

# GEORGE CHAUNCEY

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## CURRENT POSITION

Samuel Knight Professor of History and American Studies, Yale University  
Chair, Department of History, 2012-2013  
Co-director, Yale Research Initiative on the History of Sexualities

## PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Professor of History, University of Chicago, 1997-2006.  
Visiting Professor of History, École Normale Supérieure, Paris, May 2001.  
Associate Professor of History, University of Chicago, 1995-97.  
Assistant Professor of History, University of Chicago, 1991-95.  
Assistant Professor of History, New York University, 1990-91.  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, 1989-90.

## DEGREES

Ph.D., Yale University, 1989.  
M.Phil., Yale University, 1983.  
M.A., Yale University, 1981.  
B.A., Yale University, *magna cum laude*, 1977.

## AWARDS

Gay New York was awarded the:

Frederick Jackson Turner Award for the best first book on any topic in American history in 1994  
Merle Curti Award for the best book in American social history in 1994 or 1995  
(both from the Organization of American Historians),  
Los Angeles Times Book Prize for History (1994),  
Lambda Literary Award for Gay Men's Studies (1994),  
John Boswell Award of the Committee on Lesbian and  
Gay History of the American Historical Association (1995).  
Named a New York Times Notable Book of 1994.  
Village Voice List: one of the Best Books of 1994.  
Lingua Franca List: one of the two best academic books of the 1990s.  
Subject of a panel discussion, "Charting Chauncey's Gay Male World: Reflections on the  
Tenth Anniversary of *Gay New York*," at the 2004 meeting of the OAH.

As a dissertation, Gay New York received the following prizes from Yale University:

George Washington Egleston Prize in American history (1990),  
John Addison Porter Prize, Yale's highest university-wide dissertation award (1990),  
Andrew Gaylord Bourne Gold Medal, the Yale History Department's  
triennial award for a "pioneering work of scholarship" (1992).

Other Honors:

Sidonie Miskimin Clauss Prize for Teaching Excellence in the Humanities, Yale, 2012  
New York Academy of History, elected to membership in 2007  
Society of American Historians, elected to membership in 2005

Community Service Award from the Lesbian Community Cancer Project, Chicago, 2004.  
Freedom Award from Equality Illinois, the state's largest gay rights group, 2001.  
First James Brudner Memorial Award in Lesbian and Gay Studies, Yale University, 2000.  
Centennial Historian of the City of New York, 1998.  
Sprague-Todes Literary Award, Gerber-Hart Library, 1997.

## BOOKS AND EDITED COLLECTIONS

### Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940

Basic Books, 1994; paperback, 1995.

British edition published by HarperCollins/U.K., 1995.

French translation by Didier Eribon published by Fayard, 2003.

Chapters reprinted in:

The Columbia Reader on Lesbians and Gay Men in Media, Society, and Politics, eds. Larry Gross and James C. Woods (Columbia, 1999)

The Gender and Consumer Culture Reader, ed. Jennifer Scanlon (NYU, 2000)

Major Problems in the History of American Sexuality: Documents and Essays, ed. Kathy Peiss (Heath, 2001)

Sexualities in History, eds. Kim M. Phillips and Barry Reay (Routledge, 2002).

American Queer: Now and Then, ed. David Shneer and Caryn Aviv (Paradigm, 2006).

### The Strange Career of the Closet: Gay Culture, Consciousness, and Politics from the Second World War to the Gay Liberation Era

(in progress, to be published by Basic Books).

### Why Marriage? The History Shaping Today's Debate Over Gay Equality (Basic Books, 2004; paperback, 2005).

Japanese translation published by Akashi Shoten, 2006.

### Hidden From History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past

(Co-editor, with Martin Duberman and Martha Vicinus; a collection of thirty essays published by New American Library in 1989).

Turkish translation published by Siyasal, 2002.

### Thinking Sexuality Transnationally

(= special issue of GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies, 5:4 (1999), co-editor with Elizabeth Povinelli).

### Gender Histories and Heresies

(= special issue of Radical History Review, 52 (1992), co-editor with Barbara Melosh).

## ARTICLES IN SCHOLARLY JOURNALS AND COLLECTIONS

"The Trouble with Shame," in Gay Shame, ed. David Halperin and Valerie Traub (University of Chicago Press, 2010).

"How History Mattered: Sodomy Law and Marriage Reform in the United States," Public Culture 20:1 (2008): 27-38.

"Homosexuality, Family, and Society: Historical Perspectives from the United States," in Homosexuality and the Law: Essays and Materials from an International Workshop on Sexuality, Policy, and Law (Guangxi Normal University Press, 2007 [in Chinese and English]), 12-18, 115-23.

"Après Stonewall, le déplacement de la frontière entre le 'soi' public et le 'soi' privé," Histoire et Sociétés: revue européenne d'histoire sociale 3 (2002): 45-59.

"Skapets historie," Kvinneforskning 24 (2000): 56-71 ["The History of the Closet," in the Norwegian journal Women's Studies].

"Introduction: Thinking Sexuality Transnationally," with Elizabeth A. Povinelli, in Povinelli and Chauncey, eds., "Thinking Sexuality Transnationally," special issue of GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies 5:4 (Autumn 1999): 439-49.

“Gay New York,” Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales 125 (December 1998): 9-14.

[This article and the rest of the special issue on *Homosexualités* are introduced by Éric Fassin, “Politiques de l’histoire: *Gay New York* et l’historiographie homosexuelle aux États-Unis,” 3-9.]

“Genres, identités sexuelles et conscience homosexuelle dans l’Amérique du xx<sup>e</sup> siècle,” in Les études gay et lesbiennes, ed. Didier Eribon (Paris: Éditions du Centre Pompidou, 1998), 97-108.

“Sex, Gender, and Sexuality: Female Prostitution and Male Homosexuality in Early Twentieth-Century America,” GRAAT (Groupes de Recherches Anglo-Américaines de Tours) 17 (1997): 39-54.

“The Queer History and Politics of Lesbian and Gay Studies,” Queer Frontiers: Millennial Geographies, Genders, and Generations, ed. Joseph Boone, et al. (University of Wisconsin Press, 2000), 298-315.

“From Sexual Inversion to Homosexuality: Medicine and the Changing Conceptualization of Female Deviance,” Salmagundi, no. 58-59 (Fall 1982-Winter 1983): 114-46.

Reprinted in two collections:

Homosexualidad: literatura y política (Madrid, 1982), in Spanish

Passion and Power: Sexuality in History, ed. Kathy Peiss and Christina Simmons (Temple University Press, 1989).

“Christian Brotherhood or Sexual Perversion? Homosexual Identities and the Construction of Sexual Boundaries in the World War One Era,” Journal of Social History 19:2 (1985): 189-211.

Reprinted in ten collections:

Onder Mannen, Onder Vrouwen (Amsterdam, 1984), in Dutch

Sodomites, Invertis, Homosexuels: Perspectives Historiques (Paris, 1994), in French

Expanding the Past: Essays from the Journal of Social History

(New York University Press, 1988)

Hidden From History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past (NAL, 1989)

Studies in Homosexuality: History of Homosexuality in Europe and America

(Garland, 1992)

Gender in American History Since 1890 (Routledge, 1993)

Que(e)rying Religious Studies (Continuum, 1997)

Same Sex: Debating the Ethics, Culture, and Science of Homosexuality

(Rowman & Littlefield, 1997)

American Sexual Histories (Blackwell, 2001)

Sexual Borderlands: Constructing An American Sexual Past (Ohio University Press,

2003)

“‘Privacy Could Only Be Had in Public’: Gay Uses of the Streets,” Stud: Architectures of Masculinity, ed. Joel Sanders (Princeton Architecture Press, 1996), 224-61.

“The Postwar Sex Crime Panic,” True Stories from the American Past, ed. William Graebner (McGraw-Hill, 1993), 160-78.

“Long-Haired Men and Short-Haired Women: Building a Gay World in the Heart of Bohemia,” Greenwich Village: Culture and Counterculture, ed. Rick Beard and Leslie Berlowitz (Rutgers University Press, 1993), 151-64.

“The Policed: Gay Men’s Strategies of Everyday Resistance,” Inventing Times Square: Commerce and Culture at the Crossroads of the World, 1880-1939, ed. William R. Taylor (Russell Sage, 1991), 315-28.

Reprinted in Creating A Place For Ourselves: Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community Histories, ed. Brett Beemyn (Routledge, 1997).

“The National Panic Over Sex Crimes and the Construction of Cold War Sexual Ideology, 1947-1953,” Sociologische Gids [Amsterdam] 32 (1985): 371-93. [In Dutch; title translated.]

“The Locus of Reproduction: Women’s Labour in the Zambian Copperbelt, 1927-1953,” Journal of Southern African Studies 7 (1981): 135-64.

## **SELECTED SHORT ESSAYS, REVIEWS, INTERVIEWS, AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES**

Preface to Didier Eribon, Return to Reims, transl. from the French by Michael Lucey (Semiotext[e], 2013)

- “The Long Road to Marriage Equality,” op-ed on the Supreme Court marriage rulings, New York Times, June 26, 2013.
- “Last Ban Standing,” op-ed on the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” New York Times, December 21, 2010.
- “Gay at Yale: How Things Changed,” Yale Alumni Magazine (July/August 2009), 32-43.
- “George Chauncey: de l’autre côté du placard,” interview conducted by Philippe Mangeot for Vacarme, no. 26 (Winter 2004), 4-12.
- “D’une march à l’autre,” interview conducted by Sébastien Chauvin for Têtu (June 2004), 86-87.
- Review of James McCourt, “Queer Street: Rise and Fall of an American Culture, 1947-1985,” New York Times, December 31, 2003.
- “Etats Unis” and “New York,” in Dictionnaire Des Cultures Gays Et Lesbiennes, ed. Didier Eribon, Arnaud Lerch, Frederic Haboury (Larousee, 2003).
- “Introduction,” Homosexuality in the City: A Century of Research at the University of Chicago (University of Chicago Library, 2000).
- “Who is Welcome at Ellis Island? AIDS Activism and the Expanding National Community,” Honoring With Pride: An Evening Benefit for the American Foundation for AIDS Research on Ellis Island, program book, June 21, 2000.
- “The Ridicule of Lesbian and Gay Studies Threatens All Academic Inquiry,” back page “Point of View” column, Chronicle of Higher Education, July 3, 1998.
- Review of Charles Kaiser, “The Gay Metropolis, 1940-1996,” New York Times, December 30, 1997.
- Review of Daniel Harris, “The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture,” New York Times Book Review, September 7, 1997.
- “The Joy of No Sex,” part of a Talk-of-the-Town roundtable on the Heaven’s Gate mass suicide, The New Yorker, April 14, 1997, 31-32.
- “The Present as History,” Out Magazine, February 1997, 69.
- “Tea and Sympathy,” Past Imperfect: History According to Hollywood, ed. Mark Carnes (Henry Holt, 1995), 258-61.
- “Gay male community,” in The Encyclopedia of New York City, ed. Kenneth Jackson (Yale, 1995).
- “A Gay World, Vibrant and Forgotten,” New York Times Op-Ed Page, Sunday, June 26, 1994.
- “Queer Old New York: A Historic Walking Tour,” Village Voice, June 21, 1994, 25-27.
- “Homosexuality,” The Encyclopedia of Social History, ed. Peter N. Stearns (Garland, 1993), 323-25.
- “Time on Two Crosses: An Interview with Bayard Rustin” (with Lisa Kennedy), Village Voice, June 30, 1987, 27-29.
- “Gay Male Society in the Jazz Age,” Village Voice, July 1, 1986, 29-34.

## **FELLOWSHIP AWARDS**

- New York Public Library Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers Residential Fellowship, 2004-5.
- Princeton University Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies Fellowship, 2004-5 [declined].
- Institute for Advanced Study School of Social Science Membership, 2004-5 [declined].
- Social Science Research Council Sexuality Research Fellowship, two Faculty Advisor Awards, 2002-3.
- Social Science Research Council Sexuality Research Fellowship, Faculty Advisor Award, 1999-2000.
- Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study, Indiana University, September 1998.
- Social Science Research Council Sexuality Research Fellowship, two Faculty Advisor Awards, 1997-98.
- John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, 1996-97.
- National Humanities Center Rockefeller Fellowship and Residency, 1996-97.

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship for Recent Recipients of the Ph.D., 1992-93.  
Cornell University Society for the Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1991-92  
[declined in order to accept new position at Chicago].  
Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1989-90.  
New York University School of Law Samuel Golieb Fellowship in Legal History, 1987-88.  
Mrs. G. Whiting Foundation Fellowship in the Humanities, 1986-87.  
Woodrow Wilson Foundation Research Grant in Women's Studies, 1984.  
Bush Center in Child Development and Social Policy History Fellowship, 1983-84.  
Yale College Prize Teaching Fellowship, 1982-83.  
Danforth Foundation Graduate Fellowship, 1979-82.  
John Courtney Murray Travelling Fellowship, 1977-78 [supported research in Zambia].

#### **PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR, INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS**

Ford Foundation, grant in support of "The Future of the Queer Past: A Transnational History Conference,"  
University of Chicago, 2000.  
Rockefeller Foundation, grant in support of "The Future of the Queer Past: A Transnational History  
Conference," University of Chicago, 2000.  
Illinois Humanities Council, grant in support of "The Future of the Queer Past: A Transnational History  
Conference," University of Chicago, 2000.  
Mellon Foundation, grant in support of the Sawyer Seminar on Sexual Identities and Identity Politics in  
Transnational Perspective, University of Chicago, 1997-98.

#### **NAMED LECTURES, PLENARY LECTURES, AND SELECTED FOREIGN LECTURES**

"From Sodomy Laws to Marriage Amendments: The History Shaping Today's Debate over LGBT Equality,"  
keynote address at Toward a More Perfect Union: Civil Rights, Human Rights, and Creating a New Age of  
Social Responsibility, Benjamin Hooks Conference for Social Change, University of Memphis, April 18-20,  
2012  
"Single Men, Urban Decline, and the Cultural Logic of Postwar American Antigay Politics," Rutgers Center  
for Historical Analysis Twentieth Anniversary Celebration Conference, Rutgers University, May 7, 2010  
"Homosexuality and the Postwar City," Center for Interdisciplinary Research in the Arts, University of  
Manchester, England, March 2009.  
"Homosexuality and the Postwar City," keynote lecture, Australia-New Zealand American Studies  
Association, Sydney, July 2008.  
"From Sodomy Laws to Marriage Amendments: A History of Sexual Identity/Politics," Provost's Lecture,  
University of Maryland, College Park, February 2008.  
"Revisiting the Postwar Politics of Sexuality," keynote lecture (with Joanne Meyerowitz), New England  
American Studies Association, Brown University, November 2007.  
"From Sodomy Laws to Marriage Amendments: A History of Sexual Identity/Politics," Presidential Lecture,  
Columbia University, April 2007.  
"Why 'Come Out of the Closet'? Secrecy, Authenticity, and the Shifting Boundaries of the Public and Private  
Self in the 1950s and 60s," Vern and Bonnie Bullough Lecture in the History of Sexuality and Gender,  
University of Utah, April 2007.  
"The Future of Sexuality Studies," at the plenary session of the Sexuality Research Fellowship Program's  
Capstone Conference (commemorating the conclusion of a ten-year-long fellowship program funded by the  
Ford Foundation and administered by the Social Science Research Council), Tamayo Resort, New Mexico,  
April 2006.  
"Homosexuality, State, and Society: Historical Perspectives from the United States," at the symposium  
"Diversity, Equality and Harmony: International Workshop on Sexuality, Policy and Law," School of Social  
Development and Public Policy, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, January 2006.

“How History Mattered: Sodomy Law and Marriage Reform in the United States,” at the conference “Partisan Histories: Conflicted Pasts and Public Life,” The Australian National University, Canberra, September 2005.

“From Sodomy Laws to Marriage Amendments: Sexual Identity/Politics Since 1900,” Kaplan Lecture, University of Pennsylvania, March 2004.

“Reflections on Gay New York and Beyond,” at the symposium “Histoire sexuelle et histoire sociale, à l’occasion de la traduction française de *Gay New York 1890-1940* de George Chauncey,” École normale supérieure, Paris, December 2003.

“Civil Rights, Gay Rights, Human Rights,” dual keynote address given with Mrs. Coretta Scott King at the beginning of Outgiving, a conference on gay philanthropy organized by the Gill Foundation, Atlanta, September 2003.

“Drag Balls as Society Balls: Phil Black’s Funmakers’ Ball and the Changing Rituals of Belonging in African American Society, 1940-1973,” Mark Ouderkirk Memorial Lecture, Museum of the City of New York, September 2003.

“A Different West Side Story: Latino Gay Culture and Antigay Politics in Postwar New York City,” Nicholas Papadopoulos Endowed Lecture in Lesbian and Gay Studies, University of California, San Diego, February 2003.

“Why ‘Come Out of the Closet’? Secrecy, Authenticity, and the Shifting Boundaries of the Public and Private Self in the 1950s and 60s,” The Rahv, Hughes, Manuel and Marcuse Memorial Lecture, Brandeis University, February 2003.

“Sexual Identity in the Twentieth Century,” Women’s Breakfast, American Historical Association, January 2003.

“Sexuality, Intimacy, and History,” Commencement Address, University of Chicago, June 2002.

“Why ‘Come Out of the Closet’? Authenticity, Post/Modernity, and the Shifting Boundaries of the Public and Private Self in the 1950s and 60s,” at “Histoire de la sexualité: échanges transatlantiques,” at the École normale supérieure, Paris, May 2001.

“The History of the Closet,” Inaugural George Mosse Memorial Lecture, University of Wisconsin, April 2001.

“The History of the Closet,” at the Sexuality 2000 Symposium, Oslo, Norway, August 2000.

“Why ‘Come Out of the Closet’? Authenticity, Post/Modernity, and the Shifting Boundaries of the Public and Private Self in the 1950s and 60s,” Inaugural Brudner Prize Lecture, Yale University, February 2000.

“Rethinking the History of Homosexuality and the Category of the Homosexual” and “A Research Program for Lesbian and Gay Studies,” at the First Swedish Conference on Research on Homosexuality and Lesbianism, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, November 1995.

“The National Panic over Sex Crimes in Cold War America,” Inaugural Mark Ouderkirk Memorial Lecture, Museum of the City of New York, June 1995.

“Gay Studies on Trial: Queer History/Politics/Studies,” at the Fifth National Graduate Student Conference on Lesbian and Gay Studies, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, March 1995.

“The Kinsey Scale and the Consolidation of the Hetero-Homosexual Binarism in the Twentieth Century,” at the Second International Conference on the History of Marriage and the Family, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, 1994.

“European Sexual Cultures in the Immigrant Neighborhoods of New York City, 1890-1940,” at the International Conference on European Sexual Cultures, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 1992.

“Publish *and* Perish? Lesbian/Gay Studies, Publishing, and the Academy,” at the plenary session on “New Directions in Scholarship,” Association of American University Presses, Chicago, June 1992.

## **OTHER INVITED LECTURES SINCE 1989**

Internationale Kolleg für Kulturtechnikforschung und Medienphilosophie, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany, April 18, 2013  
University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, March 14 and 15, 2013  
University of Southampton, UK, February 21, 2013  
Chicago Humanities Festival, November 4, 2012  
Social Policies, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation Studies Association, Istanbul, Turkey, July 5, 2012  
Chicago History Museum, April 14, 2011  
Columbia University, February 19, 2011  
University of Antwerp, Belgium, March 20, 2010  
University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, March 15, 2010  
Middlebury College, October 17, 2008.  
The Rothmere American Institute, Oxford University, UK, April 30, 2008.  
University of Texas, Austin, April 11, 2008.  
University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, May 3, 2006.  
Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 20, 2006.  
Kansas State University, March 10, 2006.  
University of Miami, February 27, 2006.  
DePaul University, Chicago, February 20, 2006.  
Harvard University, February 3, 2006.  
University of Massachusetts, Boston, February 3, 2006.  
Boston University, February 2, 2006.  
Yale University, January 17, 2006.  
University of Melbourne, Australia, September 21, 2005.  
University of Sydney, Australia, September 7, 2005.  
New York University, April 19, 2005.  
Chicago Historical Society, May 27, 2004.  
University of North Texas, April 17, 2004.  
University of Maryland, February 23, 2004.  
University of California, Berkeley, September 25, 2003.  
University of California, Los Angeles, February 20, 2003.  
University of Minnesota, February 15, 2002.  
Texas A&M University, April 25, 2001.  
William and Mary College, April 18, 2001.  
Northwestern University, April 5, 2001.  
Harvard University, November 16, 2000.  
Trinity College, November 15, 2000.  
University of Michigan, April 15, 2000.  
University of Connecticut, Storrs, February 17, 2000.  
Hobart and William Smith Colleges, February 13, 2000.  
Chicago Humanities Festival, November 8, 1998.  
Indiana University, September 17, 1998.  
University of Minnesota, May 22, 1998.  
Institute for the Humanities, University of Illinois, Chicago, February 13, 1998.  
Pompidou Center, Paris, June 27, 1997.  
Colby College, April 10, 1997.  
Cornell University, April 8, 1997.  
University of California, Los Angeles, February 5, 1997.  
University of California, Irvine, February 3-4, 1997.  
Northwestern University, December 6, 1996.  
Yale University, American Studies and History Departments, November 7, 1996.  
Yale School of Architecture Urbanism Series, November 7, 1996.  
University of Copenhagen, Denmark, November 3, 1995.  
National Danish Lesbian and Gay Organization, Copenhagen, November 3, 1995.  
University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, MillerComm Lectures, October 23, 24, 1995.

University of Notre Dame, September 9, 10, 1995.

Princeton University, March 9, 1995.

Chicago Teacher's Institute, December 7, 1994.

New York Academy of Medicine, New York City, November 10, 1994.

University of Chicago New York City Club, Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series, October 13, 1994.

Northwestern University, May 17, 1994.

New York Public Library, Celeste Bartos Forum, May 3, 1994.

[This lecture was later broadcast on public television.]

New York University, April 29, 1994.

Rutgers University, December 6, 1993.

Newberry Library Social History Seminar, June 8, 1993.

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Center for Twentieth Century Studies, March 25, 1993.

Urban History Seminar of the Chicago Historical Society, January 12, 1993.

University of Illinois at Chicago, November 11, 1992.

New York City Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, Gregory Kolovakas Memorial Lecture Series,  
November 19, 1992.

University of Oregon, April 24, 1992.

Cornell University, February 24, 1992.

University of Chicago Centennial Symposium, Canons in the Age of Mass Culture, February 10, 1992.

Northwestern University, May 30, 1991.

Johns Hopkins University, March 28, 1991.

Sarah Lawrence College, November 27, 1990.

Carleton College, April 5, 1990.

Museum of the City of New York, November 5, 1989.

Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, October 3, 1989.

Rutgers University, Camden, April 6, 1989.