

# CURRICULUM VITAE

Michael D. Jackson

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## Professional Employment:

Distinguished Visiting Professor of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School  
(2005-).

Guest Professor (1999-2000), Gæste Lektor (2000-2003), Professor (2003-2005),  
Institute of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Part-time Lecturer (June 1996-December 1997), Department of Anthropology,  
The University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

College Professor (1989-1996), Department of Anthropology, Indiana  
University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA.

Part-time Lecturer (March 1984-June 1985), Department of Prehistory and  
Anthropology, The Australian National University, Canberra, A.C.T.  
Australia.

Senior lecturer (1973-1977) and Reader (1977-1982), Department of  
Anthropology and Maori Studies, Massey University, New Zealand.

**Fellowships:**

Professorial Fellow, (winter 2003), Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden.

Stout Research Fellow (1998), Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Visiting Fellow (summer 1990), Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Visiting Fellow (1988-1989), Institute of Advanced Study, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA.

Visiting Fellow and Guest Professor (October-November 1987), Department of Anthropology, University of Uppsala, Sweden.

Katherine Mansfield Memorial Writing Fellowship (1983), Menton, France.

Visiting Fellow (1982), Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University, Canberra, A.C.T. Australia.

Visiting Fellow (summers of 1973-1974, 1977-1978, 1987-1988), Department of Anthropology, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, A.C.T. Australia.

**Research Grants:**

Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School, research grant (2008). "The Enigma of Anteriority: Firstness in the Social Imaginary of Indigenous People."

Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School, research grant (2006). "Maori and Biotechnology: the Logic of Belief and the Logic of Practice."

Wenner-Gren Foundation Grant (1985). "Embodiment and Sociality among The Kuranko of Sierra Leone".

Australian Research Grant Committee (1985). "Embodiment and Sociality Among the Kuranko of Sierra Leone".

Henry Ling Roth Fellowship (1972). "Kinship, Affinity and Friendship among the Kuranko of Sierra Leone".

Nuffield Foundation (1969). "Literacy and Social Change in Sierra Leone".

**Field Research:**

Koinadugu district, NE Sierra Leone, West Africa (Kuranko) 1969-70; 1972; 1979; 1985; 2002; 2003; 2007.

SE Cape York, Queensland, Australia (Kuku-Yalanji) 1993-1994; 1997.

Tanami desert, Northern Territory, Australia (Warlpiri) 1989; 1990; 1991.

**Education:**

Ph.D. Department of Anthropology, University of Cambridge, UK, 1972.

M.A. Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, New Zealand 1967.

B.A. Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand 1961.

**Awards and Prizes:**

The Bridport Prize (poetry), shortlist, 2008.

Honorary Doctor of Literature (Litt.D.), Victoria University of Wellington, 2006.

Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing, 2005. Honorable Mention for *In Sierra Leone*.

Choice magazine "Outstanding Academic Title list" for *The Politics of Storytelling*, 2003.

Senior Book Prize, American Ethnographic Society, 1997. Honorable

Mention for *At Home in the World*.

Buckland Memorial Literary Fund Award, 1995.

Montana Book Awards (New Zealand), Third Prize, 1995.

African Studies Association Herskovits award, Finalist, 1990.

Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing, 1990. Honorable Mention for  
*Paths Toward a Clearing*.

Amaury Talbot Prize for African Ethnography, for *Paths Toward a  
Clearing*, 1989.

Mattara Poetry Prize (University of Newcastle, Australia), Prizewinner, 1984.

Sotheby's International Poetry Competition, Prizewinner, 1982.

New Zealand Book Award for Poetry, for *Wall*, 1981.

Curl Essay Prize (Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and  
Ireland), 1977.

Jessie Mackay Poetry Award (P.E.N.), 1977.

New Zealand Literary Fund Award for Achievement, 1976.

Commonwealth Poetry Prize, for *Latitudes of Exile*, 1976.

Churchill College Essay Prize (Cambridge University), 1969.

Maharaia Winiata Memorial Prize (University of Auckland), 1968.

Fowlds Memorial Prize for Most Distinguished Student in Arts (University of  
Auckland), 1967.

Anthropology Prize (University of Auckland), 1960.

Macmillan-Brown Prize for Creative Writing (University of New Zealand),  
1960.

### **Publications:**

BOOKS (Anthropology)

in press *The Enigma of Anteriority: An Antipodean Journey*.

- in press *Life Within Limits: Wellbeing in a World of Want*.
- 2009 *The Palm At The End Of The Mind*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- 2007 *Excursions*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- 2005 *Existential Anthropology: Events, Exigencies, and Events*. Berghahn: New York & Oxford
2004. (reprinted 2005) *In Sierra Leone*. Duke University Press: Durham.
- 2002 *The Politics of Storytelling: Violence, Transgression, and Intersubjectivity*. Museum Tusulanum Press, University of Copenhagen: Copenhagen.
- 1998 *Minima Ethnographica: Intersubjectivity and the Anthropological Project*. University of Chicago Press: Chicago.
- 1997 *The Blind Impress*. The Dunmore Press: Palmerston North.
- 1995 (reprinted 2000) *At Home in the World*. Duke University Press: Durham
- 1989 *Paths Toward a Clearing: Radical Empiricism and Ethnographic Inquiry*. Indiana University Press: Bloomington.
- 1986 *Barawa, and the Ways Birds Fly in the Sky*. Smithsonian Institution Press: Washington.
- 1982 *Allegories of the Wilderness: Ethics and Ambiguity in Kuranko Narratives*. Indiana University Press: Bloomington.
- 1977 *The Kuranko: Dimensions of Social Reality in a West African Society*. Hurst: London.
- EDITED BOOKS (Anthropology)
- 1996 *Things As They Are: New Directions in Phenomenological Anthropology*. Indiana University Press: Bloomington.
- 1990 (with Ivan Karp). *Personhood and Agency: The Experience of Self and Other in African Cultures*. Uppsala Studies in Cultural Anthropology 14.
- BOOKS (Poetry, Fiction, Memoir)

- 2006 *Dead Reckoning*. Auckland University Press: Auckland.
- 2006 *The Accidental Anthropologist: a Memoir*. Longacre: Dunedin.
- 1996 *Antipodes*. Auckland University Press: Auckland.
- 1994 *Pieces of Music*. Random House: Auckland.
- 1989 *Duty Free: Selected Poems 1965-1988*. McIndoe: Dunedin.
- 1988 *Rainshadow*. McIndoe: Dunedin.
- 1985 *Going On*. McIndoe: Dunedin.
- 1980 *Wall: Poems 1976-1979*. McIndoe: Dunedin.
- 1976 *Latitudes of Exile: Poems 1965-1975*. McIndoe: Dunedin.
- JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS (Anthropology)
- 2009 "Phénomènes limites : un essai sur l'ambiguïté de la nature,"  
*Anthropologica* 51: 133-143.
- 2009 "Cultural Readings of the 'Natural' World." In *Ecology and Environment: Perspectives from the Humanities*, ed. Donald K. Swearer, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Mass.: 109-118
- 2008 'Between Biography and Ethnography,' *Harvard Theological Review* 101 (3-4): 377-397.
- 2008 'The Shock of the New: On Migrant Imaginaries and Critical Transitions',  
*Ethnos* 73(1): 57-72.
- 2007 'In the Footsteps of Walter Benjamin'. *The Best American Spiritual Writing*, 2007. New York: Houghton Mifflin.
- 2007 'Intersubjective Ambiguities'. *Medische Antropologie* 19(1): 147-161.
- 2006 "In the Footsteps of Walter Benjamin". *Harvard Divinity Bulletin* 34(2), 42-57.
- 2006 *A Walk on the Wild Side: The Idea of Nature Revisited*. Concordia Papers in Cosmopolitan Studies, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec.

- 2005 "Whose Human Rights? Suffering and Reconstruction in Postwar Sierra Leone", *Sites: a Journal for South Pacific Cultural Studies* 2 (2): 141-159.
- 2005 "Storytelling Events, Violence, and the Appearance of the Past." *Anthropology Quarterly* 78(2):
- 2004 "Tavshedens Praksis og Lidelsens Prosa." *Tidsskriftet Antropologi* 46:15-27.
- 2004 "The Prose of Suffering and the Practice of Silence," *Spiritus* 4 (1): 44-59.
- 2004 George Devereux. In *Biographical Dictionary of Social and Cultural Anthropology*, ed. Vered Amit. Routledge: London, p. 122.
- 2004 Prefacio: *Vidas em Jogo: Cestas de Adivinhação e Refugiados Angolanos na Zâmbia*, by Sónia Silva. Imprensa de Ciências Sociais: Lisboa, pp. 17-21.
- 2003 Foreword: *I am Dynamite: An Alternative Anthropology of Power*, by Nigel Rapport. Routledge: London, pp. xi-xiv.
2003. "The Politics of Reconciliation: Reflection on Postwar Sierra Leone." In *Being There: New Perspectives on Phenomenology and the Analysis of Culture*, eds Jonas Frykman and Nils Gilje. Nordisk Academic Press, Lund, pp. 95-105.
2002. "The Exterminating Angel: Reflections on Violence and Intersubjectivity." *Focaal: European Journal of Anthropology* 39: 137-148.
2002. "Biotechnology and the Critique of Globalization." *Ethnos* 67(2): 141-153.
- 2002 "Familiar and Foreign Bodies: a Phenomenological Exploration of the Human-Technology Interface." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 8(2):333-346.
- 1999 "Displacement, Refugee Experience and the Critique of Cultural Fundamentalism." *Sites: a Journal for South Pacific Cultural Studies* 37:3-16.
- 1998 "In Extremis: Refugee Stories/Refugee Lives," *Turnbull Library*

- Record* 31:5-17.
- 1997 "Researching Joe Pawelka," *New Zealand Studies* 6(3):3-9.
- 1996 "Introduction" to *Things As They Are: New Directions in Phenomenological Anthropology* (edited and with an introduction by Michael Jackson). Indiana University Press: Bloomington.
- 1991 "Existentialism and traditional West African notions of determinism and free will," in *Text and Context: Models, Metaphors and Meanings in African Symbolism* (edited by Jan Oveson). Uppsala Studies in Cultural Anthropology 17.
- 1990 "The man who could turn into an elephant: shape-shifting among the Kuranko of Sierra Leone," in *Personhood and Agency: The Experience of Self and Other in African Cultures* (edited by Michael Jackson and Ivan Karp). Uppsala Studies in Cultural Anthropology 14:59-78.
- 1988 "In the thrown world: destiny and decision in the thought of traditional Africa," in *Choice and Morality in Anthropological Perspective: Essays in Honor of Derek Freeman* (edited by G.N. Appell and T.N. Madan), State University of New York Press: Albany.
- 1987 "The migration of a name: reflections on Alexander in Africa," *Journal of Cultural Anthropology* 2(2): 235-254.
- 1987 "On ethnographic truth," *Canberra Anthropology* 10(2): 1-31.
- 1983 "Knowledge of the body," *Man* 18: 327-345.
- 1983 "Thinking through the body: an essay on understanding metaphor," *Social Analysis* 14: 127-149.
- 1982 "Meaning and moral imagery in Kuranko myth," *Research in African Literatures* 13(2): 153-180.
- 1979 "Prevented successions: a commentary upon a Kuranko narrative," in *Fantasy and Symbol: Essays in Honour of George Devereux* (edited by R.H.

Hook), Academic Press: London.

- 1978 "An approach to Kuranko divination," *Human Relations* 31(2): 117-138.
- 1978 "The identity of the dead: aspects of mortuary ritual in a West African society," *Cahiers d'Etudes Africaines* 66-67(2-3): 271-297.
- 1978 "Ideology and belief systems in change," *Canberra Anthropology* 1(2): 34-41.
- 1977 "Is participant-observation possible?" *Working Papers of the New Zealand Association of Social Anthropologists* 2:13-16.
- 1977 "Sacrifice and social structure among the Kuranko," *Africa* 47(1): 41-49, and 47(2): 123-139.
- 1975 "Structure and event: witchcraft confession among the Kuranko," *Man* 10: 387-403.
- 1975 "Literacy, communications and social change: the meaning and effects of the transition to literacy in early 19th century Maori society," in *Conflict and Compromise* (edited by I.H. Kawharu), Reed: Wellington.
1974. "The structure and significance of Kuranko clanship," *Africa* 44(4): 397-415.
- 1972 "Aspects of symbolism and composition in Maori art," *Bijdragen Tot de Taal-, Land-, an Volkenkunde* 128(1): 33-80.
- 1968 "Some structural considerations of Maori myth," *Journal of the Polynesian Society* 77(2): 147-162.

## REVIEWS

Reviews in *Anthropological Forum*, *Australian Aboriginal Studies Journal*, *Comment*, *current Anthropology*, *Ethnos*, *Pacific Viewpoint*, *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, *Mankind*, *Oceania*, *Man*, *American Ethnologist*, *American*

*Anthropologist, Africa, Journal of Religions in Africa, UTS Journal, Journal of Developing Societies, etc.*

**Research Consultancies:**

1990, 1991 Central Land Council, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia.

**Research Reports:**

1991 "Assessment of issues arising from destruction of sacred site," Central Land Council, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia.

1990 "Some implications of the Granites gold mine for Aboriginal people," Central Land Council, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia.

**Bio**

Michael Jackson is a graduate of the Universities of Auckland and Cambridge (UK), and has carried out ethnographic fieldwork in Sierra Leone (1969-70, 1972, 1979, 1983, 2002, 2003, 2007) and Aboriginal Australia (1990, 1991, 1994, 1997). The author of numerous books of anthropology, including the prize-winning *Paths Toward a Clearing* and *At Home in the World*, he has also published three novels and six books of poetry (*Latitudes of Exile* was awarded the Commonwealth Poetry Prize in 1976, and *Wall* won the New Zealand Book Award for Poetry in 1981). Michael Jackson's work has been strongly influenced by critical theory, American pragmatism, and existential-phenomenological thought. His ethnographies have consistently sought to make thought answerable to the world – to show how reflection and research can engage with the everyday issues, exigencies and struggles that characterise human life in every society, irrespective of their historical and cultural differences. His innovations in writing ethnography reflect his

determination to make anthropology speak directly to contemporary concerns and to reach an audience beyond the academy. Michael Jackson has taught in his native New Zealand, Australia, the United States (where he was College Professor at Indiana University, Bloomington, 1988-1996), Denmark (as a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Copenhagen), and at Harvard Divinity School (where he is Distinguished Visiting Professor of World Religions).