



Eric Cheyfitz Bio

Eric Cheyfitz is the Ernest I. White Professor of American Studies and Humane Letters at Cornell University, where he has served as director of the American Indian Program, the faculty coordinator of the Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, and the director of the Mellon Post-doctoral Diversity Seminar. He teaches American literatures, American Indian literatures, and U.S. federal Indian law and is the author of three books: *The Transparent: Sexual Politics in the Language of Emerson* (1981); *The Poetics of Imperialism: Translation and Colonization from The Tempest to Tarzan* (1991, 1997), which was named by *Choice* as one of the outstanding academic books of 1991; and *The (Post)Colonial Construction of Indian Country: U.S. American Indian Literatures and Federal Indian Law*, which appears as Part I of his edited volume, *The Columbia Guide to American Indian Literatures of the United States since 1945* (2006). He is the co-editor of *Sovereignty, Indigeneity, and the Law*, a special issue of *South Atlantic Quarterly* which won the award for the best special issue of an academic journal in 2011 given by the Council of Editors of Learned Journals and was acknowledged for "Outstanding Indigenous Scholarship" in the same year by the American Indian and Alaska Native Professors Association. His most recent publications are "The Force of Exceptionalist Narratives in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," which appeared in the *Journal of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association* in 2014; "Disinformation: The Limits of Capitalism's Imagination and the End of Ideology," which appeared in *boundary 2* in the same year; and in October of 2015 "Native American Literature and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," in Deborah Lea Madison, ed. *The Routledge Companion to Native American Literature*. He has just completed his fourth book: *Disinformation: The Limits of Capitalism's Imagination and the Decline of Liberal Democracy in the United States*.

Eric Cheyfitz Statement

Since coming to Cornell in 2003, I have served as the English Department representative on the faculty senate (2006-present), the Special Committee on Governance created by the Faculty Senate (2005-07) and the University Faculty Committee (UFC, 2009-2012). I have, then, an intimate knowledge of how governance at Cornell both functions and dysfunctions. Serving on these bodies, I have been an outspoken advocate for the principles of shared governance as articulated in the by-laws of the university. In conjunction with this advocacy, I am committed to strengthening Cornell's historic liberal arts profile ("any person...any study") at a time when locally, nationally, and internationally there is a trend to subsume the liberal arts under a tech-business agenda. Along with these commitments, and intertwined with them, I have been active in both my teaching and service with key diversity issues on campus, particularly as they impact specific underrepresented communities: Native American, Latinx, African American, Palestinian, and LGBTQ. If I am elected a faculty trustee, I will bring advocacy for these issues of governance, the liberal arts, and diversity to the Board of Trustees.