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JOHN SAMUEL CARSON

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**University of Michigan** Associate Professor, 2004-

Department of History Assistant Professor, 1998-2004

Teach courses in American intellectual/cultural history, history of American science, and history of the human sciences. Courses taught include Hist 196: Making the Future; Hist 361: US Intellectual History, 1750-1940; Hist 366: American Science/American Culture; Hist 397: Human Nature and Its Sciences; Hist 398: Junior Honors Colloquium on Methods of Historical Research; Hist 399: Senior Honors Colloquium; Hist 593 (with Michele Mitchell): Theories of Race/Practices of Difference; Hist 611 (with J. Mills Thornton): Literature of American History; Hist 685: Human Natures and Social Orderings and Hist 796: Knowledge Making in its Historical Contexts. Department committee work has included: 20th century U.S. search committee; graduate admissions committee; honors committee; curriculum committee; planning committee, and technology committee. University service has included: Director, Science, Technology & Society Program; Associate Director, Science, Technology & Society Program; Steering Committee, Life Sciences and Society Program; Steering Committee, UM Initiative on Disability Studies; Faculty Associate, Program in American Culture; European Union Center Advisory Committee; and Associate Director, Program in Culture, Health & Medicine.

**Cornell University** NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 1996-1997

Ithaca, New York Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, 1997-1998

Designed and taught S&TS 456, Scientific Constructions of the Normal, and S&TS 495, The History and Politics of the Human Sciences. Also a member of the Society for the Humanities.

### SELECTED AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS

##### University of Michigan Fellowships

William T. Ludolph Junior Faculty Development Award, 2002

Horace H. Rackham Summer Faculty Fellowship, 2001

Horace H. Rackham Summer Interdisciplinary Institute, 1999

#### External Fellowships and Awards

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

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

Wood Short-Term Visiting Research Fellowship, Wood Institute for the History of Medicine, 2005

Best Article Award of the Forum for the History of the Human Sciences, 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

Wellcome Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, 1994-1995

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

### 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**

“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*, vol. 7, *Modern Social Sciences*, eds. Theodore M. Porter and Dorothy Ross (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003), pp. 635-48

“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

“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 of the Forum for the History of the Human Sciences

“Intelligence, History of the Concept,” in *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, eds. Neil J. Smelser and Paul B. Baltes (Amsterdam: Pergamon, 2001), vol. 11, pp. 7663-665

“Defining and Selecting Competencies: Historical Reflections from the Case of IQ;” in *Definition and Selection of Competencies: Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations*, eds. Dominique Simone Rychen and Laura H. Salganik (Seattle: Hogrefe & Huber Publishers, 2001), pp. 33-44

“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

“Intelligence,” in *A Companion to American Thought*, eds. Richard Fox and James Kloppenberg (Cambridge: Blackwell Publishers, 1995), pp. 342-43

“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

“Philosophy and Science: The Positive Physics of Auguste Comte,” *Journal of the Korean History of Science Society* 4(1982): 65-82

**Reviews**

“Review of *Herbert Spencer and the Invention of Modern Life*,” *Journal of the History of Biology* 42 (2009): 599-604

“In Search of the Bourgeois Self: Essay Review of *The Post-Revolutionary Self*,” *Isis* 99 (2008): 587-91

“Review of *Intelligence: A Brief History*,” *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 43 (2007): 215-16

“Review of *Growing Explanations*,” *Historical Studies of the Physical and Biological Sciences* 36 (2006): 402

“Review of *Measuring Minds*,” *Journal of the History of the Neurosciences* 9 (2000): 228-30

“Review of *The Science and Politics of Racial Research*,” *Journal of the Hist. of the Behav. Scis.* 34 (1998): 294-96

“Review of *From Idiocy to Mental Deficiency*” *Isis* 88 (1997): 697-698

“Review of *The Roots of Social Psychology*,” *Psychology in Society* 22 (1997): 72-74

“Review of *Silent Travellers*,” *Medical History* 40 (1996): 506-507

“Review of *Measuring the Mind*,” *Isis* 87(1996): 191-92

“Review of *Legal Medicine in History*,” *Medical History* 40 (1996): 246-47

“Review of *Constructing the Subject*,” *Medical History* 40 (1996): 112-13

“Review of *Inventing the Feeble Mind*,” *Social History of Medicine* 8 (1995): 522-23

“Review of *The Definition of a Profession*,” *Isis* 85 (1994): 722-23

“Review of *Metaphors in the History of Psychology*,” *Isis* 82 (1991): 776-77

### EDUCATION

**Princeton University**, Department of History Ph.D.; January, 1994

*General Examination Fields:*

“Plato to Nato” (history of science survey); Gerald Geison and C. C. Gillispie

History of American Science; John Servos

American Intellectual/Cultural History, 1877-1940; Daniel Rodgers

*Activities:* Program in History of Science Colloquium Coordinator; Program in History of Science Graduate Student Representative

**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

*DISSERTATION*

### **Talents, Intelligence, and the Constructions of Human Difference in France and America, 1750-1920**

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

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

*SELECTED PAPERS DELIVERED*

### “When an Instrument Crosses Borders: Measuring Mind in Early Twentieth-Century France and America.” European Society for the History of Science Annual Meeting; Barcelona, Spain; November 18-20, 2010

“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

“What Makes an ‘Unsound Mind’? Medicine, Law, and Competency in the Nineteenth-Century Courtroom.” Department of the History of Science and 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 ConsequencesInternational Workshop; Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Ger.; October 10-12, 2008

“Medicalizing Jurisprudence and the Problem of Responsibility.” Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine Works-in-Progress Series; London, England; May 14, 2008

“Measuring Minds/Making Citizens: Intelligence, Inequality, and the Science of Merit.” History of Psychiatry and Psychology Seminar Series, British Psychol. Society; London, Eng.; May 12, 2008

“Measuring Minds/Naturalizing Differences: Intelligence, Inequality, and the Science of Merit.” Science, Technology & Society Center, University of California-Berkeley; Berkeley, CA; April 28, 2008

“Theaters of Proof: Mind and Its Experts in the Nineteenth-Century English Courtroom.” Histories of the Human Sciences; 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; November 11, 2005

“Domesticating Intelligence in Postwar America.” European Society for the History of the Human Sciences 24th Annual Meeting; Moscow, Russia; September 14-17, 2005

“American Psychology and the Seductions of IQ.” John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute Seminar presentation, Duke University; Durham, NC; March 1, 2005

“No Exit: Intelligence and Its Critics in Postwar America.” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting; Boston, MA; March 25-28, 2004

“Making Intelligence Matter: Mental Abilities, Merit, and Democracy in an Age of Human Science.” Department of History, Cornell University; Ithaca, NY; February 9, 2004

“Democratic Citizenship and the Meaning of Intelligence.” NSF Workshop, “The Self as Scientific and Political Project in the Twentieth Century: The Human Sciences Between Utopia and Reform”; 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, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie des Wissenschaften; Berlin, Germany; November 1-2, 2002.

“The Elusivity of the Normal: Abnormal Minds in the Science of Intelligence.” University of Manchester workshop, “The Normal and the Abnormal: Historical and Cultural Perspectives on Norms and Deviations”; Manchester, England; July 10-11, 2002.

“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.

“Mind is Where You Make It: ‘Intelligence’ at the Fin-de-siècle in France and America.” American Historical Association Annual Meeting; Chicago, IL; January 6-9, 2000.

“What’s Normal Anyway? Standardizing Mind in Early Twentieth-Century America.” Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine workshop on the History of the Human Sciences, University of Chicago; Chicago, IL; October 29, 1999.

Comment on DeSeCo expert opinion papers at the OECD international symposium “Definition and Selection of Competencies,” Neuchâtel, Switzerland; October 13-15, 1999.

“Seeing and Believing: Medical Testimony and the Making of Authority in Nineteenth-Century English Jurisprudence.” Center for the Cultural Studies of Science, Technology, and Medicine, University of California – Los Angeles; Los Angeles, CA; February 22, 1999.

“Why is ‘Intelligence’ What Intelligence Tests Test?” Max-Planck-Institute für Wissenschaftgeschichte conference, “Demonstration, Test, Proof”; Berlin; June 25-28, 1998.

“Equality, Difference, and Languages of Intellect in Nineteenth-Century America.” Department of History, Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; February 8, 1996.

“Minding Matter/Mattering Mind: Knowledge and the Subject in 19th-Century Psychology.” Princeton Workshop on the History of Science, “Materials in Science;” Princeton, NJ; March 18, 1995.

*SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE*

### Director, Program in Science, Technology, and Society, University of Michigan, 2004-

Member of Governing Council, History of Science Society; 2009-

Chair, Book Prize Committee; Cheiron; 2001-2006

Chair, Forum for History of Human Science, 2010-

Editorial Board, *Isis*; 2009-

Editorial Board, *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*; 2000-2002, 2005-

Review Committee member of Cheiron; 1992-1993, 1996-1999

Program Chair for 1997 Annual Meeting of Cheiron; June 19-22, 1997; University of Richmond

Article refereeing for *British Journal for the History of Science*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *History of Psychology,* *History of Science,* *Isis*, *Journal for the History of the Behavioral Sciences*; *Journal of the History of Ideas*; *Law and History*, *Modern Intellectual History*, *Osiris*, *Science in Context*, and *Social Studies of Science*

Manuscript refereeing for Harvard University Press, University of Chicago Press, Yale University Press

Proposal refereeing for European Research Council, National Science Foundation

External reviewer for American Council of Learned Societies, Dibner History of Science Program at the Huntington Library, National Humanities Center, Wellcome Trust