

DAVID E. WHISNANT

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EDUCATION

M.S.W., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	1996
Ph.D., American Literature, Duke University	1965
A.M., English, Duke University	1962
B.S., Physics, Georgia Institute of Technology	1961

EMPLOYMENT

Owner and Principal Researcher 2006- present
Primary Source History Services, Chapel Hill, NC
• Historical research consulting firm.

Professor of English 1988-2000
**Adjunct Professor of American Studies, Communications Studies, Folklore,
and Latin American Studies**
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
• Teaching: American literature and culture; Nicaragua; cultural politics in Latin America;
documentary film; film and traditional culture; Appalachia; country music history; politics of
culture.

Professor of American Studies 1982-88
University of Maryland Baltimore County
• Teaching: American culture and society; Appalachian region; vernacular music; documentary
film

Associate Professor of American Studies 1975-82
University of Maryland Baltimore County
• Teaching: American culture and society; Appalachian region; vernacular music; documentary
film

Assistant Professor of English 1965-72
University of Illinois
• Teaching: American literature

SELECTED CONSULTING AND DIRECTORSHIPS

- Co-PI, Historic Resource Study Project, Cape Lookout National Seashore, National Park Service through Organization of American Historians (2008-10)

- Co-PI, Administrative History Project, De Soto National Memorial, National Park Service through Organization of American Historians (2006-07)
- Featured Author and Session Leader, NEH Summer Institute on “Regional Study and the Liberal Arts: An Appalachian Exemplar,” Ferrum College (June 2006)
- Advisory Board, Institute of Latin American Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill (1988-96)
- Consultant, Documentary Project on Traditional Dance in Appalachia, Virginia Commission on the Humanities (1989-90)
- National Advisory Board, The Foxfire Fund, Inc. (1989-92)
- *Appalachian Journal* Editorial Board (1978-)
- Board of Directors, Highlander Research and Education Center (1977-79)
- Field Worker and Member of Festival Staff, Maryland State Arts Council (1976-78)
- Festival of American Folklife, Smithsonian Institution
 - Consultant (1973)
 - Staff (1977)
- Co-founder, North Carolina Folklife Institute (1972)

AWARDS, HONORS & LEAVES

- Phi Eta Sigma (freshman honorary society) (1957)
- Tau Beta Pi (engineering honorary society) (1960)
- Hamilton Humanities Award, Georgia Institute of Technology (1961)
- Woodrow Wilson Graduate Fellowship (1961-62)
- Danforth Graduate Fellowship (1961-65)
- Duke University Distinguished Teaching Fellowship (1963-65)
- Phi Beta Kappa (1965)
- Danforth Foundation Theological Year (1969-70)
- Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Research Grant (1973-74)
- National Endowment for the Humanities General Research Program Grant (RS-29670-79-273) (1979-80)
- Fellow in Residence, Folklife Program, Smithsonian Institution (1979-81)
- National Endowment for the Humanities State, Local and Regional Programs Grant (RS-20060-80-1667) (1980-81)
- Fellow, American Society and Politics Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (1981-82)
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Faculty Seminar (Central American Crises in Historical Perspective; Tulane University) (1986)
- Fulbright Central American Republics Research Award (Nicaragua) (1987-88)

SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Modern Language Association (1965-69)
- Society for Religion in Higher Education (1965-75)
- American Folklore Society (1970-90)
- Board of Directors (1988-90)

- American Studies Association (1971-93)
- Appalachian Studies Association (1978-)
- Organization of American Historians (1979-83, 2006-)
- Southern Historical Association (1981-84)
- Latin American Studies Association (1986-96)
- American Historical Association (1994-96, 2004-)
- National Council on Public History (2007-)
- George Wright Society (2008-)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Small Park, Large Issues: De Soto National Memorial and the Commemoration of a Difficult History* [with Anne M. Whisnant]. National Park Service (forthcoming).
- *Rascally Signs in Sacred Places: The Politics of Culture in Nicaragua* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1995). Chosen as an Outstanding Academic Book for 1996 by Choice, a publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries.
- *All That Is Native and Fine: The Politics of Culture in an American Region* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1983). Elsie Clews Parsons Prize, American Folklore Society, 1984; nominated for Pulitzer Prize.
- *Modernizing the Mountaineer: People, Power and Planning in Appalachia* (1981; rev. ed., University of Tennessee Press, 1994).
- *Process, Policy and Context: Contemporary Perspectives on Appalachian Culture* (Boone, N.C.: Appalachian Journal, 1979) [editor].
- *James Boyd* (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1972).

Articles

- "The Sacred and the Profane in Walden," *Centennial Review* 14 (Summer 1970): 267-83.
- "Career and Calling: A Personal Record and Tentative Suggestion," *Soundings* 53 (Summer 1970): 111-23.
- "Finding New Models for Appalachian Development," *New South* 25 (Fall 1970): 70-77. Reprinted in Frank S. Riddell (ed.), *Appalachia: Its People, Heritage and Problems* (Dubuque: Kendall-Hunt, 1974).
- "The University as a Space and the Future of the University," *Journal of Higher Education* 42 (February 1971): 85-102. Selected for reprinting in *Journal of Higher Education* (July 1979) as one of 21 best articles from the journal's first half-century.
- "Selling the Gospel News: Or, The Strange Career of Jimmy Brown the Newsboy," *Journal of Social History* 5 (Spring 1972): 269-309.
- "University Planning: Some Interrelationships Between Self-Concept and Spatial Design," *Planning for Higher Education* 1 (December 1972): 1-4.
- "Ethnicity and the Recovery of Regional Identity in Appalachia," *Soundings* 56 (Spring 1973): 124-38.
- "The Craftsman: Some Reflections on Work in America," *Centennial Review* 17 (Summer 1973): 215-36. Revised and reprinted in Philip C. Ritterbush (ed.), *Technology as Institutionally Related to Human Values* (Washington, D.C.: Acropolis, 1974): 109-26.

- “Appalachian Power Company and the Blue Ridge Project: A Case Study in Appalachian Development,” *New South* 28 (Spring 1973): 34-43.
- “Power to the People: The Congress for Appalachian Development,” *People's Appalachia* 3 (Spring 1973): 16-20.
- “The Folk Hero in Appalachian Struggle History,” *New South* 28 (Fall 1973): 30-47.
- “Growing Old By Being Poor: Some Notes About Generalizing from a Class Phenomenon,” *Soundings* 57 (Winter 1974): 101-12.
- “Revolt Against the Planners in the Kentucky River Area Development District,” *Southern Exposure* 2 (Autumn 1974): 84-102.
- “Controversy in God's Grand Division: The Council of the Southern Mountains,” *Appalachian Journal* 2 (Autumn 1974): 7-45.
- “Introduction” to Emma Bell Miles, *The Spirit of the Mountains* (1905; rpt. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1975): xv-xxxviii.
- “Our Type of Song: A Second Look at the Blue Sky Boys,” in Paul F. Wells (ed.), *Presenting the Blue Sky Boys* [JEMF 104; reissue of Capitol ST 2483] (Los Angeles: John Edwards Memorial Foundation, 1976), 6-11.
- “The TVA Story: How Green Is Your Valley?,” *The Elements*, November 1976, pp. 1ff.
- “An Idea Whose Time Has Gone: The Decline of TVA,” *The Elements*, December 1976, pp. 8-11.
- “Thicker Than Fiddlers in Hell: Issues and Resources in Appalachian Music,” *Appalachian Journal* 5 (Summer 1977): 103-15.
- “A Voice from Home: Southern Mountain Musicians on the Maryland-Pennsylvania Border,” *Southern Exposure* 5 (1977): 80-89 [with Charles Camp].
- *Folk Festival Issues: Report From a Seminar* (Los Angeles: John Edwards Memorial Foundation, Bibliographical and Special Publications, 1979) [editor].
- “Finding the Way Between the Old and the New: The Mountain Dance and Folk Festival and Bascom Lamar Lunsford's Work as a Citizen,” *Appalachian Journal* 7 (Autumn 1979): 135-54. Reprinted in Susan Eike Spalding and Jane Harris Woodside (eds.), *Communities in Motion: Dance, Community and Tradition in America's Southeast and Beyond*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 1995, pp. 91-109.
- “Developments in the Appalachian Identity Movement: All Is Process,” *Appalachian Journal* 8 (Autumn 1980): 41-47.
- “The White Top Folk Festival, 1931-1939: An Introduction, Annotated Bibliography, and Guide to Resources,” *Folklore and Folklife in Virginia* 2 (1980-81): 38-52.
- “Second-Level Appalachian History: Another Look at Some Fetched-On Women,” *Appalachian Journal* 9 (Winter 1982): 115-23.
- “Annabel Morris Buchanan's 'Rise, King Jesus' and the Cultural Costs of the TVA Dream,” in John Shelton Reed and Merle Black (eds.), *Perspectives on the American South: An Annual Review of Politics, Society, and Culture* (New York: Gordon and Breach, 1983), pp. 139-66.
- “International Perspectives on Cultural Policy Formulation: The UNESCO Conferences, 1970-78,” *New Jersey Folklore* 8 (Spring 1983): 21-27.
- “Charles Dudley Warner and Cultural Change in the Southern Mountains: Note on a Serendipitous Discovery,” *John Edwards Memorial Foundation Quarterly* 19 (Summer 1983): 68-75.
- The Electric Valley (Knoxville: James Agee Film Project, 1983). *Southern Changes* 6 (August-September 1984): 18-22 [review-essay].

- “Public Sector Folklore as Intervention: Lessons from the Past, Prospects for the Future,” in Burt Feintuch (ed.), *The Conservation of Culture: Folklorists and Public Sector* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1988), 233-47.
- “‘Pon My Honor’: Comparative Approaches to Documenting Appalachian Music,” *Appalachian Journal* 13 (Summer 1986): 439-43 [review-essay].
- “Making the Past Present” *Forum for Applied Research and Public Policy* 2 (Summer 1986): 117-29 [with Linda Shopes].
- “Sandinista Cultural Policy: Notes Toward an Analysis in Historical Context,” in R. Lee Woodward, Jr. (ed.) *Central American Crises in Historical Perspective* (Greenwood Press, 1988), 169-91. Also in Brett Williams (ed.), *The Politics of Culture* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1988). Short version also in Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies, *MACLAS Latin American Essays I* (1987): 69-76.
- “Old Men and New Schools: Rationalizing Change in the Mountains,” James Hardin and Alan Jabbour (eds.), *Folklife Annual* 88-89 (Washington, D. C.: American Folklore Center, Library of Congress, 1989), 74-85.
- “La vida nos ha enseñado: Rigoberta Menchú y la dialéctica de la cultura tradicional,” *Ideologies and Literature* 4 (Spring 1989): 317-43.
- The Electric Valley. By Ross Spears. *Journal of American Folklore* 102 (October 1989): 453-56 [review essay].
- “A Fourth-Wave Book on Appalachia: Stephen W. Foster's *The Past is Another Country*: Representation, Historical Consciousness and Resistance in the Blue Ridge. *Appalachian Journal*, Spring 1990, 286-90 [review essay].
- “Letting Loose of Liberalism: Thoughts on Cultural Work and the Limits of Polite Discourse,” *Southern Changes* 12 (August 1990): 1-11. Also in *Cultural Vistas* 1 (Autumn 1990): 8-11, 22-24.
- “Farther Along: The Next Phase of Cultural Work in the South,” *Southern Changes* 13 (May 1991) 1-10. Also in *Southern Folklore* 49 (3): 182-95.
- “The Politics of Cultural Work: Some Local and Non-Local Considerations,” *Sociation* 17 (June 1991) 3-5.
- “Rubén Darío as a Focal Cultural Figure in Nicaragua: The Ideological Uses of Cultural Capital,” *Latin American Research Review* 27, no. 3 (Summer 1992): 7-49.
- “Turning Inward and Outward: Retrospective and Prospective Considerations in the Recording of Vernacular Music in the South,” in *Sounds of the South*, ed. by Daniel Patterson (Chapel Hill: Southern Folklife Collection, 1991).
- “Recapturing the Language: The South and Right-Wing Tactics of Mystification,” *Southern Changes* 14 (Feb. 1992): 1-10.
- Mountaineers and Sandinistas: Cultural Politics in Appalachia and Nicaragua,” *Southern Changes* 14 (December 1992): 4-15.
- “La viabilidad y las implicaciones correctivas de las culturas indígenas,” in Mario Humberto Ruz (ed.), *Semillas de industria: Transformaciones de la tecnología indígena en las Américas* (Tlalpan, México and Washington, D.C.: Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social and Smithsonian Institution Office of Folklife Programs, 1994), pp. 259-265.
- “Gone Country: High Lonesome and the Politics of Writing About Country Music,” in the *Journal of Country Music*, 17 (2), pp. 62-66; also in *Southern Changes*, 17 (Spring 1995): 4-10. [review essay].
- “Commentary,” in Charles R. Wilson (ed.), *The New Regionalism* (Oxford: University Press of Mississippi, 1997), 147-56.

- “The Politics of Culture: Tendencies of Two Centuries and Some Likely Challenges of a Third,” *A Collage of Cultures: Many Visions, One Community . . . The Millennium Exhibition, 1999-2000* (Dover DE: Dover Art League, 2000), 45-49.
- “Media and Cultural Politics in Nicaragua, 1920-1956,” *The Anthropology of Media: A Reader*, Kelly Askew and Richard R. Wilk (eds.) (Malden MA and Oxford: Blackwell, 2002), 357-375.

Reviews and Short Pieces

- National Educational Television. “Earl Scruggs: His Family and Friends,” *John Edwards Memorial Foundation Quarterly* 7 (Summer 1971): 49-52 [review].
- Archie Green. *Only A Miner: Studies in Recorded Coal Mining Songs* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1972). *Nation* 207 (27 August 1973): 154-56 [review].
- “James Boyd,” in *Dictionary of American Biography: Supplement Three, 1941-45* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973): 92-93.
- Martin Duberman, *Black Mountain: An Exploration in Community* (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1972). *South Atlantic Quarterly* 73 (Spring 1974): 227-28 [review].
- James W. Wilkie. *Elitelore* (Los Angeles: Latin American Center, 1973). *Journal of American Folklore* 87 (October 1974): 278-80 [review].
- Floyd C. and Hubert Watkins. *Yesterday in the Hills* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1973). *Southern Folklore Quarterly* 38 (June 1974): 162-63 [review].
- George Vecsey. *One Sunset a Week: The Story of a Coal Miner* (New York: Saturday Review Press, 1973). *Business and Society Review* No. 14 (Summer 1975): 102-03 [review].
- Bill C. Malone and Judith McCulloh. *Stars of Country Music: From Uncle Dave Macon to Johnny Rodriguez* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1975). *Southern Exposure* 4 (Fall 1976): 209 [review].
- “Brief Notes Toward a Reconsideration of Appalachian Values,” *Appalachian Journal* 4 (Autumn 1976): 46-48.
- Harry M. Caudill. *The Watches of the Night* (New York: Atlantic Little-Brown, 1976). *Seven Days*, 28 February 1977, pp. 29-30 [review].
- Vance Randolph. *Pissing in the Snow and Other Ozark Folktales* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1978). *Southern Exposure* 6 (Summer 1978): 122-23 [review].
- Appalachian Film Workshop. *Sourwood Mountain Dulcimer* (Whitesburg, Kentucky: Appalachian Film Workshop, 1977). *Journal of American Folklore* 90 (January 1979): 120-21 [review].
- Truth is Stranger Than Publicity: Alton Delmore's Autobiography. Edited, with an introduction, commentary and discography by Charles K. Wolfe (Nashville: Country Music Foundation Press, 1977). *John Edwards Memorial Foundation Quarterly* 14 (Winter 1978): 212-15 [review].
- Maryland State Council for the Arts. *Voices of Tradition: Scenes and Stories of Maryland Folk Culture* (1978) and *Calling Me Home: Music From the Maryland-Pennsylvania Border* (1979). *Journal of American Folklore* 92 (October 1979): 516-17 [review].
- “James Boyd,” in *Southern Writers*, edited by Robert Bain, Joseph Flora and Louis D. Rubin, Jr. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1979).
- Gaillard, Frye. *Watermelon Wine: The Spirit of Country Music* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1978). *Appalachian Journal* 6 (Winter 1979): 162-64 [review].
- “James Boyd,” “John C. Campbell,” and “Olive Dame Campbell,” in William Powell (ed.) *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1980).
- Bill C. Malone. *Southern Music American Music* (Lexington, KY.: University Press of Kentucky, 1979). *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 79 (Summer 1981): 271-73 [review].

- Smithsonian Institution. *Smithsonian Collection of Classic Country Music* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institutions, 1981). *Appalachian Journal* 10 (Autumn 1982): 87-91. Expanded version also in *Southern Changes* 5 (January-February 1983): 20-24 [review].
- “Three New Discs and Tradition,” *Appalachian Journal* 10 (Autumn 1982): 97-99 [record review].
- Michael J. McDonald and John Muldowny. *TVA and the Dispossessed: The Resettlement of Population in the Norris Dam Area* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1982). *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 91 (July 1983): 363-65. Expanded version also in *Appalachian Journal* 10 (Summer 1983): 390-93 [review].
- Loyal Jones. *Minstrel of the Appalachians: The Story of Bascom Lamar Lunsford* (Boone, N.C.: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1984). *Journal of American Folklore* 99 (January-March 1986): 95-97 [review].
- Bill C. Malone. *Country Music U.S.A.* (Revised edition; Austin: University of Texas Press, 1985). *Journal of Southern History* 52 (August 1986): 483-85 [review].
- Rigoberta Menchú. *Me llamo Rigoberta Menchú: y así me nació la conciencia* [I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala]. (Mexico: Siglo Veintiuno Editores, 1985 / London: Verso, 1984). *Journal of American Folklore* 100 (April 1987): 229-30 [review].
- Neil V. Rosenberg. *Bluegrass: A History* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1985). *Appalachian Journal* 14 (Spring 1987): 268-71 [review].
- Rodger Cunningham. *Apples on the Flood: The Southern Mountain Experience* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1987). *American Historical Review* 93 (December 1988): 1388-89 [review].
- James Agee Film Project, *The Electric Valley*. *Journal of American Folklore* 102 (Oct. 1989): 453-456 [film review-essay].
- Stephen W. Foster, *The Past Is Another Country: Representation, Historical Consciousness, and Resistance in the Blue Ridge* (Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1988). *Appalachian Journal* (Spring, 1990): 286-290 [review].
- “Music Festivals,” “White Top Folk Festival,” and “Bascom Lamar Lunsford” in *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, edited by William Ferris and Charles R. Wilson (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 1010, 1070, 1089.
- “Prospects in Southern Studies: The Appalachian Sector,” *Southern Research Report* 1 (Spring 1990): 41-45.
- Stephen W. Foster, *The Past is Another Country: Representation, Historical Consciousness, and Resistance in the Blue Ridge* (Los Angeles University of California Press, 1988). *Journal of Southern History* 56 (August 1990) [review].
- Robert Dorman, *Revolt of the Provinces: The Regionalist Movement in America, 1920-1945* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993). *American Historical Review* (October 1994): 1408-09 [review].
- Neil Rosenberg (ed.), *Transforming Tradition: Folk Music Revivals Examined* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1993). *Appalachian Journal* 22 (Fall 1994): 88-96 [review essay].
- Cecelia Tichi, *High Lonesome: The American Culture of Country Music*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995. *Southern Changes* 17 (Spring 1995): 4-10. Also in *Journal of Country Music* 17 (2): 62-66. [review essay].
- David C. Hsiung, *Two Worlds in the Tennessee Mountains: Exploring the Origins of Appalachian Stereotypes*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1997. *Indiana Magazine of History*, December 1997, 390-92 [review].

- Mary Beth Pudup, Dwight B. Billings, and Altina L. Waller, *Appalachia in the Making: The Mountain South in the Nineteenth Century*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995. *Southern Cultures* 4 (Fall 1998), 92-97 [review].
- “Bascom Lamar Lunsford” and “Olive Dame Campbell” in Howard E. Covington, Jr. and Marion A. Ellis (eds.), *The North Carolina Century: Tar Heels Who Made a Difference, 1900-2000*. Charlotte: Levine Museum of the New South, 2002.
- Archie Green, *Torching the Fink Books and Other Essays on Vernacular Culture*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001. *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, 8 (Spring 2002), 246-48.
- John A. Williams, *Appalachia: A History*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002. *American Historical Review* (June 2003), 835-836.
- Amberg, Rob. *Sodom Laurel Album*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002. *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 9 (Fall 2003), 450-459.
- “Tarnish on our national treasures,” Op-ed Article on the National Parks “Centennial Initiative,” *Raleigh News & Observer*, 30 March 2007 [with Anne M. Whisnant].
- “Parks History: De Soto National Memorial,” *National Parks Traveler*, March 11, 2008 [with Anne M. Whisnant].

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- “The Sacred and the Profane in Walden,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, 1969.
- “Teaching Appalachian Studies in a Non-Appalachian University,” Midcontinent American Studies Association, 1972.
- “Ethnicity and the Recovery of Appalachian Regional Identity,” Society for Religion in Higher Education, 1972.
- “University Planning: Some Interrelationships Between Self-Concept and Spatial Design,” Society for College and University Planning,” 1972.
- “Folklore, the Folk Hero and Appalachian Struggle History,” American Folklore Society, 1973.
- “Hillbillies and Revolutionaries: Contrary Traditions in Appalachian Music,” Symposium on American Music, Atlantic Christian College, 1974.
- “Appalachian Identity: Pitfalls and Possibilities,” Conference on Appalachians in Urban Areas, Academy for Contemporary Problems, 1974.
- “Folklore and Politics: The Case of Appalachia,” Symposium on North Carolina Folklore and Folklife Research, University of North Carolina, 1974.
- Invited Testimony on H.R. 8770 (A Bill to Establish an American Folklife Foundation) before Committee on House Administration, 93rd Congress, 2nd Session, 9-10 May 1974.
- “Appalachian and Mainstream Values: Tragedy and Transcendence,” Conference on Urban Appalachians, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1976.
- Invited Testimony on Appalachian Redevelopment History before the President's Reorganization Staff, 21 June 1977.
- “Hillbillies and Scotch Highlanders, Developers and Improvers: Cultural Values and the Regional Development Imperative,” West Virginia University Symposium on Regional Research in the Humanities, 1978.
- “The Cultural Dimensions of TVA Policy,” Vanderbilt University Institute of Public Policy Sciences, 1979.

- “Folk Festival Support and the Politics of Culture,” keynote address to National Folk Festival Conference, National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs, 1979.
- “Cultural Images and the Making of Public Policy in Appalachia,” Images of Appalachia Series, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 1979.
- “The Politics of Culture in Appalachia,” Program in American Culture, Vassar College, 1980.
- “Appalachia as a Problem in Regional Cultural Analysis and Challenge to National Cultural Policy,” keynote address to conference on Regional Culture in the United States, International Conference on Regionalism and National Identity, Smithsonian Institution, 1980.
- “‘Second-Level’ Appalachian History: Another Look at Some Fetched-On Women,” Conference on Appalachian Studies, University of Kentucky, 1981.
- “The White Top Folk Festival and the Politics of Culture in Appalachia in the 1930s,” George Mason University / National Archives and Records Service Conference on the 1930s, 1981.
- “Cultural Intervention: Window on the Politics of Culture,” University of North Carolina Graduate Program in Folklore, 1980; George Mason University Program in American Studies, 1981; University of Pennsylvania Graduate Program in Folklore, 1982.
- “International Perspectives on Cultural Policy Formulation: The UNESCO Conferences, 1970-78,” Mid-Atlantic Folklife Association, 1982.
- “Cultural Democracy and Cultural Policy in the United States: A Schematic Introduction and Inventory of Issues,” Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 1982; Western Kentucky University Graduate Program in Folklore, 1985.
- “Old Men and New Schools: Myth and Culture Change in Appalachia,” American Folklore Society, 1983; Southeastern American Studies Association, 1985.
- “On Writing About Culture in the Mountains: Some Reluctant Learnings,” John C. Campbell Folk School, 1985.
- “On Writing About Culture in the Mountains,” special session on All That Is Native and Fine, Appalachian Studies Conference, 1985.
- “Thinking About Cultural Revival Efforts: Retrospective and Prospective Considerations,” Mountain Heritage Center, Western Carolina University, 1986.
- “Reflections on State Humanities Programs,” special session on All That Is Native and Fine, North Carolina Humanities Committee, Southern Pines, North Carolina, Fall 1986.
- “Toward New Approaches to Traditional Culture in Documentary Films,” keynote address at Film and Folklore Festival, University of California Los Angeles, Spring 1987.
- “Sandinista Cultural Policy: Notes Toward an Analysis in Historical Context,” Center for International Policy Analysis and Research (UMBC), Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies (Lehigh University), and Anthropological Society of Washington, Spring 1987.
- “Ancestral Feats and Future Dreams: Sandino and the Politics of Culture,” History and Politics Group, Duke University / University of North Carolina / North Carolina State University, Fall 1988.
- “Opposing Inventions of Tradition: Sandino as Bandit and Culture Hero,” American Studies Association biennial meeting, Miami, Fall 1988.
- “Problems in the Analysis of Cultural Policy and the Politics of Culture in Nicaragua,” Latin American Studies round table, University of North Carolina, Fall 1988.
- “The Influence of Folk Schools and Revival Movements on Dance in the Southern Appalachian Region,” Conference on Old Time Dancing in the Southern Appalachians,” Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, East Tennessee State University, Spring 1989.

- “Turning Inward and Outward: Retrospective and Prospective Considerations in the Recording of Vernacular Music in the South,” Conference on Sounds of the South, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, April 6, 1989.
- “When the Backyard Turns Up on the Front Porch: Some Tentative Thoughts on the Hispanicization of the (Old) South,” Symposium on the Multiple Cultures of the South, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, April 8, 1989.
- “Visions and Revisions of Appalachia,” Conference on Contemporary Perspectives on Southern Traditional Cultures, Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts, Emory University, May 1989.
- “Some Central Problems and Dynamics in the Politics of Culture in Nicaragua,” East-West Center, University of Hawaii, August 1989.
- “Music in Processes of Protest and Resistance: Movements and Other Metaphors,” Conference on Voices of Change: American Music of Protest, Politics and Persuasion,” Merkin Concert Hall, New York, September 1989.
- “Si pequeña es la patria, uno grande la sueña: Rubén Darío as Focal Cultural Figure in Nicaragua,” Southern Historical Association, Fall 1989; UNC Department of English symposium, January 1990.
- “Directions in Southern Studies: The Appalachian Sector,” Southern Studies Working Group, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Fall 1989.
- “Cultural Policy and the Limits of Polite Discourse,” keynote address to Southeastern regional meeting of State Humanities Councils, May 1990.
- “La viabilidad y las implicaciones correctivas de las culturas indígenas,” Conference on Seeds of Industry: Transformations of Indigenous Technology in the Americas, Oaxtepec, Morelos, Mexico, September 1990.
- “Cultural Work and the Limits of Liberalism,” National Humanities Conference, Portland, Oregon, October 1990.
- “Rubén Darío and the Politics of Culture in Nicaragua: The Somocista and Sandinista Constructions,” American Anthropological Association, American Ethnological Association and Society for Cultural Anthropology, November 1990.
- “Recapturing the Language: The South and Right-Wing Tactics of Mystification,” Southern Regional Council, Atlanta, Georgia, November 1991.
- “Cultural Policy Analysis,” Program in Policy Analysis, Department of City and Regional Planning, University of North Carolina, November 1991.
- “Cultural Capital, Cultural Revisionism and Recalcitrant Cultural Formation: Reflections on Appalachia and Nicaragua,” Keynote address to Appalachian Studies Conference, Asheville, North Carolina, March 1992.
- “El movimiento feminista en Nicaragua antes de AMPRONAC,” Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, Antigua, Guatemala, February, 1993.
- “Doing Public Cultural Work: Some Reflections from Appalachia and Nicaragua,” lecture series on Public Folklore: The Politics and Poetics of Performing Culture,” University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, March 1993.
- “Vernacular Culture in the South in the 1930s,” UNC National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Summer Seminar, July 1993.
- Invited commentary on the New Regionalism in the South, Porter L. Fortune, Jr. Symposium on History, University of Mississippi, October 1993
- “The Removal of Antiquities from Nicaragua in the Nineteenth Century: The Case of Earl Flint,” Latin American Studies Association, Atlanta, Georgia, March 1994.

- “Political Mobilization of Culture in Appalachia and Nicaragua: A Comparative Analysis,” Latin American Political Culture in Interdisciplinary Perspective series, Council on Latin American Studies, Yale Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University, January 1997.
- “Mountain Communities in Hypertext: The World Wide Web as Pedagogical Tool,” Appalachian Studies Association, Appalachian State University, March 1998.
- “The White Top Folk Festival: What We (Have Not) Learned,” Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, August 6, 1998.
- “Blue Blooded Women and Redneck Men: Country Music and Social Class,” Program in American Studies, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, November 26, 1998.
- “What If He Is Even Partly Right?: Jack Weller’s Yesterday’s People After Twenty-Five Years,” Appalachian Studies Association (March 1999).
- “Contemporary Interpretation of Appalachia,” Understanding Park Resources Training Session, National Park Service, September 1999.
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