgetown University, Washington, DC,
Royden B. Davis Chair in Interdisciplinary Studies, 1998-99.

Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana,
Associate Professor of History, 1993-99; Assistant Professor of History, 1987-1993.

University of Dallas, Irving, Texas,
Assistant Professor of History, 1986-87.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The intellectual and cultural history of the United States, with particular attention to the social and political thought of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; the history of American religious thought and institutions; and the theory and practice of biographical writing.

PUBLICATIONS

Authored and Edited Books

Why Place Matters: Geography, Identity, and Civic Life in Modern America (Encounter Books, forthcoming February 2014).

The Burden of the Humanities (Lexington Books, in preparation).

Figures in the Carpet: Finding the Human Person in the American Past (Eerdmans, 2007).

Religion Returns to the Public Square: Faith and Policy in Modern America (Woodrow Wilson Center/Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002).

A Student's Guide to U.S. History (ISI Books, 2000).

General Editor, with Jean Bethke Elshtain and Ted V. McAllister, of *American Intellectual Culture* (Rowman and Littlefield), a book series devoted to American intellectual history which commenced publication in Spring 1998. Twenty titles have been published in the series to date. (For further information see <http://www.rowmanlittlefield.com/>.)

The Masterless: Self and Society in Modern America (University of North Carolina Press, 1994). Winner of the 1995 Merle Curti Award in Intellectual History from the Organization of American Historians.

Edition, with new editorial introduction, of John W. Burgess, *The Foundations of Political Science* (Transaction, 1994).

Edition, with new editorial introduction, of Walter Lippmann, *The Phantom Public* (Transaction, 1993).

Selected Articles

"Still the Redeemer Nation," in *Wilson Quarterly*, Spring 2013 (forthcoming).

"Memory and Sacrifice in the Formation of Civic Consciousness," in Elizabeth Kaufer Busch and Jonathan W. White, eds., *Civic Education and the Future of American Citizenship* (Washington: Lexington Books, 2012), 37-48.

"The Tocquevillean Moment...and Ours," in *Wilson Quarterly*, Summer 2012, 48-55.

"Sources of Renewal in Twenty-First Century America," in Charles W. Dunn, ed., *American Culture in Peril* (Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2012), 135-53.

"Abolition as Master Concept," in Andrew Delbanco, ed., *The Abolitionist Imagination* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2012), 135-52.

"The Catholic Moment in American Social Thought," in R. Scott Appleby and Kathleen Sprows Cummings, eds., *Catholics in the American Century: Recasting Narratives of U.S. History* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2012), 135-56.

"Of Ashtrays and Incommensurability: Reflections on Herbert Butterfield and *The Whig Interpretation of History*," *Fides et Historia*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (Winter/Spring 2012), 1-14.

"Reinhold Niebuhr and the Problem of Religious Pluralism," in Richard Harries and Stephen Platten, eds., *Reinhold Niebuhr and Contemporary Politics: God and Power* (Oxford, 2012).

"Religious Perspectives on the Problem of Progress: Revisiting Butterfield, Dawson, and Niebuhr,"

in Donald Yerxa, ed., *British Abolitionism and the Question of Moral Progress in History* (South Carolina, 2012).

“When is Religion Bad Religion?” in *Commentary*, September 2012, 62-69.

“The Desert’s Austere Grace,” in *First Things*, Number 219, January 2012, 19-21.

“Less Boilerplate, More Symmetry,” in *Journal of American History*, Volume 98, No. 3, December 2011, 744-47. (Contribution to “Conservatism: A Roundtable.”)

“The Living City,” in *First Things*, Number 218, December 2011, 19-22.

“Connections Missed and Contradictions Unexplored,” in *The Hedgehog Review*, Volume 13, Number 3, Fall 2011, 65-68 (contribution to symposium on 35th anniversary of publications of Daniel Bell’s *The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism*)

“A Far Other Butterfly,” in *The New Atlantis*, Number 33, Fall 2011, 111-24.

“Memorializing September 11th,” in *National Affairs*, Number 9, Fall 2011, 1-13.

“The Particularities of Place,” in *The New Atlantis*, Number 31, Spring 2011, 33-40.

“The Moral Economy of Guilt,” in *First Things*, Number 213, May 2011, 25-33.

“The Tocquevillean Moment,” in *The St. John’s Review*, Vol. 52, No. 2 (Spring 2011), 19-43.

“The Christian Historian and the Idea of Progress,” in John Fea, Jay Green, and Eric Miller, eds., *Confessing History: Explorations in Christian Faith and the Historian’s Vocation* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2010), 316-44.

“L’accoglienza di Machiavelli in America: Un caso di trapianto culturale” (The American reception of Machiavelli: A Case of Cultural Transfer), in Roberto de Mattei and Bruce Cole, eds., *Identità nazionale, memoria storica e le scienze umane* (National Identity, Historical Memory, and the Humanities) (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche and National Endowment for the Humanities, 2009), 76-90.

“The Unclaimed Legacy of George Santayana,” in James Seaton, ed. *Character and Opinion in the United States* (Yale University Press, 2009).

“What Do Experts Know?” in *National Affairs*, Number One, Fall 2009, 145-59.

“George Keller: Intellectual Whirlwind,” in *The Chronicle Review* (*Chronicle of Higher Education*), November 23, 2007, B12-13.

“Revisiting the Idea of Progress in History,” in “Moral Progress in History: A Forum,” in *Historically Speaking: The Bulletin of the Historical Society*, September/October 2007, 11-13.

“Prof in a Box,” in *Wall Street Journal*, August 24, 2007, W11.

“Out of Mortal Threat, an Opportunity,” in *National Review*, April 30, 2007. This article was based upon a paper commissioned for the annual Bradley Symposium in Washington, DC cosponsored by the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation and the Hudson Institute, entitled "Who Are We Today? American Character and Identity in the 21st Century." Due to my concurrent duties as a Fulbright Professor in Italy, the paper had to be read in my absence on that date.

“Twilight of Sociology,” in *Wall Street Journal*, February 2, 2007, D24.

“Recovering the Western Soul,” in *Intercollegiate Review*, Spring 2007, 19-27. (Contribution to symposium on the 20th anniversary of Allan Bloom’s *The Closing of the American Mind*.)

“Will Religion Still Seem an Illusion?” in symposium on “The Next Thirty Years,” *Wilson Quarterly*, Winter 2006, 38-39.

“Beyond the Right to Life,” in *The New Atlantis*, Number 14, Fall 2006, 73-84.

“Idol-Smashing and Immodesty in the Groves of Academe,” *In Character*, Winter 2006, 68-75; reprinted in Philip Zaleski, ed., *The Best American Spiritual Writing 2007*. I was interviewed on this subject on NPR’s Weekend Edition with Scott Simon, airing June 10, 2006: the interview, entitled “A Modest Little Article on Virtues,” can be heard at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5476305>.

“The Secret of the Self,” in *First Things*, Number 158, December 2005, 29-33. Reprinted in Philip Zaleski, ed., *The Best American Spiritual Writing 2006* (Houghton Mifflin, 2007), 177-86.

“Thoughts on ‘That Embarrassing Dream,’” commentary on Donald Yerxa’s “That Embarrassing Dream: Big Questions and the Limits of History,” in *Fides et Historia*, Volume 39, Vol 1, Winter/Spring 2007, 71-75.

“Is Conservatism Finished?” in *Commentary*, Volume 119, No. 1, January 2007, 13-19.

“David Riesman and the Problem of Diversity in American Education,” *Journal of Education*, Vol. 186, No. 1 (2005), 1-9.

“Completion or Revision? Comments on George Marsden’s ‘Jonathan Edwards and American History,’” in *Historical Speaking*, Vol. 5, No. 6, July/August 2004, 13-15.

“Christianity and Dual Loyalty,” in *Society*, Vol. 42, No 4, May/June 2005, 17-19.

“The Naked Public Square Now: A Symposium,” in *First Things*, No. 147, November 2004, 11-27.

“Land of Hope and Fear: Nathaniel Hawthorne and the American Past,” in *Weekly Standard*, August 16/August 23, 2004, 31-35. Reprinted as “Hawthorne and the American Past,” in William Kristol, ed., *The Weekly Standard: A Reader, 1995-2005* (HarperCollins, 2005), 471-80.

“The Church of Civil Rights,” in *Commentary*, Vol. 117, No. 6, June 2004, 43-46.

“Science and Self-Government,” a contribution to a symposium on “Biotechnology and the Good Life,” in *The New Atlantis: A Journal of Technology & Society*, Number 4, Winter 2004, 17-22.

“The Soul of a Nation,” in a special number of *The Public Interest* entitled “Religion in America,” Number 155, Spring 2004, 4-19.

“Ideas,” in Stephen J. Whitfield, ed., *A Companion to 20th-Century America* (Blackwell Publishing, 2004), 430-49. A slightly edited version of this essay also appeared as “Do Ideas Matter in America?” in *Wilson Quarterly*, Volume 27, Number 3, Summer 2003, pp. 67-84.

“The Mixed Nature of American Patriotism,” in *Society*, November/December 2003, 37-45.

“The Ph.D. Octopus, 100 Years On,” in *Books & Culture*, November/December 2003, 6.

“Emerson and Us,” in *Weekly Standard*, September 1/September 8, 2003, 35-39. (A response to the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ralph Waldo Emerson.)

“Tradition, History, and Sequoias,” in *First Things*, March 2003, 41-47.

“Introduction,” to Patrick Swan, ed., *Alger Hiss, Whittaker Chambers, and the Schism in the American Soul* (ISI Books, 2003), 1-10.

“Rethinking the Framework of History,” in *Fides et Historia*, Vol. 24, No. 1, Winter/Spring 2002, 1-40.

“Individualism,” “Political Theory,” and “*The Lonely Crowd*” in Stanley I. Kutler, ed., *Dictionary of American History* (Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2002).

“The Shadow of Mastery,” in *Touchstone*, March 2002, 19-21.

“The Continuing Irony of American History,” in *First Things*, Number 120, February 2002, 20-25. This essay also appears in John Wilson, ed., *The Best Christian Writing 2004* (Jossey-Bass, 2004), 99-116.

“Teaching Religion in American Schools and Colleges: Some Thoughts for the 21st Century,” in *Historically Speaking: Newsletter of The Historical Society*, November 2001, 8-15.

“America---Idea or Nation?” in *The Public Interest*, Number 145, Fall 2001, 44-58.

“History for a Democracy,” in *Wilson Quarterly*, Volume 25, No. 4, Autumn 2001, 99-106.

“Individualism and Its Discontents,” in *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Vol. 77, No. 3, Summer 2001, 391-405. A shorter version of this essay also appeared in *The Responsive Community*, Vol. 11, No. 4, Fall 2001, 14-25.

“Political Science,” in Paul Boyer, ed., *The Oxford Companion to United States History* (Oxford

University Press, 2001), 606-7.

“The American Scholar: Kenneth Lynn, 1923-2001,” in *Weekly Standard*, July 16, 2001, 37-39. (His life and work.)

“Remembering Santayana,” in *Wilson Quarterly*, Vol. 25, No. 3, Summer 2001, 48-63. (A biographical account and analysis of the American philosopher George Santayana.)

“Individualism and the Self,” in Mary Kupiec Cayton and Peter W. Williams, eds., *The Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History* (Charles Scribners Sons, 2001), 3:63-71.

“The God of Princes,” in *Touchstone*, March 2001, 15-18. (An analysis of the uses of public religion in the 2000 presidential campaign.)

“Clio’s Makeshift Laboratory,” in *First Things*, Number 111, March 2001, 23-27. This essay also appears in John Wilson, ed., *The Best Christian Writing 2002* (Harper San Francisco, 2002), 114-29.

“Defining the Humanities Up,” in *First Things*, Number 109, January 2001, 9-11.

“Two Concepts of Secularism,” in *Wilson Quarterly*, Summer 2000, Vol. 24, No. 3, 54-71. This essay also appears under the same title in a longer, and fully annotated form in a special number of *Journal of Policy History* entitled “Religion, Politics, and Policy,” Vol. 13, No. 1 (Spring 2001), 47-72, and in *Religion Returns to the Public Square: Faith and Policy in Modern America* (Johns Hopkins, 2002), 31-62.

“The Judeo-Christian Tradition and the Liberal Tradition in the American Republic,” in T. William Boxx and Gary M. Quinlivan, ed., *Public Morality, Civic Virtue, and the Problem of Modern Liberalism* (Eerdmans, 2000), 124-36.

“My History and America’s,” in *First Things*, Number 102, April 2000, 11-12.

“Croly’s Progressive America,” in *The Public Interest*, Number 137, Fall 1999, 56-72.

“Yesterday’s Philosopher of Tomorrow,” in *Weekly Standard*, June 23, 1999, 28-33. (Reassessment of the career and influence of American philosopher John Dewey.)

“Hazards of New Fortune,” in *First Things*, Number 88, December 1998, 14-16.

“Is America an Experiment?” in *The Public Interest*, Fall 1998, 3-22. This essay also appears in an extended and annotated form in Gary Gregg III, ed., *Vital Remnants: America’s Founding and the Western Tradition* (ISI Books, 1999), 1-32, and has been posted on the website of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, at <http://wwics.si.edu/news/mcclay.htm>.

“Alexis de Tocqueville,” in Robert Wuthnow, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion* (Congressional Quarterly Books, 1998), 735-77.

“Fifty Years of *The Lonely Crowd*,” in *Wilson Quarterly*, Vol. 22, No. 3, Summer 1998, 34-42.

“Communitarianism and the Federal Idea,” in Peter Lawler, ed., *Community and Political Thought Today* (Praeger, 1998), 101-108.

“Mr. Emerson’s Tombstone,” in *First Things*, Number 83, May 1998, 16-22. This essay also appears in extended and annotated form in Bruce Frohnen and George Carey, eds., *Community and Tradition* (Rowman and Littlefield, 1998), 85-101.

“Filling the Hollow Core: Religious Faith and the Postmodern University,” in Gregory Wolfe, ed., *The New Religious Humanists: A Reader* (Free Press, 1997), 231-40.

“The Worst Decision Since Dred Scott?” *Commentary*, Vol. 104, No. 4, October 1997, 52-54. This essay also appears in Quentin Kidd, ed., *American Government: Readings from Across Society* (Longman, 2000), 44-50.

“The Party of Limits,” *Reviews in American History*, Vol. 25, No. 1, March 1997, 95-100. (Review of Ted V. McAllister, *Revolt Against Modernity: Leo Strauss, Eric Voegelin, and the Search for a Postliberal Order*.)

“Asking ‘Our’ Questions,” in *Intellectual History Newsletter*, Vol. 18, December 1996, 12-15. (Contribution to a symposium on Intellectual History in an Age of Cultural Studies.)

“Historical Writing in an Age of Interpretation,” *Academic Questions*, Vol. 9, No. 5, Special Issue 1997, 55-58.

“The Mystic Chords of Memory: Acquiring Historical Consciousness,” in *History Matters!*, Vol. 9, No. 2, October 1996, 1-5. Published by the National Council for History Education, and available at <http://www.history.org/nche/>.

“The Soul of Man Under Federalism,” *First Things*, Number 64, June/July 1996, 21-26. Also reprinted in *The Good Society* (the journal of the Committee on the Political Economy of the Good Society), Vol. 6, No. 3, Fall 1996, pp. 16-20.

Contribution to “The National Prospect: A Symposium,” *Commentary*, Vol. 100, No. 5, November 1995, 80-82.

“A More Perfect Union? Toward a New Federalism,” *Commentary*, Vol. 100, No. 3, September 1995, 28-33.

“Where Have We Come Since the 1950s? Thoughts on Materialism and American Social Character,” in Robert Wuthnow, ed., *Rethinking Materialism: Perspectives on the Spiritual Dimension of Economic Behavior* (Eerdmans, 1995), 25-71.

“The State of American Higher Education: A Conversation with David Riesman,” *Academic Questions*, Vol. 8, No. 1, Winter 1994-95, 14-32; and Vol. 8, No. 2, Spring 1995, 32-48.

“Edward Bellamy and the Politics of Meaning,” *American Scholar*, Vol. 64, No. 2, Spring 1995, 264-71. Also reprinted in *Current*, Number 375, September 1995, 31-37.

“The Socialization of Desire,” *Society*, Vol. 32, No. 4, May/June 1995, 75-83.

“The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Freelancer,” *Reviews in American History*, Vol. 23, No. 1, March 1995, 123-28. (Review of Daniel Horowitz, *Vance Packard and American Social Criticism*.)

“The Hipster and the Organization Man,” *First Things*, Number 43, May 1994, 23-30.

“Historical Research on the Refugee Intellectuals: Problems and Prospects,” *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, Vol. 7, No. 3, Spring 1994, 513-24.

“Clio in 2013: The Writing and Teaching of History in the Next Twenty Years,” *Academic Questions*, Vol. 7, No. 1, Winter 1993-94, 20-28.

“John W. Burgess and the Search for Cohesion in American Political Thought,” *Polity*, Vol. 26, No. 1, Fall 1993, 51-73.

“The Strange Career of *The Lonely Crowd*: Or, The Antinomies of Autonomy,” in Thomas L. Haskell and Richard F. Teichgraeber, eds., *The Culture of the Market: Historical Essays* (Cambridge, 1993), 395-440.

“A Tent on the Porch: The Divided Heart of Frederick Jackson Turner,” *American Heritage*, July/August 1993, 88-93. (A reassessment of Turner’s famed “frontier thesis,” published on the hundredth anniversary of Turner’s “The Significance of the Frontier in American History.”)

“Religion in Politics, Politics in Religion,” *Commentary*, Vol. 86, No. 4, October 1988, 43-49. Selections were reprinted in the inaugural issue (Spring 1989) of *In Trust* (published by the Washington Theological Foundation and the Lilly Endowment), 28-30. Also reprinted in Patrick Allitt, ed., *Major Problems in American Religious History* (Houghton Mifflin, 1999).

“A Babylonian in Zion,” *Reviews in American History*, Vol. 16, No. 1, March 1988, 73-78. (Review of John McCormick, *George Santayana: A Biography*.)

“Lewis Mumford: From the Belly of the Whale,” *American Scholar*, Vol. 57, No. 1, Winter 1988, 111-18.

“Weimar in America,” *American Scholar*, Vol. 55, No. 1, Winter 1985-86, 119-28.

“Two Versions of the Genteel Tradition: Santayana and Brooks,” *New England Quarterly*, Vol. 55, No. 3, September 1982, 368-91.

EDITORIAL AND BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Co-Director, Center for Reflective Citizenship, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, 2012---.
Editorial Board, *Academic Questions*, 2012---

Editorial Board, *Journal of American Political Thought*, 2011---

Member, Board of Trustees, and Vice-Chairman of Academic Council, Jack Miller Center for

Teaching America's Founding Principles and History, 2007---.
Senior Fellow, Trinity Forum, Washington, DC, 2006---.
Senior Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center, 2004---.
Senior Scholar, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 2004---.
Contributing Editor, *Historically Speaking*, 2003---.
Editorial Board, *The Public Interest*, 2002-2005.
Publication Committee, *National Affairs*, 2009--.
Member, National Council on the Humanities, 2002-2012. (The NCH is the advisory board of the National Endowment for the Humanities.)
Member, Board of Governors, The Historical Society, 2002--.
Editorial Board, *American Quarterly* (journal of the American Studies Association), 1999-2002.
Board of Editorial Advisors, *Wilson Quarterly* (journal of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars), 1999---.
General Editor, *American Intellectual Culture*, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 1997-2006.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Distinguished Teacher/Educator Award, Chattanooga Chapter of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, 2013.

William E. Simon Distinguished Visiting Professor, School of Public Policy, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, August 2009-May 2010.

Senior Fellow, The Trinity Forum, Washington, DC, 2007--.

Fulbright Senior Lecturer in American History, University of Rome, January-May 2007.

Recipient, 2006 Richard M. Weaver Prize for Scholarly Letters, awarded annually by the Ingersoll Foundation. Acceptance of this prize involves organizing a symposium on a subject of one's choice, and I organized it around the theme of "The Burden of the Humanities." (The symposium was held on October 20-21.) Past recipients of this Prize include Edward Shils, Edward O. Wilson, Eugene Genovese, Shelby Foote, and Paul Johnson.

Senior Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center, Washington, DC, 2004---.

Senior Scholar, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC, 2004---.

Adjunct Public Policy Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC, 2000-2004.

Appointed to the endowed SunTrust Bank Chair of Excellence in Humanities, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, 1999---, as first permanent holder of Chair.

Appointed to Royden B. Davis Chair in Interdisciplinary Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. Established by Georgetown as a tribute to its former Dean, and endowed by the gifts of alumni and friends of the University, the Davis Chair was created to enable the University "to honor individuals distinguished in the humanities, arts, sciences, or social sciences with a year's residence at the University."

Templeton Honor Rolls, 1997, awarded by the John Templeton Foundation for distinguished teaching and scholarship in American higher education.

Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 1997-98.

University Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1997-98.

Fellow, National Humanities Center, 1997-98 (offer declined).

1996 Faculty Research Award, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Tulane University.

1995 Merle Curti Award in Intellectual History, for the best book in that field published in the years 1993-1994, awarded by the Organization of American Historians to *The Masterless: Self and Society in Modern America*.

Howard Foundation Fellow, 1993-94.

National Academy of Education, Spencer Postdoctoral Fellow, 1993-94.

Danforth Graduate Fellow, Danforth Foundation, 1980-84.

REFERENCES

Bruce Cole
Professor Emeritus of Art History
Indiana University
Former Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities

James Ceaser
Byrd Professor of Government
University of Virginia

Gordon Wood
Professor Emeritus of History
Brown University

Paul Cantor
Professor of English
University of Virginia

Harvey Klehr
Professor of Politics
Emory University