

Jackson Lears was educated at the University of Virginia, the University of North Carolina, and at Yale University, where he received the Ph.D. in American Studies in 1979. He has taught at Yale, the University of Missouri, and New York University. He is now Board of Governors Professor of History at Rutgers University and Editor in Chief of Raritan: a Quarterly Review. He is the author of No Place of Grace: Antimodernism and the Transformation of American Culture, 1880-1920, which was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award in 1981 and Fables of Abundance: a Cultural History of Advertising in America, which won the Los Angeles Times Book Award for History in 1995. He has written on cultural hegemony in the American Historical Review, on modern art and advertising in American Quarterly, on memory and power in the Journal of American History, and on a variety of topics in cultural history in other scholarly journals. He has also co-edited two collections of essays, The Culture of Consumption and The Power of Culture. His Something for Nothing: Luck in America, was published by Viking Penguin in 2003 and—most recently-- his Rebirth of a Nation, the Making of Modern America, 1877-1920 was published by Harper Collins in June 2009. Lears has held fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Winterthur Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Shelby Cullom Davis Center at Princeton University. In 2003 he received the Public Humanities Award (for “making ideas current”) from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. He has been a regular contributor to The New Republic, The Nation, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, and The New York Times, among other publications. In April 2009 he was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Lears regularly teaches undergraduate courses in 20th century U.S. cultural history, Luck in the American Imagination, Success and Failure in America and the Varieties of Religious Experience. His graduate course offerings include seminars and colloquia in U.S. and comparative cultural history, including not only thematic surveys but also “Modernity and Its Discontents” and “Fictions of Modernity.”