

Western Literature Association Conference 2017

Minneapolis, Minnesota

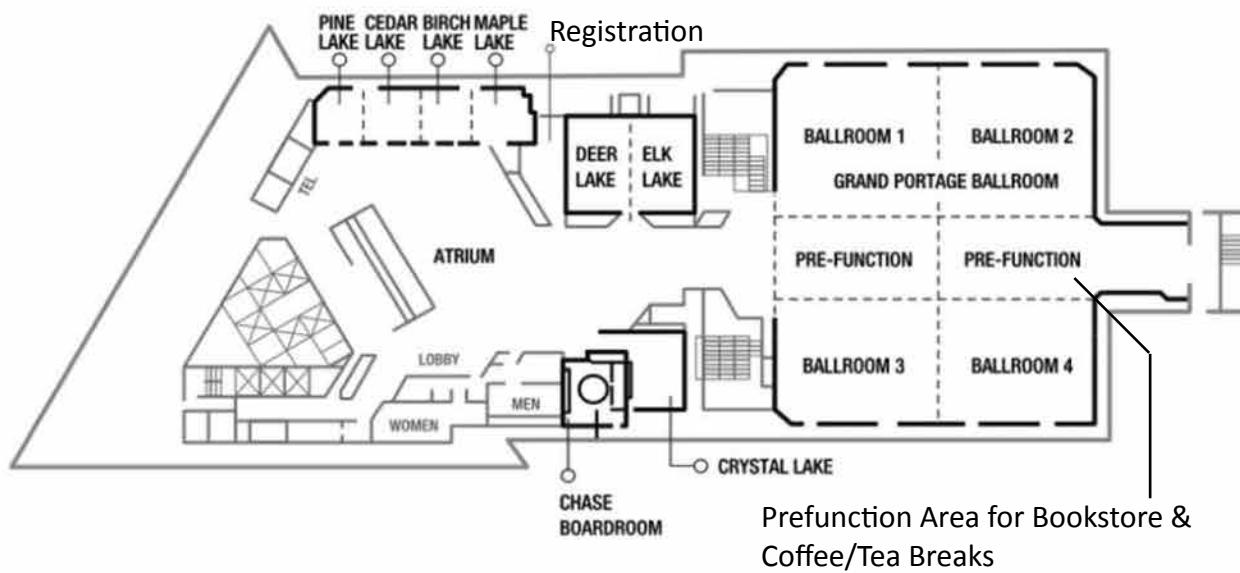
October 25–28



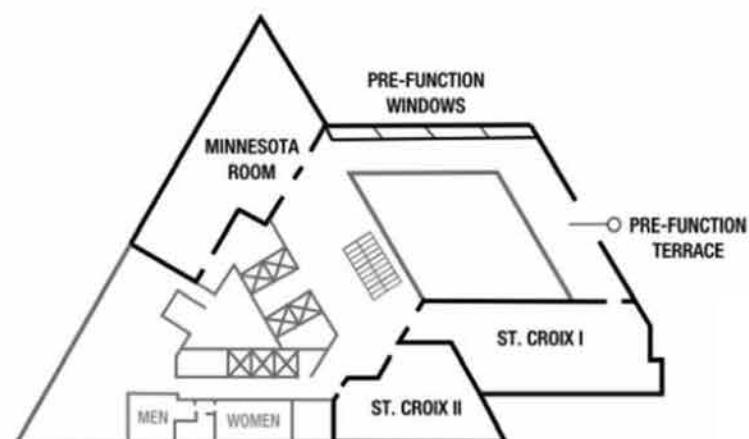
Myth and Storytelling
West of the Mississippi

Hotel Floor Plan

FOURTH FLOOR



SIXTH FLOOR



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Please also use those same hashtags for Instagram and help us document the conference! Follow [western_literature](#) !





Susan N. Maher
University of Minnesota Duluth



Florence Amamoto
Gustavus Adolphus College



Acknowledgments

We thank our sponsors who helped make this conference possible:

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We'd also like to thank the following for their help: Al Kammerer, Michael Gorman, Kyoko Matsunaga, Suzanne Wilson, and Eric Vrooman. And a special thank you to Sabine Barcatta for all she does for us and WLA.

A very special thank you to Neely Prenzlow, Gustavus graphic designer, who created our wonderful logo.

For the first time in WLA history, you are able to access the program on your smart device: download **Conference4me** from the iTunes App Store, the Google Play Store, or the Windows Phone Store.

You can **create your own schedule** and receive updates to the program!

Please be sure to give us feedback (info@westernlit.org) after the conference.



52nd Western Literature Association Conference

SWEET LAND, MIGHTY WATERS: Myth and Storytelling West of the Mississippi

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WEDNESDAY—Oct. 25, 2017

1:00pm – 4:00pm

WLA Executive Council Meeting (Deer Lake & Elk Lake)

Chair: Nicolas S. Witschi

4:00pm – 7:00pm

Registration (4th floor)

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Welcome Reception and Cash Bar (4th Floor Prefunction Area)

7:00pm – 9:00pm



OPENING PLENARY:

East of Main Street and West of Lake Wobegon: An Evening with Joyce Sutphen and Kevin Kling

Location: Ballroom 1

Introduction: Florence Amamoto & Susan Maher, WLA Co-Presidents



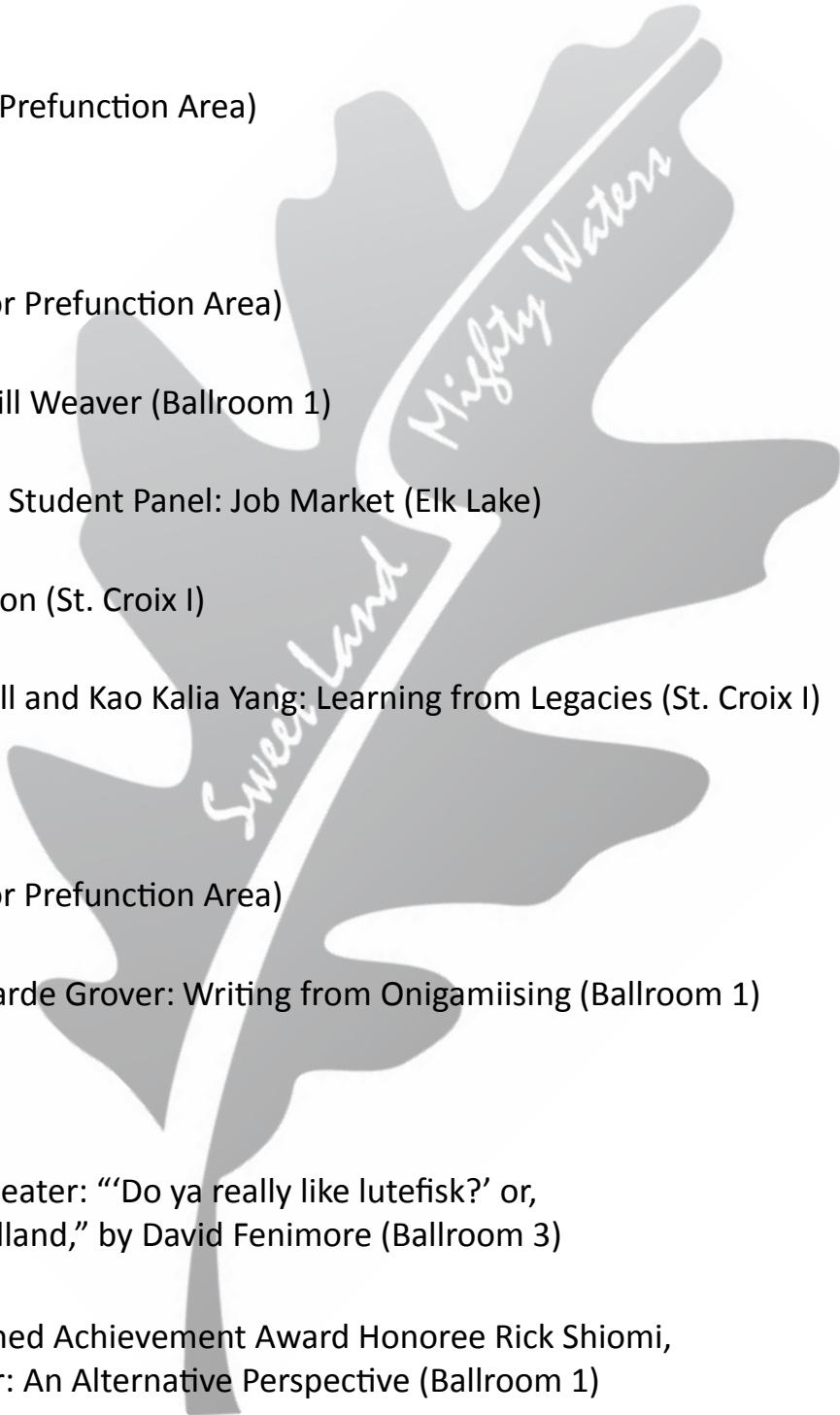
Joyce Sutphen grew up on a farm in Stearns County, Minnesota. Her first collection of poems, *Straight Out of View*, won the Barnard New Women Poets Prize; *Coming Back to the Body* was a finalist for a Minnesota Book Award, and *Naming the Stars* won a Minnesota Book Award in Poetry. She is one of the co-editors of *To Sing along the Way*, an award-winning anthology of Minnesota women poets. Her recent collection, *Modern Love & Other Myths* (2015), was a finalist for a Minnesota Book Award. Her ninth collection of poetry, *The Green House* (2017), has just been published. She was named the second Minnesota Poet Laureate by Governor Mark Dayton, succeeding Robert Bly.



Kevin Kling is a well-known playwright and storyteller and a popular commentator on NPR's *All Things Considered*. Kevin was born with a congenital birth defect which left him with partial use of his left arm and in 2001 was in a motorcycle accident that left him with no use of his right arm. Yet, he has continued to turn all of his life experiences into stories that are hilarious but also poignant and wise. He has released a number of compact disc collections of his stories as well as published several books of his stories and plays. He has been awarded numerous arts grants and fellowships and in 2014, Minneapolis Mayor R. T. Rybak named Kevin "Minneapolis Story Laureate." PBS made a documentary about Kevin titled *Kevin Kling: Lost and Found*.



THURSDAY – Oct. 26, 2017

- 
- 7:45am – 4:00pm
Registration (4th floor)
- 8:00am – 5:00pm
Book Exhibit (4th Floor Prefunction Area)
- 8:00am – 9:15am
Sessions T1
- 9:00am – 11:00am
Coffee Service (4th Floor Prefunction Area)
- 9:30am – 10:45am
Plenary Session with Will Weaver (Ballroom 1)
- 11:00am – 12:15pm
Sessions T3 & Graduate Student Panel: Job Market (Elk Lake)
- 12:30pm – 1:00pm
Past President's Luncheon (St. Croix I)
- 1:00pm – 2:00pm
Plenary with Linda Karell and Kao Kalia Yang: Learning from Legacies (St. Croix I)
- 2:00pm – 3:15pm
Sessions T4
- 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Coffee Service (4th Floor Prefunction Area)
- 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Plenary with Linda LeGarde Grover: Writing from Onigamiising (Ballroom 1)
- 5:00pm – 6:15pm
Sessions T6
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Readers' BYO Dinner Theater: “Do ya really like lutefisk?” or,
A New Saga of the Nordland,” by David Fenimore (Ballroom 3)
- 8:00pm – 9:15pm
Plenary with Distinguished Achievement Award Honoree Rick Shiomi,
Asian American Theater: An Alternative Perspective (Ballroom 1)
- 9:15pm – ???
Graduate Student Social Gathering (Keiran's Irish Pub)

Thursday

8:00AM–9:15AM

T1A: Storytelling and Environmental Justice in the West

Location: Ballroom 2

Chair: Amy T. Hamilton, Northern Michigan University

Fighting the Black Snake: Stories for Pipeline Activism and Defending Water
Kyle Bladow, Northland College

Sawbill Lodge and the Mythos of Minnesota's Resort Industry
Jennifer Case, University of Central Arkansas

"My heart looks like the prairie": Ethnobotanist Linda Black Elk's Digital Teachings from Standing Rock
Aubrey Streit Krug, The Land Institute

T1B: Race in the Weird West

Location: Ballroom 3

Chair: Rebecca Marie Lush, California State University San Marcos

Blame It on Nature: Bret Harte's Deadly Miscegenation Plots ... and One Exception
Tara Penry, Boise State University

Blood Work in the Monstrous West: Red Readings of *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre* and *Near Dark*
Joshua Tyler Anderson, Ohio State University

Defamiliarizing "the Indian" on the Extraterrestrial Frontier: Jonathan Lethem's *Girl in Landscape*
Johannes Fehrle, Universität Mannheim, Germany

"A World without Sin": Civilization and the Savage Other in Whedon's *Firefly* and *Serenity*
Meredith Louise Harvey, George Williams College of Aurora University

T1C: Exploring Indigenous Midwests

Location: Ballroom 4

Chair: Lisa M. Tatonetti, Kansas State University

Minnesota's Indigenous HIV/AIDS Activism & Carole LaFavor's Work toward Health Sovereignty
Lisa M. Tatonetti, Kansas State University

Moving in Place: Heid Erdrich & Andrea Carlson
Susan Bernardin, Oregon State University

Walking Wisconsin's Mounds at Aztalan
Chadwick Allen, University of Washington

T1D: Creative Writing: Meditations on Place

Location: Crystal Lake

Chair: TBA

The Levines

David Nelson Levine, University of South Dakota

Keeping It Weird: Austin, Nevada, Spring 2016

Matthew William Driscoll, Santa Clara University

T1E: Celebrating Minnesota Writers and Wildlife

Location: Deer Lake

Chair: Laurie Ricou, University of British Columbia

“The Laugh that Transcends”: Loons in Minnesota’s Lakes and Literature

Kyhl Lyndgaard, College of Saint Benedict / Saint John’s University

Betsy & Me: An Ode to Minnesota’s Maud Hart Lovelace

Maria Mackas, Georgia State University

Wolf State: Witnessing Wolves and Wolf Rhetoric in Minnesota

Yvonne Rutherford, University of Wisconsin-Superior

T1F: Challenging Women

Location: Elk Lake

Chair: Victoria Lamont, University of Waterloo

Teaching the “Third Grade, Mexican”: Colonial Domesticity, Print Culture, and Elinore Cowan Stone’s

The Laughingest Lady

Amanda J. Zink, Idaho State University

B. M. Bower’s Early Years

Victoria Lamont, University of Waterloo, Canada

African American Women and the Classic Western: Pauline Hopkins’ Subversion of and

Counter-Narrative to Canonical Westerns

Shane Joseph Willis Frankiewicz, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany

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T1G: When Landscape and Place Are Prime—or Not: Willa Cather, Sanora Babb, John Steinbeck

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake

Chair: Nancy S. Cook, University of Montana

“The Thing Not Named”: The Lost Native Landscape of Cather’s Nebraska

Tracy Tucker, Willa Cather Foundation

“Your mind is better than a thousand legs”: Indeterminate Reality in Sanora Babb’s Colorado Pioneer Memoir

An Owl on Every Post

Christine Hill Smith, Colorado Mountain College

The Prime Use of Landscape and Place in Sanora Babb’s *Whose Names Are Unknown*, Particularly in Contrast to

Steinbeck’s *Grapes of Wrath*

Joanne Dearcopp, Literary Executor for Sanora Babb

Place-less Propaganda: The Links to Everyplace in John Steinbeck’s *The Moon Is Down*

Jessica C. P. Lopez, Michigan State University

T1H: Creative Writing: Telling Stories about People

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake

Chair: Sean Johnston, Okanagan College

The Last Emergency

Sean Johnston, Okanagan College, Canada

The Two Graves of Acey Cobb

Conrad Shumaker, University of Central Arkansas

Excerpt from *Bazz: A History • A Novel • A Crusade*

Sidney Thompson, Texas Christian University

9:00AM–11:00AM

Coffee Service

Location: 4th Floor Prefunction Area

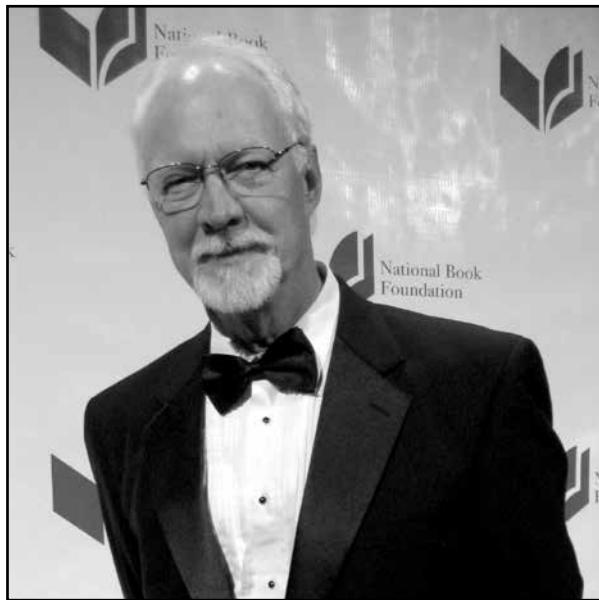


9:30AM–10:45AM

T2: Plenary Session with Will Weaver

Location: Ballroom 1

Chair: Susan Maher, WLA Co-President



Will Weaver grew up on a farm in northern Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota and from Stanford University. His debut novel, *Red Earth, White Earth*, was published by Simon & Schuster, and was produced as a CBS television movie. *A Gravestone Made of Wheat & Other Stories* won the Minnesota Book Award for Fiction. The *New York Times Book Review* called it “a graceful collection, one that views America’s heartland with a candid but charitable eye.” The title story was adapted into the film *Sweet Land*.

A versatile writer, Will Weaver’s novels for young adults include *Memory Boy*, which was a 2016 full stage production of the Minnesota Opera. His nonfiction work includes a memoir, *The Last Hunter*, and *Barns of Minnesota*. A recent judge for the National Book Awards, Mr. Weaver lives in Bemidji, Minnesota, on the Mississippi River.

11:00AM–12:15PM

T3A: Queer Actions, Queer Futures

Location: Ballroom 2

Chair: Lisa M. Tatonetti, Kansas State University

Endings without End: Rethinking Queer Futurity out West

Bill Handley, University of Southern California

The Queer Indigenous Work of Vaudeville

Christine Bold, University of Guelph, Canada

Sexualities of Replacement: Raciality, Queerness, and Indigeneity in *Tangerine*

Ho'esta Mo'e'hahne, University of Southern California

T3B: California Dreaming

Location: Ballroom 3

Chair: Neil Campbell, University of Derby, UK

Reading Time in Panoptic Los Angeles and Helena María Viramontes's *Their Dogs Came with Them*

Alexandra Meany, Loyola Marymount University

Aspirational Landscapes: Missouri and California; or, On Leaving and Being Left Behind

William Vincent Lombardi, Feather River College

Versions of the Yosemite

Lawrence Coates, Bowling Green State University

T3C: Experiments in Teaching and Documenting Western American Authors

Location: Ballroom 4

Chair: Anne L. Kaufman, Milton Academy

Experiential Education and the American West: A Praxis for Global Sustainability

Eric Stottlemyer, Wake Forest University

Teaching the National Parks as an “Open Space of Democracy” with Terry Tempest Williams as Guide

Karen Ramirez, University of Colorado, Boulder

The Wind That Swept Mexico and Transnational Documentary

Jessica Bremmer, Westridge School for Girls

T3D: Love, Justice, and Survivance in Louise Erdrich's Writings

Location: Crystal Lake

Chair: Jill Doerfler, University of Minnesota Duluth

Love Contours: Intimacy and Excess in Erdrich's *Love Medicine*

Mallory Pladus, Rice University

“Because at every gathering the red shawls increase”: Imagining Justice in Erdrich's *The Round House*

Alexander Herman Cavanaugh, University of Oregon

“The Unkillable Mother”: Storytelling and Survivance in Louise Erdrich's *The Round House*

Mary Paniccia Carden, Edinboro University of PA

“We got dealt our hand before we were even born”: Ecophenomenology and Intentionality in Louise Erdrich's

Anishinaabe Novels

James Benson Wirth, University of Washington

T3E: Forgotten Texts, Recovering Stories

Location: Deer Lake

Chair: Patricia Oman, Hastings College

“Nebraska Legend of Lover’s Leap”: A New Historicist Look at Nance County Folklore
Alexandria Ann Belitz, Hastings College

Editorial Meddling and Historical Erasure in a New Edition of H. W. Foght’s *Trail of the Loup*
Patricia Oman, Hastings College

Anthologizing *The Carleton Miscellany*
Michael Kowalewski, Carleton College

T3F: Graduate Panel: Updating Approaches to the Academic Job Market with Susan Bernardin, Kerry Fine, Sylvan Goldberg, and Ashley Reis

Location: Elk Lake

Chair: Landon Scott Lutrick, University of Nevada, Reno

T3G: Native Americans in Minnesota

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake

Chair: Chadwick Allen, University of Washington

Gerald Vizenor: Trains in Native Transmotion
Linda Helstern, North Dakota State University

Jim Northrup and Nuclear Colonization in “what is now called Minnesota”
Kyoko Matsunaga, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, Japan & University of British Columbia
Through Norwegian Eyes: The Vanishing and Reappearing American Indian in Johan Bojer’s *The Emigrants* and Vidar Sundstøl’s Minnesota Trilogy
Randi Eldevik, Oklahoma State University

T3H: Creative Writing: Poetry and Poetics

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake

Chair: Emily Lutenski, Saint Louis University

House of First Memory
Candace Black, Minnesota State University, Mankato

La Llorona: A Transgeneric Poetics of a Transcultural Mythology
Nadine Antoinette Maestas, Southern New Hampshire University

Edward Dorn’s Poetics for an American West
Paul Varner, Abilene Christian University

Thursday

12:30PM–2:00PM

Past President's Luncheon and a Conversation with Linda Karell and Kao Kalia Yang: Learning from Legacies

Lunch starts at 12:30 (with prepaid tickets only). Plenary starts at 1:00 and is free to all attendees.

Location: St. Croix I



Linda Karell, President of the 2016 WLA Conference in Big Sky, Montana.



Kao Kalia Yang is a writer from the Hmong community. She's the author of the award-winning memoirs *The Latehomecomer* and *The Song Poet*. Yang is a graduate of Carleton College and Columbia University. She's currently working on her fictional debut, *Descendants of Bad Luck Women*.

2:00PM–3:15PM

T4A: The Figure in the Carpet: The Creative Use of Research

Location: Ballroom 2

Chair: Ann Lenore Putnam, University of Puget Sound

Casting Shadows, Casting Light: A Russian Mystery
Ann Putnam, University of Puget Sound

A Fall in the Forest: Traumatic Brain Injury—Fact and Fiction
Beverly Conner, University of Puget Sound

Falling out of the Nest
Beth Kalikoff, University of Washington

T4B: Settler Colonialism and the Nature of Genre

Location: Ballroom 3

Chair: Sylvan Goldberg, Colorado College

Generically Modified Organisms: *Logan's Mutant Western*
Sylvan Goldberg, Colorado College

Making Mosaics from Fragments and Shards: Storytelling and California Indigenous Aesthetics in
Deborah Miranda's Bad Indians: A Tribal Memoir
Lydia Marie Heberling, University of Washington

The Homestead Georgic: Genre & Settler Colonialism
Daniel Clausen, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Cold Hand Luke: Stephen Graham Jones's "Brushdogs" and the Land of Weird Fiction
Nadha Grewal, Goldsmiths University of London, UK

Recipient of the Louis Owens Award.

T4C: Writers and the Western Environment

Location: Ballroom 4

Chair: Thomas Paul Lynch, University of Nebraska

Enacting Resurrection: Literary Reinhabitation in the Apocalyptic West
Luke Morgan, Texas Tech University

Reading Regionality: Thinking through Field Guides to Western Space
Lars Erik Larson, University of Portland

Wood-, Were-, Sea-, Coy-, Teen-Wolves
Christopher Dolle, University of Iowa

"Judgment Is Required": Managing Risk in Western Canadian Petro-Lit
Jenny Kerber, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada

T4D: New Views of *My Ántonia*

Location: Crystal Lake

Chair: Joshua Dolezal, Central College

Nasty and Nice: Women in Božena Němcová's *Babička* and Willa Cather's Fiction
Evelyn Funda, Utah State University

On Impersonal Things: The Failure of Classical Education in Willa Cather's *My Ántonia*
Cheyenne Marie Marco, University of South Dakota

Writing the Rails: The Spatiality of the Railroad in Two Accounts from the Great Plains
Emily J. Rau, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

T4E: Horror, Anxiety, and the Western Landscape

Location: Deer Lake

Chair: David Peterson, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Revisiting Prairie Madness: Unsettling Landscapes and the EcoGothic in Plains Literature

Vanessa Steinroetter, Washburn University

“The darkness drops again”: Horror and the Western Narrative

Jeffrey Chisum, University of Southern California

Stephen Crane’s “The Blue Hotel” and the Anxiety of Identity in the 1890s West

Quinn Grover, Brigham Young University - Idaho

T4F: Native American Resistance

Location: Elk Lake

Chair: Kathleen Ann Danker, South Dakota State University (ret.)

“Unless the Indians are willing”: Native Resistance in the 1905 Journals of Abby Williams Hill

Tiffany Aldrich MacBain & Laura Edgar, University of Puget Sound

The Tribal Art of *That Guy Wolf Dancing* by Elizabeth Cook-Lynn

Kathleen Ann Danker, South Dakota State University (ret.)

“How Many Indians Would Have to Dance?”: Powwow, Ghost Dance, and Mis-taken Identity in

Sherman Alexie’s *Indian Killer*

Gretchen Collier, Northern Arizona University

T4G: A Woman’s Perspective

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake

Chair: Amanda R. Gradisek, Walsh University

Gendered Nationalism in Fray Angelico Chavez’s *La Conquistadora* (1954)

Andrew Tolle, Eastfield College

Looking Downstream: A 21st-Century Appreciation of Mary Hallock Foote’s 19th-Century View of

Western Landscapes in Her Letters, Fiction, Illustrations, and Journalism

Megan Riley McGilchrist, The American School in London, UK

Cities of Plains and Faith in the Commons

Yeojin Kim, Incheon Academy of Science and Arts in South Korea

T4H: Queer and Queering West

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake

Chair: Susan Kollin, Montana State University

“We have traditions about folks like us”: Cultural Revitalization and Two-Spirit Memory in Carole LaFavor’s

Along the Journey River

Kai Pyle, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

The *Mysterious Skin* of Hutchinson, Kansas

Robert Lipscomb, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

“I Think a Look at the West Would Do You Good”: Queer Visibility and Mythological Refuge in *The Price of Salt*

Lindsay R. Stephens, University of South Dakota

2:00PM–3:15PM



Coffee Service

Location: 4th Floor Prefunction Area

3:30PM–4:45PM

T5: Plenary Session with Linda LeGarde Grover: Writing from Onigamiising

Location: Ballroom 1

Introducing Linda LeGarde Grover: Jill Doerfler, University of Minnesota Duluth



Linda LeGarde Grover is a member of the Bois Forte band of Ojibwe and professor of American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota Duluth. She has received the Native Writers Circle of the Americas First Book Award, the Flannery O'Connor Award, and the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize, whose previous recipients include Ann Patchett, Anne Tyler, and Toni Morrison.

5:00PM–6:15PM

T6A: Roundtable: Clint Eastwood and the Western Narrative

Location: Ballroom 2

Chair: Glenda Ellen Pritchett, Quinnipiac University

The Old Man Keeps Rolling Along: An Introduction to a New Collection of Essays on Clint Eastwood
Leonard Engel, Quinnipiac University

From *Shane* to *American Sniper*: The Western Hero Endures
Glenda Pritchett, Quinnipiac University

From *Shane* to *Logan*, and *A Perfect World* Between: Agricultural Margins of the Western
Matt Wanat, Ohio University Lancaster

The Swamp and the Chalice: Eastwood, Trump, and Mandela
John MacLeod Gourlie, Quinnipiac University

T6B: Feminist Pedagogy and Western American Literature: Power, Privilege, and Intersectionality

Location: Ballroom 3

Chair: Amy T. Hamilton, Northern Michigan University

“This world that walks”: Teaching Stories of American Indian Removal Trails through Indigenous Cosmovisions, Gender Studies, and Environmental Justice
Amy T. Hamilton, Northern Michigan University

The Limitations and Possibilities of Sisterhood: Portrayals of American Indian Women in Mary Rowlandson’s *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God* (1682) and Olive Ann Oatman’s *The Captivity of the Oatman Girls* (1856)
Randi Tanglen, Austin College

An Interdisciplinary Approach to Teaching Gender in Western American Literature
Amanda R. Gradisek, Walsh University

T6C: Ethnic Literatures of Resistance

Location: Ballroom 4

Chair: Matt Burkhart, Case Western Reserve University

Displacement: Water, Place, and Life in McNickle’s *Wind from an Enemy Sky* and Munif’s *Cities of Salt*
Lubna Alzaroo, University of Washington

“High above the Prairies”: Autobiographically Narrating the American (Mid)West
Rachel Linnea Brown, University of Kansas

“We are all savages”: Violence, Colonialism, and Representations of American Indians in *The Revenant*
Akikwe Cornell, University of Minnesota

T6D: The Play’s the Thing

Location: Crystal Lake

Chair: Steven B. Shively, Utah State University

Outlaw Cole Younger and His Ill-fated Raid on Northfield, MN: A Preview of My Play Involving His History in Stillwater Prison and Our Present-day Civil War on Drugs
Al Kammerer, Independent Scholar

“I know how things can be for women”: Gender Violence, Sisterhood, and Murder in *Trifles* and *Flyin’ West*
Maria Beach, Oklahoma State University

“You’re fired!” and Other Echoes from Robert Schenckan’s Play *All the Way [with LBJ]*
Steven B. Shively, Utah State University

T6E: Alien Landscapes

Location: Deer Lake

Chair: Gary Reger, Trinity College

The Flying Saucers Have Landed: Desert Landscapes and Alien Contact in the American Imaginary
Gary Reger, Trinity College

“Uninhabited” Land and the Failure of the Californian Utopia in *Gold Fame Citrus*
MaryKate Messimer, University of Arkansas

Saints in Space

Mary Campbell, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

T6F: Taking Down Borders

Location: Elk Lake

Chair: Carolyn Dekker, Finlandia University

Unlikely Authors: How Truck Drivers Navigate Myth and Identity through Storytelling
Linda Jean Rogge, University of Nebraska Lincoln

Zane Grey’s *The Border Legion* as Transitory Space
Kelly Griffith, United States Air Force Academy

T6G: Late 19th- and Early 20th-Century Views of the West

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake

Chair: Tracy Tucker, Willa Cather Foundation

Continent, Catastrophe

Rachel Heise Bolten, Stanford University

Bay Area Berserkers: Frank Norris, Jack London, and Racial Primordialism
Edward Watts, Michigan State University

T6H: Blue Essences: Water and Spirituality

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake

Chair: Max Frazier, U.S. Air Force Academy (ret.)

Finding Peace at the Northwest Border: Loneliness, Wonder, and “Blue Mind” in Ruth Ozeki’s
A Tale for the Time Being
Jennifer K. Ladino, University of Idaho

The Sanctity of Streams: Fly Fishing as Lived Spiritual Practice
Cory Willard, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Thursday

6:30PM–7:30PM

**T7: Readers' BYO Dinner Theater: “Do ya really like lutefisk? or, A New Saga of the Nordland,”
by David Fenimore**



Location: Ballroom 3

Chair: Rebecca Marie Lush, California State University San Marcos

Chair: O. Alan Weltzien, University of Montana - Western

8:00PM–9:15PM

T8: Plenary with Distinguished Achievement Award Honoree Rick Shiomi—Asian American Theater: An Alternative Perspective

Location: Ballroom 1

Chair: Florence Amamoto & Susan Maher, WLA Co-Presidents

Welcome: Fernando Delgado, Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, University of Minnesota Duluth

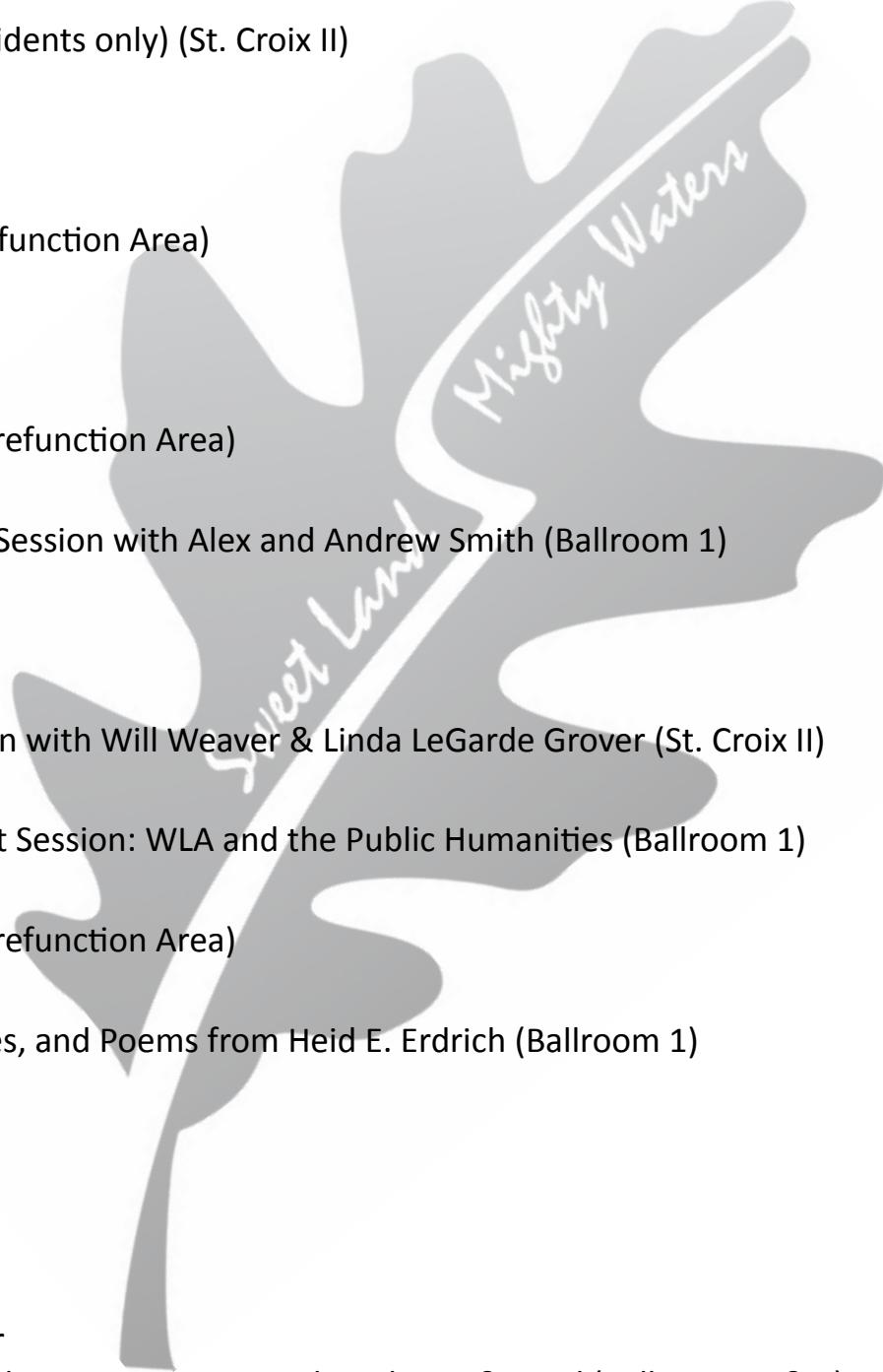


Rick Shiomi has been involved in Asian American theater for over thirty-five years, as a playwright, director, and artistic director. He received the McKnight Foundation Distinguished Artist Award in 2015, the Ivey Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2012, and the Sally Ordway Irvine Award for Vision in 2007. He has written over twenty plays, including the award-winning *Yellow Fever*. He was a co-founder of Mu Performing Arts and the artistic director from 1993 to 2013. He has directed for Mu Performing Arts, InterAct Theatre in Philadelphia, Theatre Esprit Asia in Denver, and the Asian American Theater Company in San Francisco. For Mu, he directed *Into the Woods* set in Asia, *The Mikado* set in Edwardian England, and *Yellow Face* at the Dowling Studio of the Guthrie Theater. For Interact Theatre, he directed *Caught by Christopher Chen* in 2014, for which he received a Barrymore Award nomination for Outstanding Direction. He played taiko for thirty years and was the founder (in 1997) and the leader of Mu Daiko until 2010. He recently received a Doris Duke Charitable Foundation grant to develop Asian American theater in Philadelphia, and he is currently the co-artistic director of Full Circle Theater in Minnesota.

9:15PM

Graduate Student Social Gathering at Keiran's Irish Pub

FRIDAY—Oct. 27, 2017

- 
- 7:00am – 8:30am
Presidents' Breakfast (Presidents only) (St. Croix II)
- 7:45am – 4:00pm
Registration (4th floor)
- 8:00am – 5:00pm
Book Exhibit (4th Floor Prefunction Area)
- 8:00am – 9:15am
Sessions F1
- 9:00am – 11:00am
Coffee Service (4th Floor Prefunction Area)
- 9:30am – 10:45am
Sessions F2 & Special Film Session with Alex and Andrew Smith (Ballroom 1)
- 11:00am – 12:15pm
Sessions F3
- 12:30pm – 1:30pm
Graduate Student Luncheon with Will Weaver & Linda LeGarde Grover (St. Croix II)
- 1:30pm – 2:45pm
Sessions F4 & Grad Student Session: WLA and the Public Humanities (Ballroom 1)
- 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Coffee Service (4th Floor Prefunction Area)
- 3:00pm – 4:15pm
Plenary: True Myths, Stories, and Poems from Heid E. Erdrich (Ballroom 1)
- 4:30pm – 5:45pm
Sessions F6
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm
Cash Bar
- 8:00pm – 11:00pm
WLA Banquet and Cash Bar
Followed by WLA Traditional Dance, Featuring Erik Koskinen & Band (Ballrooms 1 & 2)

8:00AM–9:15AM

F1A: Owning Up to Our Feminist Thinking: A Workshop in Theory and Practice

Location: Ballroom 2

Session Chair: Krista Comer, Rice University

What Is a Feminist Landscape? Theorizing Locational and Visual Intimacies
Audrey Goodman, Georgia State University

Experience, Situated Knowledges, Feminist Wests
Krista Comer, Rice University

“The flesh of women’s lives”: Using Affect to Decolonize Feminism
Lorena Gauthereau, University of Houston

Critical Regionalism, Chicana Feminism, and Carlota d.Z. Espinoza
Melina Vizcaino-Aleman, University of New Mexico

F1B: Krakauer’s Wests

Location: Ballroom 3

Chair: Brady Harrison, University of Montana

John Krakauer and the Extreme West
O. Alan Weltzien, University of Montana – Western

Into the Styled: John Krakauer’s Self-Effacing Narrative Voice
David Neal Cremeen, Black Hills State University

Shootout at the O.K. Everest
Brady Harrison, University of Montana

When the Book Gets Personal: Krakauer’s Missoula and Regional Reading Practices
Nancy S. Cook, University of Montana

F1C: Native America and U.S. Empire

Location: Ballroom 4

Chair: Jerome Paul Tharaud, Brandeis University

Going, Going, Native: U.S. Empire, American Indians, and 19th-Century Baseball History
Zachary Mann, University of Southern California

The Dried Blood in the Codes: The Illusion of Security in Silko’s *Almanac of the Dead*
David Buchanan, USAF Academy

Negating the Indigenous Presence—The Jeffers Petroglyphs and Willa Cather’s “Indian Stories”
Michael Thomas Gorman, Hiroshima City University, Japan

F1D: Creative Writing: Reflections on Self and Place

Location: Crystal Lake

Chair: Kristen Brown, University of South Carolina

A Woman Who Knows Her Place

Jillian Moore Bennion, Clark College

Syruping

Joshua Dolezal, Central College

The Big Fat Battle

Max Frazier, U.S. Air Force Academy (ret.)

F1E: Haunted Homes

Location: Deer Lake

Chair: Yvonne Rutherford, University of Wisconsin-Superior

Crossing the U.S.-Canadian Border in the Fiction of Louise Erdrich and James Welch

Patrizia Corina Zanella, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

“Haunting the solidity of things”: Home and Homelessness in the American West

Neil Campbell, University of Derby, UK

Toward a Critical Archaeology of Homelessness in the Postregional U.S. West

Stephen Tatum, University of Utah

F1F: Marketing the West

Location: Elk Lake

Chair: Lawrence Coates, Bowling Green State University

The “Mountain as Cathedral”: Place, Travel, and Coming to Life in Colorado

Joy Marie Hamilton, University of Minnesota

“The Dude Ranches Invite You”: Marketing and Self-Fashioning in the American West

Kevin Masao Kimura, University of Chicago

Attracted to Tragedy: Western Dark Tourism and Waco’s Mount Carmel

Jennifer Ann Dawes, Henderson State University

F1G: Creative Writing:

Texas Myths and Realities: Four Writers’ Perspectives

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake

Chair: Clinton Crockett Peters, University of North Texas

First Inhabitants

Amanda Yanowski, University of North Texas

Caballero

Kimberly Garza, University of North Texas

Outdoor Pursuits

Clinton Crockett Peters, University of North Texas

F1H: T.V. Westerns

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake

Chair: Al Kammerer, Independent Scholar

Happy Trails to Us; or, The Progressive Leanings of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans

Richard Hunt, Potomac State College

You'll Never Leave Harlan Alive: Using Frontier Tropes to Rewrite Eastern History

Patrick Richard Prominski, Michigan State University

Dirty Walt: Casuistries Promoting Police Vigilantism in *Longmire*

Tim Steckline, Black Hills State University

9:00AM–11:00AM

Coffee Service

Location: 4th Floor Prefunction Area



9:30AM–10:45AM

F2A: Special Film Session: “Mythos and Storytelling: *Walking Out, the Aeneid, and the Hunt,*” with filmmakers Alex and Andrew Smith (UC Davis)

Location: Ballroom 1

Chair: Rebecca Marie Lush, California State University San Marcos

F2B: Creative Writing: Imaginative Scholarship

Location: Ballroom 3

Chair: Todd Richardson, University of Nebraska Omaha

Let Us Not Talk Falsely Now: The Correspondence of Bob Dylan and Willa Cather

Todd Richardson, University of Nebraska Omaha

Regarding Bauman

Mystery Harwood, University of Nebraska Omaha

Québec Habitation: An Annotated History

Kristine Langley Mahler, University of Nebraska Omaha

F2C: Women Questioning Conceptions of the West

Location: Ballroom 4

Session Chair: Evelyn Funda, Utah State University

The Wind and the Women: Female Authorship and the Performative West

Erin Martin, West Texas A&M University

The Unreconciled West: A Mother's Story

Monique McDade, University of Nevada, Reno

The "Homespaces" of Era Bell Thompson, an African American Author of the Plains

Sara Susan Gallagher, University of Waterloo, Canada

F2D: Exploring Anzaldúa's Borderlands

Location: Crystal Lake

Chair: Alexandra Meany, Loyola Marymount University

Artistic Spell: The Creative Effects of Code-Switching on the Reader

Courtney Lee Craggett, University of Central Oklahoma

*Life in the Borders: Female Liminality in Fabiola Cabeza de Baca's *We Fed Them Cactus* and Elena Zamora*

O'Shea's *El Mesquite*

Laurie Lowrance, University of New Mexico

*The Queer Decolonial Imaginary in Eduardo C. Corral's *Slow Lightning**

Lisa Fink, University of Oregon

Recipient of the Dorys Grover Award.

F2E: Myth and the Pacific Northwest

Location: Deer Lake

Chair: Bernard William Quetchenbach, Montana State University Billings

Keeping an Eye on the "I": Memory, Narrative, and the Mythic Self in Jonathan Johnson's

Poetry of the Northwest

Nathan Paul Anderson, Marietta College

Handing on the Stories: Myth and History in Craig Lesley's Novels

John Crispin Davies, Independent scholar, UK

*Pixels, Place, and the Pacific Northwest: Representing Region in *Life Is Strange**

Tony R. Magagna, Millikin University

F2F: Hollywood's Wests

Location: Elk Lake

Chair: Patrick K. Dooley, St. Bonaventure University

The Horse Whisperer: The Romance of the West

Richard Eugene Hutson, University of California, Berkeley

*"Run His Herd in with Ours": Hollywood's Effect on Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove**

Landon Scott Lutrick, University of Nevada, Reno

F2G: Wallace Stegner

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake

Chair: Robert William Thacker, St. Lawrence University

Wolf Willow and Wild Card: Deep Map Memoir in South-west Saskatchewan and South-west Australia

Tony Hughes-d'Aeth, University of Western Australia

Who Is Paulette Bates Alden? Dispatches from under Stegner's Professional Shadow

Tyler Austin Nickl, University of Nevada, Reno

Wallace Stegner's Heraclitus

Michael A. Brown, Creighton University

F2H: Creative Writing: Memoir and Activism in the West

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake

Chair: John David Schwetman, University of Minnesota Duluth

Mustang Diaries: One Woman's Search for Wild Horses in the American West

Marcia Lee Hage, University Wisconsin - Superior

Water Signs

Cheyenne Marie Marco, University of South Dakota

Recipient of the Manfred Award.

F2I: Stories in the Dakota Letters of 1838–1878

Location: Ballroom 2

Chair: Gwen Nell Westerman, Minnesota State University, Mankato

In Their Own Words: The Eloquence of 19th-Century Dakota Letter Writers

Gwen Nell Westerman, Minnesota State University, Mankato

World-building through Translating the Dakota Letters

Rachel Schienke, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Words for Today: Dakota Language Then and Now

Glenn Murray Wasicuna, Minnesota State University, Mankato

11:00AM–12:15PM

F3A: Roundtable: Left in the West

Location: Ballroom 2

Chair: Gioia Elisa Woods, Northern Arizona University

West Coast Modernisms

 Audrey Goodman, Georgia State University

Mothers of the Movement: Black Western Womanhood and the Old Left

 Emily Lutenski, Saint Louis University

Contact Points: The Roadside Diner's Machinery of Work in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*

 John David Schwetman, University of Minnesota Duluth

The Literary Left in the American West

 Gioia Elisa Woods, Northern Arizona University

F3B: Native American Women Resisting Violence in the West

Location: Ballroom 3

Chair: Jennifer K. Ladino, University of Idaho

Rereading Silko for the Anthropocene

 Alex Hunt, West Texas A&M University

Storytelling as Ecological and Postcolonial Resistance in Leslie Marmon Silko's "Storyteller"

 Cynthia Taylor, Colorado State University-Pueblo

Dammed Indians: Reclamation and Displacement in the Novels of Elizabeth Cook-Lynn, Linda Hogan, and Leslie Marmon Silko

 Paul Formisano, University of South Dakota

F3C: Western Masculinities

Location: Ballroom 4

Chair: Michael K. Johnson, University of Maine-Farmington

Wilderness Myth and the Wild Man: To Suggest a Relationship between American Wilderness and European Fairy Tales

 Masato Tobari, Graduate School of Rikkyo University, Tokyo

Contesting Masculinity in Winnifred Eaton's Canadian West

 Marie Drews, Luther College

Prodigal Sons and Patriarchy: Reading the Wounds of Gender in *A River Runs Through It*

 John Austin Peterson, Pepperdine University

F3E: Digital Humanities and Western American Scholarship

Location: Deer Lake

Chair: Aubrey Streit Krug, The Land Institute

“For the Red Man’s Cause”: Searching for Stories in the Genoa Indian Industrial School’s Newspaper,

The Pipe of Peace

Lydia R. Presley, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Crossing Research Borders: Digital Libraries of the U.S. West

Pamela Jo Pierce, Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University

Minnesota Motor-Camping: 4 Men, 4 Tires, 5 Tubes, 2 Valves, and 153 Gallons of Gas

Peter E. Reim, University of Wisconsin-Stout

F3F: Challenging Categories in Narratives about Indigenous Life and History

Location: Elk Lake

Chair: Nicolas S. Witschi, Western Michigan University

Talking Papers and Civilizing Lies: Eliding the Secular and the Sacred in Winnemucca’s Shrewd Storytelling

Kristen Brown, University of South Carolina

Dark Amusements: The Comedic Kinship of Sherman Alexie and Flannery O’Connor

Tim Kemper, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Reading William Vollmann’s Latest Dream, *The Dying Grass: A Novel of the Nez Perce War*

Capper Nichols, University of Minnesota

F3G: Native Americans in Art: Ledger Drawings and Graphic Novels

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake

Chair: Kathleen Ann Danker, South Dakota State University (ret.)

Native American Ledger Art: A Tradition of Survivance and Cross-Cultural Representation

Donovan Gwinner, Aurora University

Recovering Lakota Masculinities through 19th-Century Lakota Ledger Drawings

Peter L. Bayers, Fairfield University

Signs and Visions: Making Meaning in David Mack’s Native American Graphic Novel, *Vision Quest: Echo*

Sara Spurgeon, Texas Tech University

F3H: Cather and Artists, War, and Mythmaking

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake

Chair: Melody Graulich, Utah State University

Father Latour's Myths of the Margins in Willa Cather's *Death Comes for the Archbishop*
Jeannette E. Schollaert, University of Maryland

Willa Cather on Art and Artists: The Lessons of the Master
Jeanine Varner, Abilene Christian University

Willa Cather's *One of Ours*: "Wholly West and War"
Catherine Denham Holmes, College of Charleston

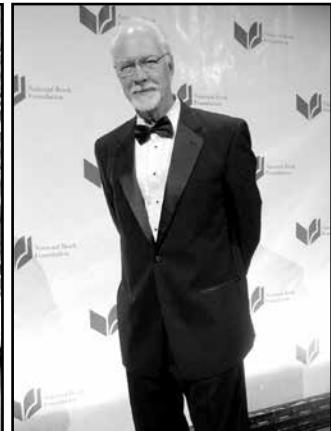
12:30PM–1:30PM

Graduate Student Luncheon featuring Will Weaver and Linda LeGarde Grover

Location: St. Croix II

Chair: Landon Scott Lutrick, Univ. of Nevada, Reno

Chair: Rachel Heise Bolten, Stanford University



1:30PM–2:45PM

F4A: Roundtable: Thinking Continental

Location: Ballroom 2

Chair: O. Alan Weltzien, University of Montana - Western

Three Stations along the Ring of Fire
O. Alan Weltzien, University of Montana - Western

Watershed Consciousness and the Anthropocene
Thomas Paul Lynch, University of Nebraska

Life on the Western Edge of It All: Conceptions of Place in Tess Gallagher's Lough Arrow Poems
Drucilla Wall, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Morning in Helsinki
Eamonn Wall, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Pathways of the Yellowstone
Bernard William Quetchenbach, Montana State University Billings

Superior
Susan Maher, University of Minnesota Duluth

The Lariat and the GPS: Cowboys, Cattle Ranching, and Global Agricultural Practices
Nancy S. Cook, University of Montana

F4B: Silko's *Ceremony*

Location: Ballroom 3

Chair: Linda Helstern, North Dakota State University

Going Viral: Storytelling as Virus in Silko's *Ceremony*

Jessica Hellmann, United States Air Force Academy

Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony* and Native American Ecological Anxiety in Post-WWII U.S. Literature

Ashley Elaine Reis, State University of New York at Potsdam

Native American Literary Nationalism and Red Power: *Ceremony*'s Engagement with the Intimate

Relationship between Stories, Land, and Sovereignty

Laura De Vos, University of Washington

Recipient of the Louis Owens Award.

F4C: Twain and His Contemporaries

Location: Ballroom 4

Chair: Christine Hill Smith, Colorado Mountain College

Mark Twain's *A Horse's Tale* and the Transnational Frontier

Charles Callis Bradshaw, University of Tennessee at Martin

Satire Headed South: Herman Melville and Mark Twain's Mississippi River Novels

Andrew Thomas Ross, University of North Texas

F4D: The West as Postmodernist/Transnational Space

Location: Crystal Lake

Chair: Sara Spurgeon, Texas Tech University

Cannibal Capitalism in Cormac McCarthy

Kary Doyle Smout, Washington and Lee University

An Old Faith in the Westward Vector: The Frontier in the Works of Thomas Pynchon

Nicholas Henson, Citrus College

One Hundred Years of American Western Fiction into Italian

Stefano Rosso, University of Bergamo, Italy

F4E: Northern Wests

Location: Deer Lake

Chair: Andy Meyer, Luther College

Impermafrost: Troubling Gender and Melting Land in Svalbard

Andy Meyer, Luther College

Embodying Wilderness Poetics: Anthropological Fieldwork in the Humanities with Gary Snyder and

Philip Whalen in the North Cascades

Nadine Antoinette Maestas, Southern New Hampshire University

Survival Is Insufficient: Northern Michigan as a Post-Apocalyptic Final Frontier

Carolyn Dekker, Finlandia University

F4F: The Power of Art, the Art of Story

Location: Elk Lake

Chair: Terry Beers, Santa Clara University

Initial Publication of Stephen Crane's Western and Mexican Tales: Illustrators and Their Images

Patrick K. Dooley, St. Bonaventure University

Myth and Storytelling in *Gilead*

Lori K. Martin, Pittsburg State University

Sowing Dragon's Teeth: Periodical Depictions of the John Wesley Powell's Colorado River Expeditions

Braden Joseph Krien, University of Iowa

F4G: Revising, Rethinking, Rebuking the Myths of the West

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake

Chair: Todd Richardson, University of Nebraska Omaha

Reimagining Earp

Megan Kahn, United States Air Force Academy

A *Timeless* History of the American West

Michael K. Johnson, University of Maine-Farmington

Assassins, Companions, Warriors: The Women of *Firefly* and *Guardians of the Galaxy*

Anne L. Kaufman, Milton Academy

F4H: Grad Student Session: WLA and the Public Humanities with Aubrey Streit Krug, Audrey Goodman, Christine Bold, and Krista Comer

Location: Ballroom 1

Chair: Rachel Heise Bolten, Stanford University

2:00PM–4:00PM



Coffee Service

Location: 4th Floor Prefunction Area

Friday

3:00PM–4:15PM

F5: Plenary: True Myths, Stories, and Poems from Heid E. Erdrich

Location: Ballroom 1

Chair: Drucilla Wall, University of Missouri-St. Louis



Heid E. Erdrich is a poet, writer, and filmmaker. She is the author of five books of poetry including *National Monuments*, which won a 2009 Minnesota Book Award, and most recently *Curator of Ephemera at the New Museum for Archaic Media* (2017). Her nonfiction book, *Original Local: Indigenous Foods, Stories and Recipes from the Upper Midwest*, earned a City Pages Best Food Book of 2014 designation. She is the founding publisher of Wiigwaas Press, an Ojibwe language publisher and she teaches in the MFA Creative Writing program at Augsburg College. She is Ojibwe, enrolled at Turtle Mountain.

4:30PM–5:45PM

F6A: Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage and the U.S. West

Location: Ballroom 2

Chair: José Aranda, Rice University

Responding to the Revolutionary Urge: Las Hermanas and Claiming Hispanic Women's Liberation Theology as a Part of U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage
Kaitlyn Willy, University of North Texas

Unexpected Identities and Latina/o/x Environments in the U.S. West
Priscilla Solis Ybarra, University of North Texas

When Collective Memory Takes You Home: Jorge Ainslie's *Los Pochos* and the Folkloric Difference in the Spanish Language Press
Elena V. Valdez, Rice University

Recipient of the J. Golden Taylor Award.

Assessing the Past, Pondering the Future: The Impact of the Recovery Project on U.S. West Studies
José Aranda, Rice University

F6B: Monstrosity and the Grotesque in the Works of Stephen Graham Jones

Location: Ballroom 3

Chair: Bernadette Vivian Russo, Texas Tech University

The Mongrel-Feminine: Woman as Werewolf and the Western

Rebecca Marie Lush, California State University San Marcos

Grotesque Realism and the Carnivalesque as Survivance in the *Fast Red Road*

Bernadette Vivian Russo, Texas Tech University

Infection in the Blood: Love and Horror in Stephen Graham Jones's Families

Maria O'Connell, Wayland Baptist University

"So the bad old days up all over again": Colonial Inscriptions in the Zombie Apocalypse of *The Gospel of Z*

Kerry Fine, Arizona State University

F6C: Indigenous Sovereignty and the Undercommons

Location: Ballroom 4

Chair: Alex Trimble Young, Arizona State University

The Vital Heat of the Little Man's Stove: Ellison's Figuration of Sociality through the Commons of the Underground

Terrell Anderson Taylor, Vanderbilt University

The Problematic of Coalition in Gerald Vizenor's *Bearheart*

Chris Pexa, University of Minnesota

Of Survivance and Sovereignty: Indigeneity, Blackness, and "Social Death" in Leslie Marmon Silko's *The Garden in the Dunes*

Alex Trimble Young, Arizona State University

F6D: Activist Women . . . and Men

Location: Crystal Lake

Chair: Maria Christine Beach, Oklahoma State University

Origin Story: Motherhood and Colonialism

Tarra Stevenson, Westridge School for Girls & University of CA at Riverside

Material Feminism, Environmental Justice, and Digital Sites of Resistance: Figuring the Cyborg Activist

Annie Jones Culver, Rice University

Incest, Promiscuity, and Quilting: Exploring Sexual Politics in the West through Anne Proulx's *That Old Ace in the Hole* and *Wyoming Stories*

Jason Bryce Herbert, West Texas A&M University

James McBride's Staging of John Brown's Legend in *Good Lord Bird*

Elizabeth Abele, SUNY Nassau Community College

F6E: Views of the (Public) Land

Location: Deer Lake

Chair: Lars Erik Larson, University of Portland

Land, Lots of Land: The West (and the Western) as Public Domain

W. Dana Phillips, Towson University (Maryland) / Rhodes University (South Africa)

“Landscape of Thorns”: Anthropocene Ruin(s) in Watkins’s *Gold Fame Citrus*

Matt Burkhardt, Case Western Reserve University

Managing from the Clouds: Aerial Vision and Resource Insecurity in L. Frank Baum’s *The Wizard of Oz*

Jada Ach, University of South Carolina

American Apocalypse: Revealing a Genre of Settler Colonialism

April Anson, University of Oregon

Recipient of the Dorys Grover Award.

F6G: Creative Writing: Fictions of Place

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake

Chair: Candace Lee Black, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Crossing to Home

Sharon Ann Reynolds, Palomar College

Kanorado: Liminal Spaces in Geography, Spirituality, and Fiction

Tyler Barton, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Well Wishes

Melody Graulich, Utah State University

F6H: Creative Writing: Hmong Writers of the West

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake

Chair: Mai Neng Moua, MNM Productions

Mai Neng Moua, MNM Productions

May Yang, Independent

7:00PM–8:00PM

Cash Bar

8:00PM–11:00PM

WLA Banquet and Dance Featuring Erik Koskinen

Location: Ballrooms 1 & 2

Chairs: Florence Amamoto & Susan Maher, WLA Co-Presidents



Candor and craft are front and center on Erik Koskinen's new album, *Erik Koskinen Live at The Real Phonic Radio Hour*. All fifteen songs capture the power of music made in synchronous time, place, and company. Koskinen is well known for his witty lyricism, sharp tongue, and poignant songs.

2017 WLA Award Recipients

Distinguished Achievement Award

For an influential scholar or creative writer in western American literature

Rick Shiomi

Delbert & Edith Wylder Award

For outstanding service to the association

Sara Spurgeon (Texas Tech University)

Thomas J. Lyon Book Award

For most outstanding book published this year in western American literary and cultural studies

Priscilla Solis Ybarra (University of North Texas)

for *Writing the Goodlife: Mexican American Literature and the Environment*

Don D. Walker Prize

For best essay published in western American literary studies in 2016

Christopher Pexa (University of Minnesota)

for "More Than Talking Animals: Charles Alexander Eastman's Animal Peoples and Their Kinship Critiques of United States Colonialism" (*PMLA*)

Frederick Manfred Award

For the best creative writing submission to the conference

Cheyenne Marco (University of South Dakota)

for "Water Signs"

WLA/Charles Redd Center K-12 Teaching Award

Jennifer Kawecki and Hakan Armağan (Burke High School, Omaha, NE)

for "My Land, Our Land: Exploring the Ethics of Energy Policy, Consumption, and Sustainability Using Aldo Leopold's 'The Land Ethic'"

J. Golden Taylor Award

For best essay presented at the conference by a graduate student

Elena Valdez (Rice University)

for "When Collective Memory Takes You Home: Jorge Ainslie's *Los Pochos* and the Folkloric Difference in the Spanish Language Press"

Dorys Grover Awards

For outstanding papers presented at the conference by graduate students who contribute to our critical understandings of region, place, and space in western American literatures

Lisa Fink (University of Oregon)

for "The Queer Decolonial Imaginary in Eduardo C. Corral's *Slow Lightning*"

April Anson (University of Oregon)

for "American Apocalypse: Revealing a Genre of Settler Colonialism"

Louis Owens Awards

For graduate student presenters contributing most to cultural diversity in the association

Laura De Vos (University of Washington), presenting "Native American Literary Nationalism and Red Power: *Ceremony*'s Engagement with the Intimate Relationship between Stories, Land, and Sovereignty"

Nadhia Grewal (Goldsmiths University of London), presenting "Cold Hand Luke: Stephen Graham Jones's 'Brushdogs' and the Land of Weird Fiction"

SATURDAY – Oct. 28, 2017

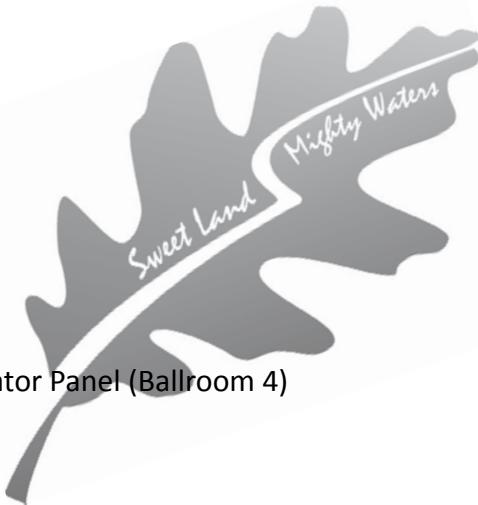
8:00am – 12:00pm
Book Exhibit (4th Floor Prefunction Area)

8:00am – 9:15am
Sessions S1

9:00am – 11:00am
Coffee Service (4th Floor Prefunction Area)

9:30am – 10:45am
Sessions S2 & WLA/Charles Redd Center K–12 Educator Panel (Ballroom 4)

11:00am – 12:15pm
WLA Business Meeting (Ballroom 3)



Texas Studies in Literature and Language

TSLL

Douglas Bruster and James H. Cox, Editors
Special Issue 59.3: *Modernism and Native America*

Modernism and Native America	James H. Cox
The Vine Theatre	Lynn Riggs
American Indian Modernities and Modernist Studies' "Indian Problem"	Kirby Brown
The Landscape of Disaster: Hemingway, Porter, and the Soundings of Indigenous Silence	Eric Gary Anderson and Melanie Benson Taylor
Red and White and Pink All Over: <i>Vacilada</i> , Indian Identity, and Todd Downing's Queer Response to Modernity	Charles J. Rzepka
The New Modernist Studies, Anthropology, and N. Scott Momaday's <i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i>	Michael Tavel Clarke

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Saturday

8:00AM–9:15AM

S1A: Transnationalism in Western North American Texts

Location: Ballroom 2

Chair: David Neal Cremeen, Black Hills State University

Transnational Indigenous Futurisms: Fostering Coalitions in Native American Speculative Fiction
Andrew Uzendoski, Lafayette College

Border Identities and the Lexicon of Western Belonging: Reading Solmaz Sharif's War Poetry
Susan Kollin, Montana State University

S1B: Renegotiating Western Myths in Film and Television

Location: Ballroom 3

Chair: Matt Wanat, Ohio University Lancaster

The Myth of Jesse James in the 21st Century: Resonance and Reasons
William Chadwick Beharriell, St. Clair College, Canada

Dystopic Visions and Imaginary Wests: Re-Negotiating Myths in HBO's *Westworld*
Baerbel Schlimbach, Saarland University, Germany

One in Ten Thousand: *Django Unchained*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Black Exceptionality and the Weird Western
Joshua Damu Smith, Biola University

S1C: “We’re an American Band”: The Challenge of Critical Regionalism in Contemporary American Art, Culture, and Politics

Location: Ballroom 4

Chair: Matthew Young Heimburger, University of Utah

“You Ain’t Going to Get a Map with It Marked Out”: Public and Private Knowledge of Place on the Dakota Access Pipeline
Elisa Warford, University of Southern California

“And It’s Dying on the Vine!”: West Coast Jazz, *La La Land*, and the Challenges of Critical Regionalism
Matthew Heimburger, University of Utah

It All Started with the Border: The Drive-By Truckers’ “American Band,” Working-Class Whiteness, and Critical Regionalism
Paul B. Wickelson, Independent Scholar

S1E: Creative Writing: Bordering the Expanse: Graduate Writing on the Fringes of Creative Nonfiction

Location: Deer Lake

Chair: Kristine Langley Mahler, University of Nebraska Omaha

On Beer, Burgers, and Hunger

Kelsey M. Bee, University of Nebraska Omaha

The Willow-Circle and Other Beginnings

Mystery Harwood, University of Nebraska Omaha

Boys, Boss: An Erasure Essay

Kristine Langley Mahler, University of Nebraska Omaha

S1F: Native Americans in History and Literature

Location: Elk Lake

Chair: Kyle Bladow, Northland College

Mark Twain's Selective Construction of Anti-Native American Sentiment

Julian Suhr, University of Southern California

The Law of the Land: Locating U.S. Indian Policy in the Spaces of *House Made of Dawn*

Caitlin C. Hudgins, Potomac State College

S1G: Utopian and Dystopian Western Imaginaries

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake

Chair: Kerry Fine, Arizona State University

"A thing of hope": Settler Feminist Utopianism in Margaret Atwood's *MaddAddam*

Brittany Henry, Rice University

Picket Fences Like Spears: 1980s American Dystopia in Chuck Klosterman's *Downtown Owl*

ShaunAnne Tangney, Minot State University

9:00AM–11:00AM



Coffee Service

Location: 4th Floor Prefunction Area

9:30AM–10:45AM

S2A: Revisionism, Postcolonialism, and Visual Sovereignty in the Western

Location: Ballroom 2

Chair: Joanna Hearne, University of Missouri

Chickasaw Television: Wallace Fox and the Gene Autry Enterprise/Flying A Pictures Television Series

The Range Rider

Joanna Hearne, University of Missouri

The Searchers and the Trackers: Postcolonial Implications of the Pursuit Plot in American and Transnational Westerns

Marek Paryz, University of Warsaw, Poland

Ghosts and Sexual Slavery: Nuanced Portrayals of the Celluloid Indian Maiden in *The Revenant*

M. Elise Marubbio, Augsburg University, USA

S2B: Spectacular Indigeneity: The New and Not-So-New Indians in Contemporary Stories by and about Indians

Location: Ballroom 3

Chair: Becca Gercken, University of Minnesota Morris

Not the Usual Indian in the Cupboard: Indigenous Bodies and Spectacle in

Contemporary American Indian Literature

Becca Gercken, University of Minnesota Morris

Visual Authenticity: Native Stories in Portraiture

Nina O'Leary, University of Minnesota

The Western "Indian Episode": The Vanishing Indians of *Deadwood*

Brian J. Twenter, University of Minnesota Morris

S2C: WLA/Charles Redd Center K–12 Educator Panel

Location: Ballroom 4

Chair: Randi Tanglen, Austin College

My Land, Our Land: Exploring the Ethics of Energy Policy, Consumption, and Sustainability Using

Aldo Leopold's "The Land Ethic"

Jennifer Marie Kawecki and Sezai Hakan Armağan, Burke High School/Omaha Public Schools

S2E: Success and Failure in Minnesota Literature

Location: Deer Lake

Chair: Randi Eldevik, Oklahoma State University

"Sewing Memories," *Cold Comfort*, and *Nice Fish*: Humor, Heritage, and Storytelling on the Northern Borders

Maureen Salzer, Pima Community College

A Week on the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers: Thoreau's 1861 Minnesota Journey Revisited

David R. Solheim, Buffalo Commons Press

S2F: Natural Worlds as Sacred Space

Location: Elk Lake

Chair: Karen Ramirez, University of Colorado, Boulder

“Something Listening”: Sacred Space in Walter Van Tilburg Clark’s “The Buck in the Hills”
Terry Beers, Santa Clara University

Nature Made Sacred: Reading Holy Scripture in Cormac McCarthy’s *The Crossing*
Delinda Lane King, West Texas A & M University

The Relevance of Wilderness in a “Selfie” Culture
Sharon Ann Reynolds, Palomar College

S2G: The Uses of Storytelling

Location: Pine Lake & Cedar Lake

Chair: Beverly Hays Conner, University of Puget Sound

Dancing Back the Buffalo: Rewilding, Religion, and the Buffalo Commons Novel
Jerome Tharaud, Brandeis University

Storytelling as a Way to Establish Security in Eula Biss’s “No Man’s Land”
Katherine Emily Witt, United States Air Force Academy

Narrative Elusion in Emily Ruskovich’s *Idaho*
Margaret Johnson, Idaho State University

S2H: The Plain Sense of Pamela Carter Joern: Minnesota Meets the Nebraska Sandhills (with Readings from the Author)

Location: Birch Lake & Maple Lake

Chair: Matthew Evertson, Chadron State College

Myths and Morals *In Reach*: Stories of People and Place
Brenda Lanphear, Chadron High School

Within Reach: A Sense of the Plains
Matthew Evertson, Chadron State College

Reaching Home: Poems in the Spirit of Pamela Carter Joern’s Regionalism
Steven Coughlin, Chadron State College

11:00AM–12:15AM

WLA Business Meeting

Location: Ballroom 3

Presiding: Nicolas S. Witschi, WLA Executive Secretary

See nominating procedures on next page.



Name	Title/Term	Affiliation
Florence Amamoto	Co-President	Gustavus Adolphus College
Susan Naramore Maher	Co-President	University of Minnesota Duluth
Linda Karel	Past President	Montana State University
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Alex Hunt	Co-Vice President	West Texas A&M
Nicolas Witschi	Executive Secretary	Western Michigan University
Nancy Cook	Treasurer	University of Montana
Tom Lynch	Editor, <i>WAL</i>	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Nicholas Bradley	2017	University of Victoria, BC, Canada
Rebecca Lush	2017	CSU San Marcos
Nadine Maestas	2017	UCLA & Southern New Hampshire University
Stefano Rosso	2017	Università di Bergamo, Italy
Landon Lutrick	2017 (grad rep)	University of Nevada, Reno
Amy Hamilton	2018	Northern Michigan University
Brady Harrison	2018	University of Montana
Lisa Tatonetti	2018	Kansas State University
Amanda Zink	2018	Idaho State University
Rachel Bolten	2018 (grad rep)	Stanford University
Matt Burkhart	2019	Case Western Reserve University
William V. Lombardi	2019	Feather River College
Maria O'Connell	2019	Wayland Baptist University
Ashley Reis	2019	SUNY Potsdam

To nominate a WLA member for the Executive Council: Find out if your nominee is willing to serve. Write the name and affiliation of your candidate on the flipchart in the registration area. Council members must be WLA members and must attend the next three WLA meetings, including the Wednesday afternoon Executive Council meeting. All nominees are advised to attend the Saturday morning business meeting.

WLA Annual Conference Sites + Presidents

Year	Location	President/s
1966	Salt Lake City, Utah	C. L. Sonnichsen
1967	Albuquerque, New Mexico	Delbert E. Wylder
1968	Colorado Springs, Colorado	Jim L. Fife
1969	Provo, Utah	Morton L. Ross
1970	Sun Valley, Idaho	Don D. Walker
1971	Red Cloud, Nebraska	John R. Milton
1972	Jackson Hole, Wyoming	Thomas J. Lyon
1973	Austin, Texas	Max Westbrook
1974	Sonoma, California	John S. Bullen
1975	Durango, Colorado	Maynard Fox
1976	Bellingham, Washington	L. L. Lee
1977	Sioux Falls, South Dakota	Arthur R. Huseboe
1978	Park City, Utah	Mary Washington
1979	Albuquerque, New Mexico	Richard Etulain
1980	St. Louis, Missouri	Bernice Slote/Helen Stauffer
1981	Boise, Idaho	James H. Maguire
1982	Denver, Colorado	Martin Bucco
1983	St. Paul, Minnesota	George Day
1984	Reno, Nevada	Ann Ronald
1985	Fort Worth, Texas	Gerald Haslam
1986	Durango, Colorado	Tom Pilkington
1987	Lincoln, Nebraska	Susan J. Rosowski
1988	Eugene, Oregon	Glen Love
1989	Coeur D'Alene, Idaho	Barbara Meldrum
1990	Denton, Texas	Lawrence Clayton
1991	Estes Park, Colorado	James C. Work
1992	Reno, Nevada	Joseph Flora
1993	Wichita, Kansas	Diane Quantic
1994	Salt Lake City, Utah	Stephen Tatum
1995	Vancouver, BC	Laurie Ricou
1996	Lincoln, Nebraska	Susanne K. George
1997	Albuquerque, New Mexico	Gary Scharnhorst
1998	Banff, Alberta	Robert Thacker
1999	Sacramento, California	Michael Kowalewski
2000	Norman, Oklahoma	Robert Murray Davis
2001	Omaha, Nebraska	Susan Naramore Maher
2002	Tucson, Arizona	Judy Nolte Temple
2003	Houston, Texas	Krista Comer
2004	Big Sky, Montana	Susan Kollin
2005	Los Angeles, California	William R. Handley
2006	Boise, Idaho	Tara Penry
2007	Tacoma, Washington	Ann Putnam
2008	Boulder, Colorado	Karen Ramirez & Nicolas Witschi
2009	Spearfish, South Dakota	David Cremeann
2010	Prescott Resort, Arizona	Gioia Woods
2011	Missoula, Montana	Nancy Cook & Bonney MacDonald
2012	Lubbock, Texas	Sara Spurgeon
2013	Berkeley, California	Richard Hutson
2014	Victoria, Canada	Anne L. Kaufman & Laurie Ricou
2015	Reno, Nevada	Susan Bernardin & David Fenimore
2016	Big Sky, Montana	Linda Karell
2017	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Florence Amamoto & Susan N. Maher

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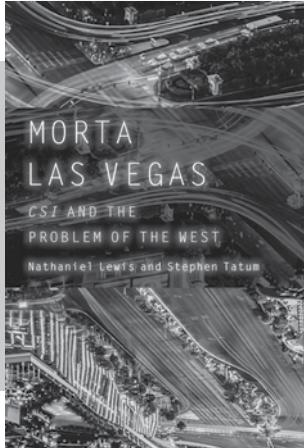
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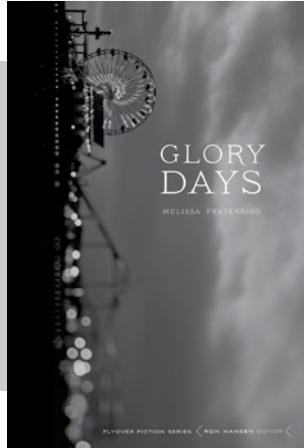
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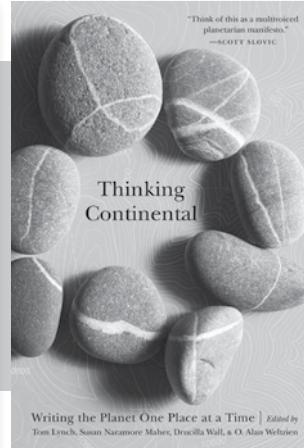
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CALL FOR PAPERS

2018 Western Literature Association Conference Indigenous Hubs, Gateway Cities, Border States



Mural at Ponderosa Steakhouse, W. Florissant Ave., Ferguson, MO. 2014. 6'x8'.
Image courtesy of COCA—Center of Creative Arts. Photo © Michael Kilfoy.

The 2018 annual conference of the Western Literature Association will take place October 24–27 at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. “Indigenous Hubs, Gateway Cities, Border States” is derived from this location. This region, at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, has been urban for thousands of years. Cahokia, known for its impressive earthen mounds, is directly across the river from today’s St. Louis and once housed the largest pre-Columbian civilization north of Mexico, a hub for trade, communication, and transportation throughout indigenous North America. Long before St. Louis was known as the “Gateway to the West,” it was nicknamed “Mound City.”

St. Louis is also a borderland, shaped by French, Spanish, and U.S. contact and conquest. With Missouri’s 1821 entry into the nation as a slave state, St. Louis became envisioned as a gateway to western freedom even while it maintained southern bondage. During the Exoduster movement, St. Louis indeed became a gateway to freedom for many African Americans migrating away from postbellum southern oppression. Today St. Louis continues to serve as a microcosm of the United States’ racial histories, and of both stubborn divisions and promising coalitions across lines of race, class, region, and nation. “Indigenous Hubs, Gateway Cities, Border States” is meant to evoke these confluences and crosscurrents.

We welcome proposals on any aspect of the literatures of the North American West, but especially encourage panels and papers that explore the following topics:

- St. Louis (or other western places) as Indigenous Hubs, Gateways, or Borderlands
- The African American West
- Jazz and Blues and the American West
- The Art and Literature of Black Lives Matter
- St. Louis Freedom Suits
- The Work of Distinguished Achievement Award Winner Percival Everett
- The Critical Legacy of Distinguished Achievement Award Winner José E. Limón

The deadline for proposal submissions is **June 15, 2018**. Please submit questions to Michael K. Johnson or Emily Lutenski at WLAConference2018@westernlit.org.

For more information, see <http://www.westernlit.org/wla-conference-2018/>.