C U R R I C U L U M V I T A E

**Andrew S. Curran**

**William Armstrong Professor of the Humanities**

**and Professor of French**

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**EDUCATION:**

1990-96: New York University, Ph.D., French Literature

2011: Wesleyan University, M.A. *ad eundem gradum*

1993-94: École Normale Supérieure (Fontenay-Saint Cloud)

1982-86: Hamilton College, B.A.

**FELLOWSHIPS / AWARDS**:

\* NAACP Image Nomination 2023 (Outstanding Non-Fiction title) 2023 *Who’s Black and Why?* (with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.)

\* Best Book of the Year Award, 2020, *El Cultural* for the translation of *Diderot y el art de pensar libremente*

\* Shiela Biddle Ford Foundation Fellowship, Hutchins Center for Africa and African American Research Harvard University, 2020 (declined)

*\* Kirkus Reviews,* A Best Book of the Year Award in Nonfiction, 2020

\* Finalist, Paris-American Library Best Book Prize, 2020

\* Finalist, Society of Authors Elizabeth Longford Prize for the Best Historical Biography, 2020

*\** An *Independent.ie* Best Book of the Year Award for *Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely*, 2020

*\** An *Open Letters Review* Best Book of the Year Award for *Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely*, 2020

*\* NRC*, Best Book of the Year Award for *Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely,* 2020

\* Amazon Best Books in History, for *Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely,* June 2019

\* Amazon Best New Book of the Month, for *Diderot* *and the Art of Thinking Freely*, January 2019

\* *New York Times New and Noteworthy*, for *Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely*

\* *Prix* *Monsieur et Madame Louis Marin 2018 de l’Académie des sciences d’outre-mer* for

*The Anatomy of Blackness*

\* Center for the Humanities Fellow, Wesleyan University, Spring 2018, Spring 2008

\* Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques (decoration French Ministry of Education), 2016

\* National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholars Fellowship, 2015-2016

\* *Choice Outstanding Academic Book* award for *The Anatomy of Blackness,* 2013

\* Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (New York Public Library) fellowship (declined), 2012

\* James L Clifford Prize for the best article in eighteenth-century studies,

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2011

\* Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine in the History of Medicine; elected July 2010

\* Shasha Seminar for Human Concerns grant winner, Wesleyan University, 2010

\* Mellon Foundation Summer Research Grant, 2005, 2008, 2010

\* Paul Klemperer Summer Fellowship, New York Academy of Medicine, 2009

\* National Endowment for the Humanities Semester Fellowship, 2002

\* John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Assistant Professor, Union College; 1997-98

\* The Paris-American Club of New York Research Fellowship, 1995

\* French Government Chateaubriand Fellowship, 1994

\*

**BOOKS and EDITED VOLUMES:**

***The Race Makers: How the Enlightenment Invented the Most Dangerous Idea in History*** (under contract, Other Press)

***Who is Black, and Why? A Forgotten Chapter in the Eighteenth-Century Invention of Race*,** with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Harvard University Press, March 2022.

**Reviews:** *Chronicle of Higher Education*; *The Washington Post*

***Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely***, New York: Other Press, 2019

(Portuguese, Spanish Editions, Brazilian, Chinese, Italian editions, 2020-2022)

**Reviews:**

Dan Hofstadter, *Wall Street Journal*; Scott Russell Sanders, *Washington Post*; Adam Gopnik, *The New Yorker;* Stéphane Guegan, *Le Monde*; Matthew C. Simpson, *The New Republic*; Robert Zaretsky, *Los Angeles Review of Books*; Lynn Hunt; *New York Review of Books*; *Publishers Weekly*;Paul Burke, *NB Magazine*; Steve Donoghue, *Open Letters Review*; Jonathan Power, *New York Journal of Books*; David Mason, *Hudson Review*; Chris Schluep, *Amazon Book Review*; Tom Beer, *Newsday*; Sylvana Tomaselli, *History Today*; Matthew C. Simpson, *The New Republic,* Eric Banks, *Bookforum;* John Gray, *New Statesman*; Tom Chaffin*, American Scholar*; Patrick West, *Catholic Herald*; Kate Tunstall, *London Review of Books*; Rudi Rotthier, *Knack*; Peter Flom, *Medium*; Algis Valiunas, *National Review*; Jesús Silva-Herzog Márquez, *Nexos*; Hamilton dos Santos,  *Folha de Sao Paolo*;Peter McPhee, *Australian Book Review;* Pedro Paulo Pimenta, *Quatro cinco um*, Business *Insider*; *Miami Daily*; *Kirkus* (starred review); Roger Bishop, *BookPage* (starred review); *Publishers Weekly* (starred review), *New York Times* (New and Noteworthy), *NRC Handelsblad*; Philipp Blom, *Literary Review*; Hendrik Vanmassenhove, *Liberales*; L.J. Frank, *Narrative Path Journal*; John Banville, *Irish Times*; Max Norman, *Oxford Review of Books*; Phil Shannon, *Green Left Weekly*; *Beijing News*; *France Today*; Joseph Epstein, *Claremont Review of Books*; Peter Laroy, *Liberales*; Daniel Arjona, *El Confidencial*; Juan Alvilés, *El Cultural*; Julen Berrueta, *El Español*; Brandon M. Stickey, *Free Inquiry*; Juan Rodríguez, *El Mercurio*; Hugo Pinto Santos, *Público*; Iñaki Esteban, *El Diario Vasco*; Toni Montsinos, *La Razón*; *The Australian*; Ana Polo Alonso, *Courbette Magazine*; Fernando Palmero, *El Mundo*; Alejandro Oliveros, *Prodavinci*;

***The Anatomy of Blackness: Science and Slavery in an Age of Enlightenment*,**

Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011 (2013).

***La Noirceur disséquée*: *Science et esclavage à l’âge des Lumières,***

Paris : Classiques Garnier, 2017. [Translation and Revised Edition]

**Reviews:**

Marshall Poe, *New Books in History*, 2011; Sarah Goodwin, *Alpata: A Journal of History*, 2012; Mary McAlpin, *Symposium*, 2012; Carl Neikerk, *Centaurus*, 2012; Ian Finseth, *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, 2012; Thierry Hoquet, *Critique*, 2013; Stephen Kenny, *Reviews in History*, 2013: *Choice* (Outstanding Academic Title award),2013; Carolyn Vellenga Berman, *H-France Forum*, 2013; Martin S. Staum, *H-France Forum*, 2013; Jeremy L. Caradonna, *H-France Forum*, 2013; Madeline Dobie, *H-France Forum*, 2013; Anne Lafont, *Perspectives*, 2013; George Newberry, *French History*, 2013; T. Griffith, *Critical Philosophy of Race*, 2013; John D. Garrigus, *New West Indian Guide*, 2013; Alex Fairfax-Cholmeley, *French Studies*, 2014; Nicholas Hudson, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine,* 2014; Julia Douthwaite, *Dix-huitième siècle*; 2014; Rebecca Earle, *European History Quarterly,* 2015; Adriana Novoa, *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, 2015; Roxann Wheeler, *Eighteenth-Century Life*, 2015; Hélene Cussac, *Dix-huitième siècle*, 2018; Stéphane Guégan, *Le Monde*, 2018; Pierre Boizette, *Études littéraires africaines*, 2018; C. Biondi, *Rivista Francofonia*, 2019

***Sublime Disorder: Physical Monstrosity in Diderot’s Universe*,**

Oxford, Voltaire Foundation, 2001.

***Faces of Monstrosity in Eighteenth-Century Thought*** in *Eighteenth*-*Century Life*. (Guest editor). Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, (May 1997).

**SCHOLARLY** “The Invention of Race,” *New York Review of Books*, Dec. 16, 2022 (co-authored

**ARTICLES:** with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.)

Translated as: “Die Erfindung der wissenschaftlichen Rassentheorien” for *Merkur*, April 1, 2022.

“Un apologist abolitionniste : Bergier et les *nègres* de 1767 à 1789”, *Dix-*

*huitième siècle*, 2016, (co-authored with Patrick Graille).

“Anthropology” in the *Cambridge Companion to the French Enlightenment*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014, 29-43.

“Buffon and the Natural History of the African” / “Buffon et l’histoire naturelle des Africains” in *Dix-huitième siècle*, 2012, 183-199.

“Logics of the Human in Diderot’s *Supplément au Voyage de Bougainville*” in *New Essays on Diderot*, James Fowler, ed., Cambridge University Press, 2011, 158-171.

“Rethinking Race History: The Role of the Albino in the French Enlightenment Life Sciences” in *History and Theory* (Oct. 2009), 151-179. (received James. L Clifford Prize, for the best article in eighteenth-century studies, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies)

“Why Study the Representation of Africa in Eighteenth-Century Thought?” / “Pourquoi étudier la représentation de l’Afrique dans la pensée du XVIIIème siècle?”, Introduction to *L’Afrique du siècle des Lumières: Savoirs et représentations.* Catherine Gallouët, David Diop, et al., eds., Oxford: Voltaire Foundation, 2009, xix-xxix.

“Imagining the Enlightenment’s Africa” / “Imaginer l’Afrique au siècle des Lumières” in *Le Problème de l’altérité dans la culture européene*: *Anthropologie, politique et religion*, Naples: *Bibliopolis*, 2006, 101-127*.* (Simultaneously published in *Cromohs* (Cyber Revue of Modern Historiography – Rivista Elettronica di Storiografia Moderna, Universities of Florence and Trieste).

“Diderot and the *Encyclopédie*’s Construction of the Black African” in *Diderot and European Culture,* Anthony Strugnell and Frédéric Ogée, eds., Oxford, Voltaire Foundation, 2006, 35-53.

“Afterword: Anatomical Readings in the Early Modern Era” in *Monstrous* *Bodies, Political Monstrosities*”, Laura Lunger Knoppers and Joan B. Landes, eds., Cornell University Press, 2004, 227-245.

“Diderot’s Revisionism: Blindness and Enlightenment in the *Lettre sur les aveugles*” in *Diderot Studies* 28 (2000), 75-93.

“The Faces of Eighteenth-Century Monstrosity”, Introduction to *Faces of Monstrosity in Eighteenth-Century Thought*, *Eighteenth-Century Life* (May 1997), 1-15, (co-authored with Patrick Graille).

“Exhibiting the Monster: Nicolas-François et Geneviève Regnault’s *Les écarts de la nature*”, *Eighteenth-Century Life* (May 1997), 16-22, (with Patrick Graille).

“Monsters and the Self in *Le* *Rêve de d’Alembert*”in *Eighteenth-Century Life* (May 1997), 48-69.

**JOURNALISM:** “We Need a New Language for Talking About Race,” co-authored with Henry Louis Gates, Jr, *New York Times*, March 6, 2022.

“The Origin of ‘Race’ is a Key Part of the History of Racism,” *Time Magazine*, July 2020.

“El librepensador cuyo coraje sigue siendro rompedor 300 años después,” *El País*, 1/26/2020.

“Five Best Books on Intellectual Freedom,” *Wall Street Journal*, March 16, 2019.

“A Short Guide to Diderot’s Paris,” *Newsweek*, February 28, 2019.

“When Diderot Met Voltaire,” *The Paris Review*, January 24, 2019.

“Beware the Affluence of Gold: On Reading Diderot in the age of Trump,” *The Guardian*, December 15, 2018.

“The Double Room” (Making Sense of a Father’s Death with Baudelaire’s Help), *New York Times*, December 4, 2015.

“Diderot, an American Exemplar? Bien Sûr”, *New York Times*, January 24, 2013.

**INTERVIEWS**

**PRINT/PODCASTS: “**Chicago Writers Museum,” May 4, 2022.

“Politics and Prose,” April 18, 2022.

**“**Diane Rehm Show,” March 31, 2022.

**“**Conversations in Theory.” Interview with Ethan Kleinberg of *History and Theory*, May 8, 2021.

“Abolition of Slavery Ceremony.” Televised Interview on *France24* world television. May 10, 2021.

"Was Napoleon Bonaparte an Enlightened Leader or Tyrant?" by Jacqueline Charles. Interviewed and cited in *Nat Geo*, May 2021.

Stanford Graduate School of Business, Interview with Brian Lowery, January 2021.

[“[https://gsb-courses.stanford.edu/leadership-for-society/2021/01/session-summary-creation-of-race/]](https://gsb-courses.stanford.edu/leadership-for-society/2021/01/session-summary-creation-of-race/)

Press Interview with Jim Windolf, Media Editor of the *New York Times*, at the Boston Book Fair. Televised on C-Span’s *Book TV*(Dec 6, 2020)

[[https://www.c-span.org/video/?476777-1/diderot-art-thinking-freely]](https://www.c-span.org/video/?476777-1/diderot-art-thinking-freely)

*New York Times* special issue on race, August 2020. Interviewed and cited.

Fernando Cohmen,“Entrevista: Andrew S. Curran,” *Muy Historia*, July 2020

[[https://issuu.com/eddy69guerrero/docs/muy\_historia\_-\_julio\_2020]](https://issuu.com/eddy69guerrero/docs/muy_historia_-_julio_2020)

Aurelio Louereiro**,** “Diderot Freedom of Thought, Work, and Omission”

*Epicuro*, 6/1/2020

[[https://epicuro.es/es/news/77-escritorio/firmas/798-diderot-libertad-de-pensamiento-obra-y-omision]](https://issuu.com/eddy69guerrero/docs/muy_historia_-_julio_2020)

Press interview with Chris Stedman, American Humanists Program, 6/5/20

Silvia Nieto, “Andrew Curran, biographer: “Diderot did not believe in Hierarchies, but he was not a Revolutionary,” *ABC Cultural*, 2/21/2020

[[https://www.abc.es/cultura/cultural/abci-andrew-curran-biografo-diderot-no-creia-jerarquias-pero-tampoco-revolucionario-202002210102\_noticia.html](file:////Users/andrewcurran/Dropbox/RESUME%20-%20and%20BIOS/%5bhttps:/www.abc.es/cultura/cultural/abci-andrew-curran-biografo-diderot-no-creia-jerarquias-pero-tampoco-revolucionario-202002210102_noticia.html)]

Daniel Gascón, “Entravista a Andrew S. Curran,” *Letras Libres*, 3/1/2020

[[https://www.letraslibres.com/espana-mexico/revista/entrevista-andrew-s-curran-no-creo-que-diderot-fuera-solucionar-nuestros-problemas-pero-pensar-como-el-nos-vendria-bien]](https://www.letraslibres.com/espana-mexico/revista/entrevista-andrew-s-curran-no-creo-que-diderot-fuera-solucionar-nuestros-problemas-pero-pensar-como-el-nos-vendria-bien)

José Cabrita Saraiva, “Philosophers like Diderot were the Rock Stars of their Generation: Interview with Andrew Curran,” in *Sol* *Magazine*, 10/19/2019

[[https://sol.sapo.pt/artigo/675657/-os-filosofos-como-diderot-eram-as-estrelas-de-rock-da-sua-geracao]](https://sol.sapo.pt/artigo/675657/-os-filosofos-como-diderot-eram-as-estrelas-de-rock-da-sua-geracao)

“Two for Tea with Iona Italia”: “Diderot”. Nov. 2019

Hamilton Dos Santos, *Folha*, 8/21/2019

[[https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/ilustrissima/2019/08/diderot-e-antidoto-contra-o-atual-dogmatismo-politico-diz-biografo.shtml]](https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/ilustrissima/2019/08/diderot-e-antidoto-contra-o-atual-dogmatismo-politico-diz-biografo.shtml)

John Williams, *New York Times*, 1/15/2019

“Ideas with Philip Coulter”: “Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely”. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*, June 2019.

*Lapham’s Quarterly*, March, 2019.

“From Diderot to Wikipedia”, *Arts and Ideas*, BBC Radio 3, February, 2019.

“Forum: KQED”, May 2019

“KPFA: Letters and Politics”, February 2019

“KFAI: Write On! Radio”, February 2019

Freedom from Religion Podcast, February, 2019

*New Books in Biography* for *Diderot*, January, 2019

*New Books in History* for *Anatomy of Blackness*, 2011

Interview for Weekend Edition, National Public Radio,“At 300, Encyclopedia Pioneer May Yet Get a Hero’s Burial”, Oct. 5, 2013

**BOOK REVIEWS:** Review of Anne La Font, *L’Art et la Race*, *H-France*, 2022.

Review of Marian Hobson, ed., Kate Tunstall, Caroline Warman, trans., *Denis Diderot’s* *Rameau’s Nephew*, *A Multi-Media Edition, H-France*, 2016.

Review of *Travels, Explorations, and Empires* in *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Book Reviews Online*, 2002.

http://www.csulb.edu/colleges/cla/ebro/?p=647

Review of Arthur Donovan, *Antoine Lavoisier*: *Science, Administration, and Revolution* in *Dix-huitième siècle*, 29 (1998), 201-202.

Review of Marie-Hélène Huet, *Monstrous Imagination* in *L'Esprit Créateur*, 33, 4 (Winter 1993), 102-103.

**REVIEW ESSAYS**: “On *The Anatomy of Blackness*”, Response to H-France Forum, Oct. 2012.

http://www.h-france.net/forum/forumvol7/Curran1.pdf

“Response to *Reviews in History* essay on *The Anatomy of Blackness*, Jan. 2013.

http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/review/1379

**EXHIBITION:**

Exhibition Co-curator/Writer, “Africa in the Enlightenment Imagination: Visions of the Kongo, Angola, and Matamba 1600-1750”; An interdisciplinary exhibition of iconography examining representations of colonial West Africa.

Mandeville Gallery, Union College (4/97-6/97).

**INVITED LECTURES PRESENTATIONS 2008-2021:**

\* The New York Academy of Medicine (3-22)

\* The New York Public Library Annual Robert Silvers Lecture, (3-22)

\* Amherst College, “The Leah Hewitt and Jay Caplan Lecture” (3-22)

\* The New York Academy of Medicine, “The Great Race Contest” (2-22)

\* University of Virginia, “The Great Race Contest of 1741” (2-21)

\* University of Tennessee’s Distinguished lecture series: “The Great Race Contest of 1741” (3-21)

\* Oberlin College, “On the Bordeaux Academy of Sciences”

\* University of Delaware (10-21)

\* Franklin and Marshall College, “Darwin Day Lecture” (2-20)

\* University of Sao Paolo, “Musings on Historiography” (10-19)

\* University of Sao Paolo, “The Bordeaux Race Contest, 1741” (10-19)

\* ABERJE, Sao Paolo,” “Diderot in an Era of Polarization” (10-19)

\* Hamilton College, “Diderot’s Hair Shirt” (9-19)

\* UCLA, “Diderot, or the Pitfalls of Writing 18th-century Biography” (5-19)

\*Tulane University, “Enlightenment Science and the Category of the

Human” (4-19)

\* Montclair State University, “Diderot’s Hairshirt” (10-18)

\* Johns Hopkins University, “Diderot and Me” (10-18)

\* Wesleyan University, “Diderot’s Hairshirt (4-18)

\* Dartmouth College, “Diderot’s *Encyclopédie*” (4-18)

\* Université de Dakar, “L’albinos dans la théorie de la race” (3-18)

\* Princeton University, “Enlightenment and Race” (12-17)

\* Boston History Group, “Leaving God” (4-17)

\* University of Delaware, “How to Make an Enlightenment” (12-16)

\* University of Delaware, “The Pitfalls of Teaching Race” (12-16)

\* University of Colorado, “Teaching Race in an Early-Modern Context” (10-15)

\* University of Colorado, “Denis Diderot and the Lure of Apostasy” (10-15)

\* University of Oxford, “Religion and Diderot”, (4-15)

\* Georgetown University, “Deep Time and the Rethinking of the Human, c. 1750, (4-15)

\* Fordham University, “The Religious Diderot” (12-14)

\* Syracuse University, “Deep Time and the Rethinking of the Human, c. 1750” (Plenary NEASECS, 9-14)

**\*** Williams College, “Before Anthropology” (3-14)

\* Sarah Lawrence, “Enlightenment Science and the Category of the

Human” (2-14)

\* University of California Irvine, “Before Anthropology” (2-14)

\* Yale University, History, “Anthropology, Anatomy, and the Birth of Race,

c. 1770” (11-13)

\* Union College, Philosophy, “Buffon, Voltaire, and Race” (5-13)

\* Newberry Library, “Before Anthropology” (4-13)

\* Brown University, “Logics of the Human in Diderot’s *Supplément au Voyage de Bougainville*” (3-13)

\* Princeton University, “Before Anthropology” (3-13)

\* Penn State, “Before Anthropology” (10-12)

\* Bryn Mawr, “The Natural History of Slavery” (4-12)

\* New York University in Paris, “Buffon et l’histoire naturelle de

l’esclavage” (3-12)

\* Columbia University, “On the *Anatomy of Blackness*” (10-11)

\* University of Minnesota, “Enlightenment ‘Anthropology’” (9-11)

\* The Johns Hopkins University, “Science and Slavery in Buffon’s *Histoire naturelle*” (10-10)

\* University of Pau, France, “Buffon et l’esclavage” (9-10)

\* New York Academy of Medicine, “On the Natural History of Slavery” (1-10)

\* Yale University, “Enlightenment Meditations: On the Human and Human Bondage” (9-08)

\* Wesleyan University Center for Humanities, “Inventing the Science of the Human” (10-08)

\* Hobart and William Smith College, “Africa and the Enlightenment

Project” (4-08)

**AUTHOR READINGS and APPEARANCES, 2019**

\* Boston Museum of Science (3-22)

\* Harvard University Bookstore at the Brattle Theater (3-22)

\* MILE (4-21)

\* American Humanist Association (6-20)

\* Google, Los Angeles (5-19)

\* UCLA (5-19)

\* Prologue Society, Miami (5-19)

\* Mechanics’ Library, San Francisco (5-19)

\* Town Hall, Seattle (5-19)

\* Boston Atheneum (5-19)

\* University Club of Chicago, Chicago (5-19)

\* Tulane University (4-19)

\* 92nd Street Y (1-18)

\* New York Society Library (1-18)

\* Princeton Public Library (1-19)

\* Wasch Center for Retired Faculty (1-19)

**CONFERENCE PAPERS 2008-2019:**

\* SEASECS, Saint Augustine, Florida (1-20)

\* ISECS, Edinburg, Scotland (7-19)

\* ASECS, Minneapolis (3-17)

\* ASECS, Los Angeles (3-15)

**\*** NEASECS, Syracuse, NY (9-14)

\* Université des Antilles, Guadeloupe (2-13)

\* NEASECS (respondent), Middletown, CT (9-12)

\* ASECS, San Antonio, TX (3-12)

\* ASECS, Vancouver, BC (3-11)

\* MLA, Los Angeles, CA (1-11)

\* ASECS, Albuquerque, NM (3-10)

\* University of Oxford (10-09)

\* NYU (4-09)

**\*** NEASECS, Hobart and William Smith College (10-08)

**\*** College of the Bahamas, Nassau (2-08)

**EDITORIAL BOARDS, AFFILIATIONS, and MEMBERSHIPS:**

\* Review Board, *Diderot Studies*

*\** Editorial Board, *Oxford University Studies in the Enlightenment*

\* Editorial Board, *Critical Philosophy of Race*

\*American Association for Eighteenth-Century Studies

\* Society for French Historical Studies