



Eric Cheyfitz, Ernest I. White Professor of American Studies and Humane Letters

Biography:

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 and Indigenous Studies 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 has published four 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; *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); and *The Disinformation Age: The Collapse of Liberal Democracy in the United States* (Routledge, 2017). 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. He has appeared in documentary film, radio, and television and published over forty articles in journals, books, and national and international print media, including such titles as "The Force of Exceptionalist Narratives in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict"; "Native American Literature and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"; and "Reading Global Indigenous Resistance in Simon Ortiz's *Fight Back*."

Statement:

I have extensive experience in dealing with issues that are central to both diversity and governance at Cornell. My experience in supporting diversity includes serving as director of the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program from 2008-2011, the faculty coordinator of the

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Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program from 2004-2011, and the director of the Mellon Post-doctoral Diversity Seminar (2013-14). All my scholarship and teaching are focused on diversity issues. Representative of my teaching are two of my recent courses: "The Race and Gender of Poverty in Literature and Film" and "Thinking From A Different Place: Indigenous Philosophies." A significant number of my courses are listed in the Inequality Studies curriculum. If I am elected to the UFC, then, I will be a strong voice supporting programs of inclusion at Cornell, including, importantly, the ethnic studies programs and FGSS, which are central to the university's curricular commitment to "diversity" but not sufficiently supported at present and too often marginalized or not represented when questions of inclusion are addressed.

In terms of governance, I served on the Special Committee on Governance created by the University Senate from 2005-07; on the Faculty Senate from 2006-2018; and on the UFC from 2009-2012. I was a strong and visible advocate in this service for faculty governance in matters of educational policy mandated in the bylaws of Cornell but increasingly ignored by the administration in such cases as the institutionalization of Cornell Tech and the Business College.

If elected to the UFC I will continue my advocacy for the issues of diversity and governance elaborated herein.