

Harvey J. Graff Biographical Statement

Harvey J. Graff is Ohio Eminent Scholar in Literacy Studies and Professor of English and History at The Ohio State University. Joining OSU in 2004, he directs the LiteracyStudies@OSU interdisciplinary university-wide initiative. Previously, he was Professor of History and member of three doctoral faculties at the University of Texas at San Antonio. In 1999-2000, Graff served as President of the Social Science History Association for its twenty-fifth anniversary year. In 2001, the University of Linköping in Sweden awarded him the Doctor of Philosophy *honoris causa* for his contributions to scholarship. In 2010, he received OSU's Distinguished Undergraduate Research Mentor Award. In 2013-14, he was Birkelund Fellow at the National humanities Center. In 2013, he received the first Social Science History Association special award for participation 1976-2013, and beyond.

Holder of a Bachelor of Arts degree (1970) from Northwestern University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Graff received the Master of Arts (1971) and Doctor of Philosophy (1975) degrees from The University of Toronto. He has served as a visiting professor in history at Loyola University, Chicago, and in history, education, and English at Simon Fraser University.

At The Ohio State University, Graff is a Faculty Affiliate of the Department of Comparative Studies, Diversity and Identity Studies Collaborative; Humanities Institute; International Poverty Solutions Collaborative; Mershon Center for International Security Studies; Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity; Project Narrative; Popular Culture Studies; and a member of the President's and Provost's Advisory Committee; Neighborhood Institute; and Future of the University Group, among others. He collaborates with faculty in Medical, Law, Education, and the Sciences.

A comparative social historian, Graff is known internationally, especially for his books and articles on the history of literacy and the importance of that history to contemporary issues, his contributions to urban history and urban studies, and his research on the history of children, adolescents, and youth. His writings are published in Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Brazil, and (in progress) China, as well as the United States. He has traveled to speak in Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Sweden, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, Spain, and across the United States. In August, 2014, he was visiting professor at Federal University of Minas Gerais and State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (UERJ).

Graff is a recipient of awards and fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (Canada), National Endowment for the Humanities, American Council of Learned Societies, Texas Committee for the Humanities, Swedish Institute, National Science Foundation, The Newberry Library, Spencer Foundation, and American Antiquarian Society. He has been a fellow of The Newberry Library, the National Academy of Education (Spencer Fellow), the American Antiquarian Society, and the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University. He was nominated for the Grawemeyer Award for Education for 1995. The University of Texas at Dallas awarded him a Special Faculty Development Assignment for his research for 1997-1998, and UT-San Antonio for Fall 2002. OSU awarded a special research assignment in 2007 and a faculty professional leave in 2011-2012. For 2013-2014, he was awarded fellowships from the National Humanities Center and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University. At the National Humanities Center, he completed most of Undisciplining Knowledge: Interdisciplinarity in the Twentieth Century.

Among Professor Graff's major works are The Literacy Myth: Literacy and Social Structure in the Nineteenth-Century City (Academic Press, 1979; new edition, Transaction Publications, 1991); Literacy in History: An Interdisciplinary Research Bibliography (Garland, 1981); Dallas, Texas: A Guide to the Sources of Its Social History, with Alan Baron and Charles Barton (University of Texas Press, 1981); The Legacies of Literacy: Continuities and Contradictions in Western Culture and Society (Indiana University Press, 1987, Italian edition, 1989, Critics' Choice Award of the American Educational Studies Society); The Labyrinths of Literacy: Reflections on Literacy Past and Present (Falmer Press, 1987; revised and expanded edition, University of Pittsburgh Press, Series on Composition, Literacy, and Culture, 1995; Portuguese and Spanish translations forthcoming); Conflicting Paths: Growing Up in America (Harvard University Press, 1995; Choice Magazine Outstanding Academic Book Award, 1995). A new collection of his essays was published in Italian in the distinguished series "Il Sapere Del Libro" from Edizioni Sylvestre Bonnard in Milan (series includes Roger Chartier, Robert Darnton, and Donald McKenzie). In 2008, he published The Dallas Myth: The Making and Unmaking of an American City (University of Minnesota Press) and in 2011 Literacy Myths, Legacies, and Lessons: New Studies of Literacy (Transaction Publishers)..

Graff has also published more than twenty books and 140 articles and essays on the history of cities; education; literacy; family, women, and children; growing up; criminality; social structure and population; and methodology and theory in numerous journals. A contributor to a number of encyclopedias and reference works, his writings are often reprinted and translated.

Graff has coauthored Children and Schools in Nineteenth-Century Canada/L'école canadienne et l'enfant au dix-neuvième siècle with Alison Prentice (Canada's Visual History, National Museum of Man, 1979; revised edition on CD-ROM, 1994); and edited Quantification and Psychohistory with Paul Monaco (University Press of America, 1980); Literacy and Social Development in the West (Cambridge University Press, 1981, Italian edition, 1986); National Literacy Campaigns: Historical and Comparative Perspectives with Robert Arno (Plenum Publications, 1987); Growing Up in America: Historical Experiences (Wayne State University Press, 1987); Looking Backward and Looking Forward: Perspectives on Social Science History (University of Wisconsin Press, 2004); and Understanding Literacy in its Historical Contexts: Socio-Cultural History and the Legacy of Egil Johansson, co-editor with Alison Mackinnon, Bengt Sandin, and Ian Winchester (Lund, Sweden: Nordic Academic Press, 2009).

He prepared the chapter on history for The Social Worlds of Higher Education: Handbook for Teaching in a New Century (1999), a project of the American Sociological Association, and the entry on literacy for the Oxford Companion to United States History (2001).

Graff's book, The Dallas Myth: The Making and Unmaking of an American City (University of Minnesota Press, 2008), is an experiment in historical writing, a new approach to and interpretation of American urban life, and an urban historian and urbanite's critical reflections on the city's past, present, and future. His latest book, Undisciplining Knowledge: Interdisciplinarity in the Twentieth Century, is published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2015. It is drawing widespread attention. With his move to OSU, he has returned to the study of literacy in American society and culture, and a special focus on the interdisciplinary university-wide LiteracyStudies@OSU Initiative. In 2011, he published Literacy Myths, Legacies, and Lessons: New Studies on Literacy (Transaction). He is completing Searching for Literacy: The Origins of Literacy Studies. His new book project is a critical, comparative, and historical study of public higher education.

Graff edits the Interdisciplinary Studies in History book series for Indiana University Press. He has served on the editorial boards of such journals as Interchange, History of Education Quarterly, Historical Methods, Social Science History, Historical Social Research/Historische Sozialforschung, Literacy and Numeracy Studies, Journal of Language, Identity, and Education, Literacy and Composition Studies, and several book series. He is an advisory board member for H-Urban and H-Childhood of the H-Net history and humanities electronic Internet networks. He reviews manuscripts and books for numerous presses and journals.

Past president of North Texas Phi Beta Kappa, Graff has held offices in the Canadian Association for American Studies, History of Education Society, Urban History Association, Society for the History of Children and Youth, and Social Science History Association. In 1998-99, he served as Vice President and President-Elect, and in 1999-2000, President of the Social Science History Association. He presided over the 25th anniversary of the SSHA, a combined celebration and critical stock-taking with the theme "Looking Backward and Looking Forward: Perspectives on Social Science History." He regularly consults with civic and community organizations, historical societies, newspapers and television stations, and humanities and literacy programs, including projects and programs in Canada and Australia. He has advised public television, telecourses, TV and video series, documentaries, and docudramas. Several of the public television programs and films on which he has advised have won awards. Graff has served on numerous advisory boards and committees, including the City of Dallas Historic Landmark and Preservation taskforce, for which he wrote the copy for historical landmark dedications and brochures, 1977-1985; Dallas Public Library Humanities Resources Information System project; and the American Antiquarian Society Program on the History of the Book in American Culture. For several years, he served as academic advisor to "Teen Chicago," a project of the Chicago Historical Society, and sat on the Advisory Board of the Chicago Companion to the Child, a project of the University of Chicago Press.

[2015]