



Dr. James Loewen

Keynote Address: Millennium Maxwell House Hotel Nashville, TN

October 16, 2020 4:00-5:15



James Loewen's gripping retelling of American history as it should, and could, be taught, [Lies My Teacher Told Me](#), has sold more than 1,500,000 copies and continues to inspire K-16 teachers to get students to challenge, rather than memorize, their textbooks. Dr. Loewen taught race relations for twenty years at the University of Vermont. Previously he taught at predominantly black Tougaloo College in Mississippi. He now lives in Washington, D.C., continuing his research on how Americans remember their past. [Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong](#) came out in 1999. The Gustavus Myers Foundation named his book, [Sundown Towns](#), a "Distinguished Book of 2005." In 2010, Teachers College Press brought out [Teaching What Really Happened](#), intended to give K-12 teachers (and prospective teachers) solutions to the problems pointed out in Loewen's earlier works.

As the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War approached, Loewen asked thousands of K-12 teachers in workshops and audiences about its cause(s). Depressed at their replies, he recruited a co-editor and published [The Confederate and Neo-Confederate Reader](#) (University Press of Mississippi, 2010), which sets the record straight in Confederates' own words.

His other books include [Mississippi: Conflict and Change](#) (co authored), which won the Lillian Smith Award for Best Southern Nonfiction but was rejected for public school text use by the State of Mississippi, leading to the path breaking First Amendment lawsuit, Loewen et al. v. Turnipseed, et al. He also wrote [The Mississippi Chinese: Between Black and White](#), [Social Science in the Courtroom](#), and [Lies My Teacher Told Me About Christopher Columbus](#).

He has been an expert witness in more than 50 civil rights, voting rights, and employment cases. His awards include the First Annual Spivack Award of the American Sociological Association for "sociological research applied to the field of intergroup relations," the American Book Award (for [Lies My Teacher Told Me](#)), and the Oliver Cromwell Cox Award for Distinguished Anti-Racist Scholarship. He is also Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians and Visiting Professor of Sociology at Catholic University in Washington, DC. In 2012 the American Sociological Association gave Loewen its Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award, for "scholarship in service to social justice." He is the first white person ever to win this award. Also in 2012, the National Council for the Social Studies gave Loewen its "Spirit of America" Award, previously won by, inter alia, Jimmy Carter, Rosa Parks, and Mr. Rogers.

This information is from Dr. Loewen's website. To learn more visit: <https://sundown.tougaloo.edu/>

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at:

www.midsouthsoc.org