

**Robert C. Ulin**  
Curriculum Vitae

Office: Western Michigan University  
Department of Anthropology  
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**Education:**

Ph.D. Anthropology, Graduate Faculty, New School for Social Research, 1980.  
M.A. Anthropology, Graduate Faculty, New School for Social Research, 1976.  
B.A. Anthropology, Philosophy, Psychology, Whittier College, 1973.

**Research Interests:**

Social and cultural theory, political-economy, ethnohistory, globalization, nationalism, anthropology of Europe, France, Germany, North America, anthropology of work, commodities, wine growing.

**Administrative Experience:**

**Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University,  
August 1999 – Present.**

**Accomplishments:**

- Transformed the department from a local orientation and reputation to a program that is nationally recognized through focusing on global issues, a graduate certificate program in ethnohistory, and through building strong ties to other Arts and Sciences programs.
- Successfully increased the size of faculty from 11 to 15 by focusing on international hires.
- Aggressively pursued additional funding for graduate students and succeeded in increasing the number of graduate assistants from five to fourteen.
- Significantly diversified the faculty through the hiring of five female faculty members.
- Created a culture supportive of external funding that has resulted in successful faculty grants and submissions to support departmental programs.
- Actively expanded departmental links to Africana Studies, Women's Studies, History, Environmental Studies, American Studies and International Studies.
- Successfully mediated faculty conflicts by working with faculty to create a common vision devoted to interdisciplinary and international studies.

- Co-chaired the effort to bring the American Anthropological exhibit on Race to Kalamazoo in the Fall 2010.
- Appointed by the President of WMU to coordinate campus-wide and outreach efforts to support the American Anthropological Association Exhibit on Race in Kalamazoo.
- Assumed leadership in creating a joint graduate certificate program in ethnohistory with the Department of History.
- Worked with doctoral students at the University of Kansas, University of Montreal and Western Michigan University in the Departments of History, Sociology, Political Science and English.

### **Budget**

- Responsible for managing and allocating resources for a departmental budget of \$30,000 (over one million with the inclusion of personnel costs).
- Responsible for managing two endowed funds of \$75,000 and \$58,000 respectively
- Created a special endowed fund to support numerous departmental initiatives including technology in teaching and funding for faculty and students going to professional meetings.

### **Curriculum**

- Motivated faculty to revamp an overly conservative curriculum to reflect current faculty teaching and research interests.
- Implemented a curriculum that reflects the departmental investment in interdisciplinary and international research and teaching.

### **Planning**

- Actively involved in the creation of a Strategic Plan for the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Facilitated the development of a compact planning document that identifies initiatives such as a hands on teaching museum, improved teaching technology and cross-cultural field research opportunities for students that align closely with the international and interdisciplinary vision represented in the strategic plan of the College of Arts and Sciences.

### **Interdisciplinary and International Initiatives**

- Initiated significant ties to History, Women's Studies, Africana Studies, Environmental Studies, American Studies.
- Assumed a leadership role with International Studies to establish new study abroad and twinning opportunities. The twinning opportunities involve formal agreements between academic institutions for student exchange and research. We have such a twinning agreement in historical archaeology with the University of Laval in Quebec.

- Served on the Search Committee that hired the Director of International Studies.

### **Diversity**

- Successfully diversified the faculty through the hiring of female faculty some of whom I have directly mentored through to tenure.
- Brokered the hire of a minority faculty member for Africana Studies.

### **Assessment & Enrollment Management**

- Provided the leadership and departmental vision that has resulted in our now attracting nearly 75% of our graduate students from out of state compared to only 10% in the past.
- Coordinated the departmental evaluation of our graduate program and the creation of an assessment plan to monitor undergraduate student progress.

### **Elected Member of the Executive Committee of the Organization of Chairs and Directors, Western Michigan University, 2004 – Present.**

- Engaged chairs university wide in modifying the plan to review graduate programs.
- Represent the interests of chairs and directors across the university
- Address university-wide issues of recruitment, enrollment management and budget.
- Provide leadership with respect to the university's vision, direction and planning.

### **Fundraising at Western Michigan University**

- Co-authorized as part of a team a successful \$175,000. grant to support teacher and youth leader training for the American Anthropological Association Exhibit: *Race: Are We so Different?* Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- Co-chaired a successful \$120,000 effort to bring the American Anthropological Association Exhibit: *Race: Are We so Different* to Kalamazoo in the Fall 2010. This is the first step in a planned \$500,000 fund raising initiative to support the exhibit.
- Actively supported a new effort to create a *Center for Great Lakes Education and Research* in conjunction with our departmental archaeological field school (Ft. St. Joseph) in Niles, Michigan.
- Assumed leadership at the departmental level to do fundraising with alumni including the College of Arts and Sciences annual award ceremony.
- Coordinated the effort to produce a newsletter that has significant outreach to alumni and friends of the department towards the end of fund raising.

### **Workshops and Training Completed:**

- Completed Workshop on fund raising for universities led by David Bauer, February 2004.
- Completed the Cross Road Ministry's two and a half day Anti-Racism workshop. August 2007.

### **Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Allegheny College, 1993-1998.**

- Managed a joint department of six faculty with oversight on budget and allocation of resources.
- Evaluated faculty for promotion and tenure.
- Responsible for recruitment and hiring of faculty.
- Succeeded in the recruitment of minority faculty.
- Oversaw the development of a service learning component to the curriculum.
- Elected as Vice-President and then President of local chapter of AAUP.

### **Higher Education Officer (non-instructional faculty) in the Division of Continuing Education, New York City Technical College of the City University of New York, 1979-1983.**

- Responsible for managing a budget of \$1 million dollars and hiring and supervising 30 part-time faculty.
- Responsible for curriculum development in technology and vocational areas.
- Wrote a successful \$ 10,000 grant that supported a conference – which I also coordinated – on the Sociocultural, Political and Ethical Issues related to Amniocentesis and other Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques.

### **International Faculty and Research Appointments**

Visiting Professor at the University of Passau, Germany, through Western Michigan University's Faculty Exchange Program. June 2004.

Visiting Scholar, Centre D'Etudes et de Recherches D'Histoire Institutionnelle et Regionale, Universite de Bordeaux, France. 1989-1990, 1983 –1984.

Member of the Seminar on Social Transition in Rural Areas of Mediterranean Europe under the direction of Professor Maurice Godelier, Ecole des Hauts Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France. 1989.

Delivered the Inaugural Lecture in French at the Tarragona Anthropology Center for the University of Barcelona in Spain, December 4, 1989.

### **Other Academic Positions:**

Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, the University of Kansas, August 1998 – May 1998.

Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., 1992-1998. Assistant Professor 1985-1992.

Adjunct Member of the Faculty, New School for Social Research, 1979-1984.

Adjunct Lecturer in Anthropology, Department of Social Sciences, Middlesex County College, N.J., Spring 1979.

### **Other Professional Appointments:**

Elected into the Presidential track on a four year progression, **Central States Anthropological Association**, April 2008 through April 2012.

Member of the Executive Board (3 yr. elected position), **Central States Anthropological Association**, Spring 2003- Spring 2006.

Manuscript reviews for **American Ethnologist**, **American Anthropologist**, **Identities**, **New York University Press**, **Current Anthropology**.

Member of the Executive Board and Program Chair (1991), **Society for the Anthropology of Europe**.

Reviewed Doctoral Dissertation Research Proposals for the joint committee on Western Europe of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies, 1990-1991, 1991-1992.

Visiting Scholar, Indiana University, Bloomington, Summer Institute for Semiotic and Structural Studies, summer 1985.

Symposium Coordinator for Conference and Workshops on the Socio-cultural, Political and Ethical Issues related to Amniocentesis and Other Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques, New York City, April 1980. Conceptualized and wrote grant that funded the symposium.

Adjunct Lecturer in Anthropology, School of Environmental Studies, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Spring 1978.

Adjunct Lecturer in Anthropology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, C.W Post College of Long Island University, Summer and Fall 1978.

Research assistant to Professor Stanley Diamond, Graduate Faculty, New School for Social Research program in anthropology, 1976-1977.

### **Field Research:**

2001 to present. Comparative research on American (Michigan), French (Dordogne, Medoc) and German (Rhine) wine growing. Looking at local responses of wine growers to development and globalization as part of a long-term study of artisans and commodities. Focus also on the ethnohistory of French, German and American wine growing. Supported by grants from the College of Arts and Sciences, Western Michigan University.

- 1992 Summer research on Medoc wine cooperatives. Continuation of 1989 research described below.
- 1989 Eleven months of research conducted on Medoc wine cooperatives in the Gironde, southwest France. Research is comparative to earlier Dordogne research and seeks to examine in more depth the social history of the cooperative movement and the social changes that have ensued through the assimilation of small producers to capitalist social relations. Supported by a Wenner-Gren foundation grant and an affiliation with the University of Bordeaux.
- 1987 Summer research conducted in the Bordeaux region on wine cooperatives. Supported by an Allegheny College Faculty development grant.
- 1983 Research conducted on wine cooperatives in the Dordogne, southwest France. The relation between the symbolic mediation of labor, political-economy and power were evaluated in light of the social history of cooperatives in particular and French wine production, French agricultural history and world markets in general. Supported by a Wenner-Gren Foundation grant

### **Courses Taught:**

Introduction to Anthropology  
 Peoples of the World  
 Anthropology and Marxism  
 Anthropology through Film  
 Magic, Science and Religion  
 Medical Anthropology  
 Cultures of Europe  
 Anthropology and History  
 Nationalism, Invented Tradition and Self-Identity  
 Anthropological Theory (Graduate and Undergraduate)  
 Integrating Anthropology (Graduate Seminar)  
 Graduate Seminar in Ethnohistory  
 Graduate Seminar in Sociocultural Anthropology

### **Conference Plan:**

Conference being planned with Professor Andrew Lass (Mount Holyoke College) to explore critical approaches to the anthropology of work. The conference is entitled "Work as Discursive Practice" and will focus on the meaning of work in a number of venues. The intention is to publish the papers as an edited volume. Blackwell publishers and Indiana University Press have shown interest.

## **Awards/Honors:**

- 2008 Approved for candidacy on the Fulbright Senior Specialists Roster – a roster from which leading scholars are selected to lecture abroad and pursue cooperative programs with foreign universities. Supported by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars. (5 year appointment)
- 2003 Western Michigan University, College of Arts and Sciences Research Award to support fieldwork on Michigan and German wine growers.
- 2002 Western Michigan University, College of Arts and Sciences Research award to support fieldwork on Michigan and German wine growers.
- 1997 Professor of the Month Award for teaching, Allegheny College.
- 1993 Elected as Fellow of the American Anthropological Association.
- 1989 Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research grant to support fieldwork on Medoc wine cooperatives.
- 1987 Faculty Development Grant, Allegheny College, to support summer research on Bordeaux wine cooperatives.
- 1983 Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research grant to support fieldwork on Dordogne wine cooperatives.  
Graduate Faculty, New School for Social Research full tuition scholarship (3 years of full funding)
- 1973 Elected to Phi Sigma Tau – National Honorary Society for Philosophy.

## **Publications:**

### *Books:*

- 2001 Understanding Cultures: Perspectives in Anthropology and Social Theory, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Cloth and paperback. Blackwell publishers. **Translations:** Siglo Veintiuno Editores (Spanish); Beijing University Press (Chinese).
- 1996 Vintages and Traditions; An Ethnohistory of Southwest French Wine Cooperatives. Cloth and paperback. Smithsonian Institution Press.

- 1990 **Antropologia y Teoria Social**. Spanish language edition of **Understanding Cultures**. Siglo Veintiuno Editores, Mexico City.
- 1987 Paperback edition of **Understanding Cultures**, The University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas. (second paperback printing 1990).
- 1984 **Understanding Cultures: Perspectives in Anthropology and Social Theory**, The University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas.

*Articles:*

- 2008 “Writing about Wine: The Uses of Nature and History in the Wine Growing of Southwest France and America”, Chapter 3, pp.43-62, in **Wine, Society and Globalization: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on the Wine Industry**, edited by Gwyn Campbell & Nathalie Guibert, Palgrave MacMillan, New York.
- 2007 “Revisiting Cultural Relativism: Old Prospects for a New Cultural Critique”, in **Anthropological Quarterly**, pp.803-820, Volume 80, Number 4, Fall 2007.
- 2005 “Remembering Paul Ricoeur: 1913-2005”, in **Anthropological Quarterly**, Volume 78, No. 4, pp.885-896. (Chinese translation in Journal of **Sun Yatsen University: Social Science Edition** 2006)
- 2004 “Globalization and Alternative Localities”, in **Anthropologica: The Journal of the Canadian Anthropology Society**, Volume 46, Number 2, forthcoming.
- 2002 “Work as Cultural Production: Labor and Self-Identity among southwest French Wine Growers”, in **Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute** (formerly MAN). Volume 8, Number 4, 691-712.
- 2002 “Anthropology” in **The Oxford Companion to the History of Modern Science**. Oxford University Press, New York.
- 1999 “Critical Anthropology through “Constructivist” Discourse: From Epistemology to Politics, in **Semiotica** 124-1/2. Review essay of J.M. Adam, M.J. Borel, C. Calame, M. Kilani **Le discours anthropologique: Description, narration, savoir**, Editions Payot Lausanne 1995.
- 1996 “Invention and Representation as Cultural Capital: Southwest French Winegrowing History”. **American Anthropologist**, Volume 97, Number 3.
- 1994 “The Anthropologist and Historian as Storytellers”, in special issue of **Dialectical Anthropology** entitled “The Politics of Ethnography”, Christine Gailey guest editor, Volume 19, Nos. 2-3.

- 1994 "Southwest France", **Encyclopedia of World Cultures**, Human Relations Area Files, G.K. Hall/McMillan.
- 1992 "Beyond Explanation and Understanding: Anthropology and Hermeneutics", **Dialectical Anthropology**, Volume 17, Number 3.
- 1991 "The Current Tide in American Europeanist Anthropology: From Margin to Center?", **Anthropology Today**, Volume 7, Number 6.
- 1991 "Critical Anthropology Twenty Years Later: Modernism and Postmodernism in Anthropology", **Critique of Anthropology**, Volume 11, Number 1, 63-89.
- 1988 "Cooperation or Co-optation: A Southwest French Wine Cooperative", **Dialectical Anthropology**, Volume 13, Number 3.
- 1987 "Writing and Power: The Recovery of Winegrowing Histories in the Southwest of France", **Anthropological Quarterly**, Volume 60, Number 2.
- 1986 "Social Change through a Southwest French Wine Cooperative", **Ethnologia Europaea: Journal of European Ethnology**, Volume XVI, Number 1.
- 1986 "Peasant Politics and Secret Societies: The Discourse of Secrecy", **Anthropological Quarterly**, Volume 59, Number 1.

#### Reviews/Notes:

- 2006 Review of Fredrik Barth, Andre Gingrich, Robert Parkin, Sydel Silverman **One Discipline, Four Ways: British, German, French and American Anthropology**. **Anthropology and Education Quarterly**.
- 2005 Review of Richard Steve Street's **Beasts of the Field: A Narrative History of California Farmworkers, 1769-1913** and his **Photographing Framworkers in California**. **Journal of Anthropological Research**. **Journal of Anthropological Research**, Volume 61, Number 2.
- 2004 Comments on F. Allan Hanson's "The New Superorganic" in **Current Anthropology**, Volume 45, Number 4, August-October.
- 2004 Review of Clifford Geertz's **Available Light**, **American Ethnologist**, Volume 31, Number 3, August.
- 2001 Review of Susan J. Terrio's **Crafting the History and Culture of French Chocolate**, in **French Culture, Politics and Society**. Volume 19, Number 2, Summer, 132-135.

- 1995 Review of Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney's ed. **Culture through Time: Anthropological Approaches**, in **International Studies in Philosophy**, Volume XXVII, Number 2.
- 1992 Review of Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban's ed. **International Perspectives in Marxist Anthropology**, in **Science and Society**, Fall, Volume 55, Number 3.
- 1985 Review of John Fekete's ed. **The Structural Allegory: Reconstructive Encounters with the New French Thought**, in **Telos**, Number 69, Winter.
- 1983 "A Reply to Ivan Karp and Kent Maynard 'Reading **The Nuer**', in **Current Anthropology**, Volume 24, Number 4.
- 1976 Review of Talal Asad's ed. **Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter**, in **Dialectical Anthropology**, Volume 1, Number 3.

#### **Invited Papers/ Discussant**

- 2007 "Writing about Wine: Rhetoric and Authenticity in the Representation of Wines". Department of Anthropology, The University of Wisconsin Madison, April 17.
- 2005 "Critical Reflections on Cultural Relativism", in an invited session on cultural relativism organized by the Central States Anthropological Society, American Anthropological Association Annual meetings, Washington, D.C. December 2, 2005.
- 2004 "The Global and the Local: Theoretical Options". The University of Passau, Germany. June 14, 2004.
- 2004 "Writing about Wine: The Uses of Nature and History in the Wine Growing of Southwest France and America". The Wines in the World Conference organized by PRACTIC of the University of Avignon, Avignon, France,
- 2002 "Globalization and Alternative Localities" in organized session on globalization at the joint meetings of the Canadian Society of Social Anthropology and the Society for the Anthropology of North America, Windsor Ontario, May 4.
- 1999 Discussant for organized session entitled: "The Social Production of Regions: A Case of Wine", American Anthropological Association annual meetings, Chicago, November 17.
- 1999 Discussant for organized session entitled "History and the Politics of Desire: Nostalgic Futures Across the New Europe", American Anthropological Association annual meetings, Chicago, November 19.

- 1998 Discussant at Conference on “Nationalities and the Social Sciences” organized by the governments of Portugal and the Czech Republic. Lisbon, Portugal, November 20-21.
- 1998 “Globalization and Fields of Power: Historical Agents as Constitutive”, in an invited session on “Debating Globalization: Anthropology, History and Marxism”, sponsored by the American Ethnological Society. American Anthropological Association annual meetings, Philadelphia, December 5.
- 1996 “Labor and Self-Identity: The Case of Southwest French Wine Growers”, in a session on the anthropology of work co-sponsored by the Society for the Anthropology of Europe and the Society for the Anthropology of Work. American Anthropological Association annual meetings, San Francisco, November 22.
- 1993 “Invention and Representation as Cultural Capital in French Winegrowing History”. Full length version of the 1992 paper listed below delivered by invitation of the Department of Anthropology and the Cultural Studies Program, The University of Pittsburgh. October 22.
- 1992 “Invention and Representation as Cultural Capital in French Winegrowing History” in session entitled “Authenticity and the Invention of Tradition in European Ethnography and Society”. Sponsored by the Society for the Anthropology of Europe. American Anthropological Association annual meetings, San Francisco, December 4.
- 1992 “Social Construction of Disciplinary Knowledge: American Europeanist Knowledge Today”, at conference on Academic Knowledge and Political Power. University of Maryland, College Park, November 21.
- 1991 “Theory as Ethnography: the Habermas and Lyotard Debates”, in session entitled “Ethnographic Reflections on European Social Theory:.. Session was organized by myself and sponsored by the Society for the Anthropology of Europe. American Anthropological Association annual meetings, Chicago, November 21.
- 1989 Critical Anthropology Twenty Years Later: Modernism and Postmodernism in Anthropology”. **Inaugural Lecture** delivered at the Institut Tarragonés d’Antropologia, University of Barcelona, Tarragona, Spain, December 4.
- 1989 Discussant for organized session on Medical Anthropology and Anthropological Theory, sponsored by the Society for Medical Anthropology, the American Anthropological Association annual meetings, Washington, D.C., November 18.
- 1988 “Critical Reflections on the Textual Turn: Modernism and Postmodernism in Anthropology”, conference on Critical Anthropology, Department of Cultural Anthropology, The University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, December 14.

- 1987 “Social Change through a Southwest French Wine Cooperative”, Departments of History and Sociology and Anthropology, Mount Holyoke College, April 13.
- 1987 “Anthropologist and Historian as Storytellers”, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, April 10.
- 1986 “Problems in the Ethnography of France”, at the New York Area Europeanist Anthropology Workshop, New York University, Institute of French Studies, May 2.
- 1985 “Theoretical and Methodological Concerns: Field Research on a Southwest French Wine Cooperative”, in a session sponsored by the American Ethnological Society entitled “Multidisciplinary Perspectives in the Anthropology of Complex Societies: Fieldwork in France”. The American Anthropological Association annual meetings, Washington, D.C., December 6.
- 1986 “Social Change through a Southwest French Wine Cooperative”, Wednesday Lecture Series, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, October 2.
- 1985 “Beyond Explanation and Understanding: Anthropology and Hermeneutics”, Indiana University, Bloomington, Summer Institute in Semiotics and Structural Studies, June 12.
- 1985 “Peasant Politics and Secret Societies: The Discourse of Secrecy”, Monday Seminar Series, Department of Anthropology, The University of Chicago, March 18.
- 1982 “Gadamer and Cross-Cultural Understanding”, Comparative Studies Seminar, New York Institute of the Humanities of New York University, New York City, February 19.
- 1981 “Paul Ricoeur’s Concept of the Symbol and its Importance for Anthropology”, Graduate Anthropology Seminar, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, March 18.
- 1979 “Evans-Pritchard and Historical Anthropology”, The Graduate Faculty New School Philosophy Colloquium on Philosophy and the Social Sciences, November 9.
- 1978 “Philosophical Anthropology and Rationality”, The Free Association’s Demythologizing Social Science Lecture series, New York City, April 26.

### **Volunteered Papers**

- 1988 “Critical Reflections on the Textual Turn,” the American Anthropological Association annual meetings, Phoenix, November 20.

- 1985 “Social Change through a Southwest French Wine Cooperative”, the Northeastern Anthropological Association meetings, Lake Placid, N.Y., April 26.
- 1984 “Cooperation or Co-optation: A Southwest French Wine Cooperative”, The American Anthropological Association annual meetings, Denver, November 18.
- 1982 “Peasant Politics and Secret Societies: The Discourse of Secrecy”, The American Anthropological Association annual meetings, Washington, D.C. December 4.
- 1982 “A Dialectical Reconceptualization of the Concept of Culture”, the Northeastern Anthropological Association meetings, Princeton University, N.J., March 20.
- 1981 “Reification in Marxist Anthropology: Hindess and Hirst in Question”, the Northeastern Anthropological Association meetings, Skidmore College, N.Y. March 28.
- 1980 ‘Language and Cross-Cultural Interpretation: The Case of the Rationality Debates’, the American Anthropological Association annual meetings, Washington, D.C. December 7.
- 1980 “Beyond Explanation and Understanding: Anthropology and Hermeneutics”, the Northeastern Anthropological Association meetings, University of Massachusetts Amherst, March 29.

**Professional Associations:**

American Anthropological Association (**Fellow**)

American Ethnological Society

Central States Anthropological Association (**Executive Committee**)

Society for the Anthropology of Europe

Society for Cultural Anthropology

Society for the Anthropology of North America

**References Available Upon Request**