

Brian Edwards

Dean & Professor of English School of Liberal Arts at Tulane University

New Orleans, LA, US

Brian Edwards examines U.S. literature and culture in a global context, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa.

Biography

Brian T. Edwards is Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Professor of English. He joined Tulane University on July 1, 2018. Prior to Tulane, Edwards was the Crown Professor in Middle East Studies and professor of English and comparative literary studies at Northwestern University, where he was also the founding director of the Program in Middle East and North African Studies (MENA). Under Edwards' direction, MENA grew from a small faculty working group to an internationally recognized program with 20 core and language faculty and 13 affiliates, offering an undergraduate major, curricula in Middle Eastern languages, and an interdisciplinary Ph.D. certificate. As a scholar, Edwards examines U.S. literature and culture in a global context, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa. He also writes about literature, film, and new media from Morocco, Egypt and Iran, where he has done extensive field research. He is the author of "Morocco Bound: Disorienting America's Maghreb, from Casablanca to the Marrakech Express" (Duke, 2005) and "After the American Century: The Ends of U.S. Culture in the Middle East" (Columbia, 2016), co-editor of "Globalizing American Studies" (Chicago, 2010) and editor of "On the Ground: New Directions in Middle East and North African Studies" (NU-Q, 2013). Edwards has published essays and Op-Eds in a wide range of publications, both scholarly and mainstream, and lectured extensively throughout the US, Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Central and South Asia. His research has been supported by major grants from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Andrew Mellon Foundation, and the Fulbright Program. In 2013, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs named him an "Emerging Leader." Edwards is an advocate for renewed approaches to language learning, at both university and K-12 levels. A speaker of four languages himself, he led language initiatives at Northwestern and in partnership with Chicago Public Schools. From 2016 to 2017, he served on the American Academy of Arts and Sciences' Commission on Language Learning, which was charged by a bipartisan group of members of Congress to examine language education in the US and make recommendations for ways to meet the nation's future education needs. Edwards was educated at Yale University, where he received his B.A. in English, magna cum laude, and his MA, MPhil, and Ph.D., all in American Studies.

Areas of Expertise

Middle East Studies, Higher Education Administration

Education

Yale University

Ph.D. American Studies

Yale University
M.Phil American Studies

Yale University
M.A. American Studies

Yale University
M.A. English

Accomplishments

Emerging Leader, Class of 2015

June 2013 Chicago Council on Global Affairs Named one of 21 young leaders in Chicago area whose work will help equip Chicago to compete and thrive in the global era.

New Directions Post Fellowship Award

June 2012 A \$50,000 award subsequent to the original New Directions Award to allow for time to write a book manuscript.

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