

Western Literature Association Conference 2018

October 24–27



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

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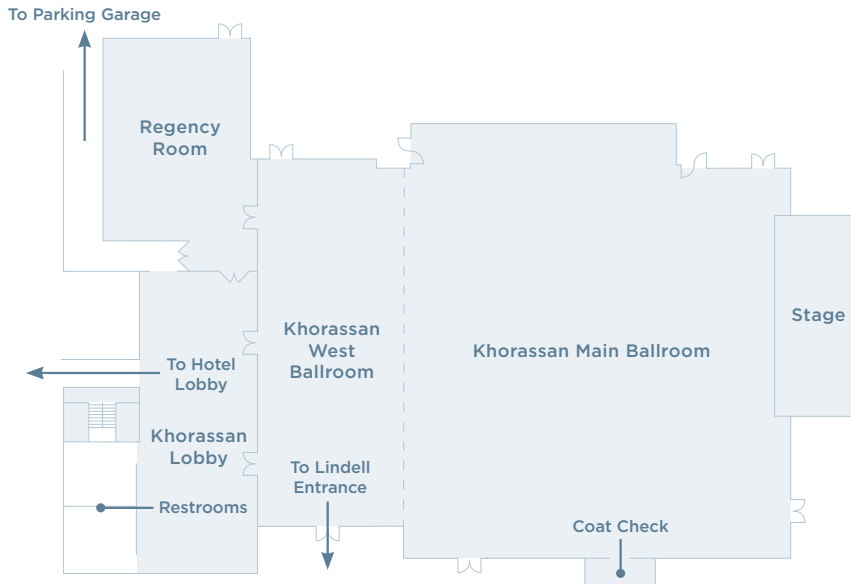
Indigenous Hubs • Gateway Cities • Border States

St. Louis, Missouri

Hotel Floor Plan

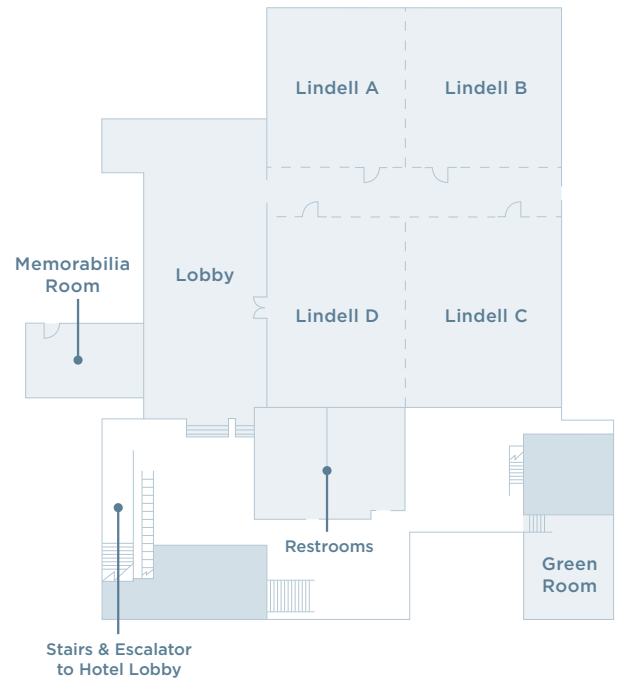
First floor:

KHORASSAN BALLROOM & REGENCY ROOM



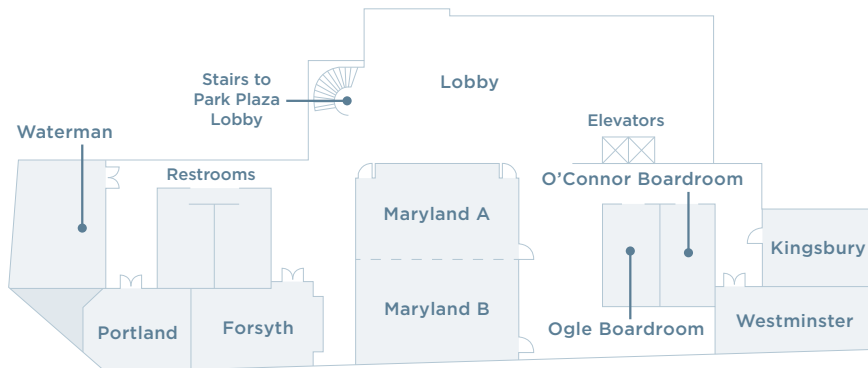
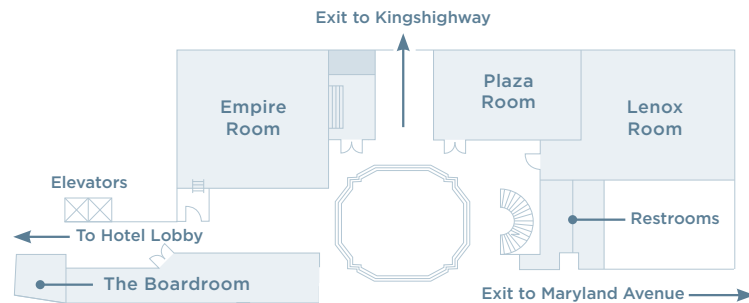
Ground level:

LINDELL BALLROOM



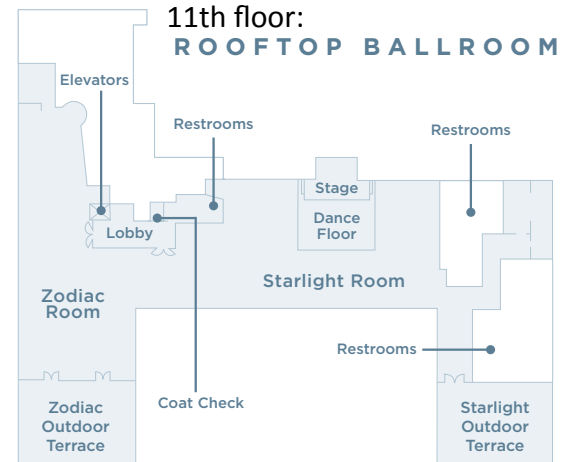
Lower level (B):

THE CONFERENCE CENTER



11th floor:

ROOFTOP BALLROOM



WELCOME TO ST. LOUIS!



Emily Lutenski
St. Louis University



Michael Johnson
University of Maine, Farmington

Welcome to St. Louis! This is not the first time the WLA has been here—but the last time was in 1980. It was the conference when the Willa Pilla prize was conceptualized, and we hope to continue in that spirit of good humor. We came to know each other through our shared interest in the intersection of African American literature and the American West, and we are thrilled that this year's conference—organized around the theme of “Indigenous Hubs, Gateway Cities, Border States”—has elicited such exciting work not only in black studies, but also Native American studies, Chicanx and Latinx studies, and Asian American studies.

This seems appropriate for our site in St. Louis, which has been envisioned as a homeland, a gateway, and a confluence for so many people for so many years. At the nexus of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, St. Louis has indeed served as an Indigenous hub—Cahokia, across the river from today's St. Louis, was a center for trade, communication, transportation, and culture throughout North America as the largest pre-Columbian city north of Mexico. As a borderland shaped by French, Spanish, and U.S. imperialism, and as a border state that remained loyal to the Union even as it maintained the institution of slavery, Missouri has had a complicated racial history that has had both flashpoints of violence and surprising moments of collaboration. In the 20th century, St. Louis became an emblem of white flight, and also a site for Indian relocation. This history has certainly shaped the present, where the city remains largely racially segregated. At the same time, the past few years have seen a tremendous upsurge in political activism in St. Louis, perhaps most famously as part of the movement for Black Lives, but also around issues of immigration and refugee resettlement, which have long and important histories here.

In addition to the excellent sessions by WLA members, we are excited to call attention to our 2018 Distinguished Achievement Award winners. We were able to offer two awards this year, one in criticism

to noted borderlands and Mexican American studies scholar José E. Limón, and one in creative writing to Percival Everett. We will showcase “A Reading for the Mound Builders,” with writers Allison Hedge-Coke, LeAnne Howe, and Phillip Carroll Morgan, envisioned and coordinated by Chadwick Allen. On Saturday morning, we’ll have a presentation by Sara L. Schwebel, focused on her digital humanities project, created in collaboration with the National Park Service, on the children’s book *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, which serves as a resource for K–12 educators. We hope you will join us for the Past President’s Luncheon, where last year’s WLA Co-President Florence Amamoto will have a dialogue with East St. Louis Black Arts Movement poet Eugene B. Redmond. This year, we have also created time for Women’s Breakfast to discuss the way the #MeToo movement has changed our classrooms, our scholarship, and our lives.

In addition to our sponsors, we would also like to thank the following people for their generous help: the Dean of Saint Louis University’s College of Arts and Sciences, Christopher Duncan, has been a stalwart advocate and supporter of this event; Jonathan Smith, Saint Louis University’s Vice-President for Diversity and Community Engagement kindly helped arrange the *Whose Streets?* discussion; Chadwick Allen had the vision for “A Reading for the Mound Builders”; Emily Colmo, Robin Hoover, Anastasia Marchenko, and other Saint Louis University American Studies graduate students assisted with conference logistics in numerous ways. WLA Executive Secretary Nic Witschi and Executive Committee members have been ever-helpful, knowledgeable, and supportive.

Thank you, too, to all this year’s attendees and presenters. Have a wonderful time in St. Louis!

Best wishes,

Michael K. Johnson and Emily Lutenski
2018 WLA Co-Presidents

Acknowledgments

We thank our sponsors for their generous support:

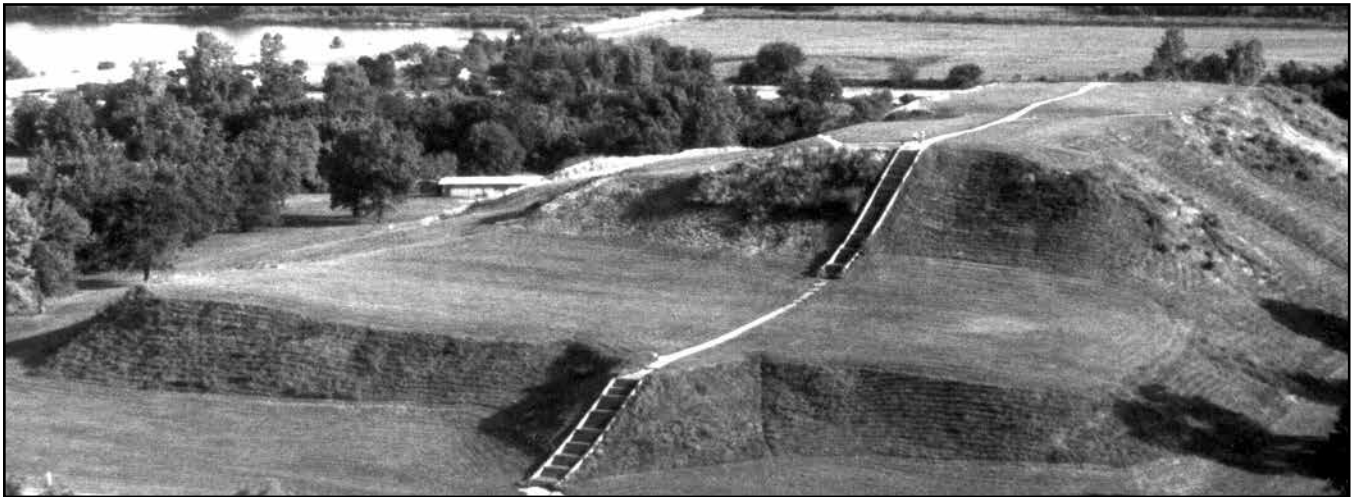
Center for Western Studies at West Texas A&M University
Charles Redd Center for Western Regional Studies, Brigham Young University
Missouri Council for History Education
Saint Louis University African American Studies Program
Saint Louis University College of Arts and Sciences
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Saint Louis University Office of the Vice President for Research
University of Maine, Farmington, Office of the Provost
Washington University in St. Louis Department of English



Access the program (with abstracts) 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 live updates to the program!

INDIGENOUS LANDS



WLA attendees in St. Louis are guests on the homelands of Native nations. This region, at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, has been urban for thousands of years: Cahokia, directly across the river from today's St. Louis, housed the largest pre-Columbian civilization north of Mexico and was long a hub for trade, communication, and transportation throughout Indigenous North America. Today it is well known for its impressive earthen mounds, which the Osage Nation, among other tribal groups, counts as an important ancestral site. Although St. Louis itself was once home to over 40 mounds, and it was nicknamed "Mound City" before it was the "Gateway to the West," today only one mound within the city limits has escaped destruction: Sugarloaf Mound, which was purchased by the Osage Nation in 2009. The tribe hopes to preserve the mound and develop an interpretive center to teach St. Louisans about their city's history from an Indigenous perspective. In addition to the Osage, the state of Missouri was home to Otoe, Missouria, Iowa, Illini, Chickasaw, and Quapaw peoples. Due to the violence of removal, many other tribes migrated through Missouri; these included the Cherokee, Kickapoo, Shawnee, Delaware, and the Sac and Fox. Today there are no federally recognized Native nations in Missouri, but the state has an estimated 80,000 American Indian residents; St. Louis was site for relocation beginning in 1955, and it continues to have an urban Indian community that numbers about 3,000 people from many different tribes.

The 2018 WLA conference organizers recognize and respect the traditional and lasting relationships between Native peoples and this land and are committed to providing space for Indigenous scholars and research as we strive to foster an inclusive intellectual community.

53rd Western Literature Association Conference

Indigenous Hubs • Gateway Cities • Border States

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WEDNESDAY OVERVIEW

1:00PM – 4:00PM

WLA Executive Council Meeting (Regency Room)

Chair: Nicolas S. Witschi

4:00PM – 7:00PM

Registration (Khorassan Lobby)

6:30PM – 9:00PM

OPENING PLENARY:



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**Film Screening and Discussion with St. Louis Activists
Nicole Hudson, Jonathan Pulphus, and Alisha Sonnier**

Introduced and moderated by Emily Lutenski

Location: Chase Cinema #5

9:00PM – 10:00PM

Welcome Reception and Cash Bar (Zodiac Room)

THURSDAY OVERVIEW

7:30AM – 9:00AM

Women's Breakfast and MeToo Dialogue (Empire Room)

7:45AM – 4:00PM

Registration (Khorassan Lobby)

8:00AM – 5:00PM

Book Exhibit (Khorassan West)

8:30AM – 10:30AM

Coffee Service (Khorassan West)

9:00AM – 10:15AM

Sessions T2 & Grad Student Panel "The Best Advice I Received in Grad School/
Gave to Grad Students" (Forsyth)

10:30AM – 11:45PM

Sessions T3

12:00PM – 1:30PM

Past President's Luncheon (Empire Room)

1:30PM – 2:45PM

Plenary with DAA Honoree José E. Limón (Khorassan Main)

2:30PM – 3:30PM

Coffee Service (Khorassan West)

3:00PM – 4:15PM

Sessions T6 & Roundtable on Dark Tourism (Lindell B)

4:30PM – 5:45PM

Plenary with DAA Honoree Percival Everett (Khorassan Main)

5:45PM – 7:00PM

Reception and Cash Bar (Khorassan West)

7:30PM – WHENEVER

Grad Student Social (Dressel's Public House)




We will be live tweeting at the Western Literature Association Conference. Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/WesternAmerica1> and use the hashtag #westernlit2018.

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



Thursday
7:30AM–9:00AM



Women's Breakfast and MeToo Dialogue

Location: Empire Room


Moderator: Carolyn Dekker, Finlandia University



Breakfast at 7:30. Open to all participants from 8:30–9:00.

Self-identified women and gender nonconforming people are invited to meet over continental breakfast in order to establish friendships, coalitions, and mentoring relationships. Breakfast will be followed by a moderated discussion about how the MeToo movement has shaped classrooms, research, and lives.

Thursday
8:30AM–10:30AM



Coffee Service

Location: Khorassan West

Thursday
9:00AM–10:15AM



T2A: Indigenous Performance Networks

Location: Regency Room

Chair: Christine Bold, University of Guelph

Natives in Transit: Navigating the Cultural and Labor Politics of Hollywood in the Mid-20th Century

Kiara M. Vigil, Amherst College

On Hollywood Boulevard: White Bird's Indigenous Hub-Making in Classical Hollywood

Jacob Floyd, Oklahoma State University

"Chula the Fox Comes into His Own": Edwin Carewe and His Publicists

Joanna Hearne, University of Missouri

Princess White Deer's Blanket

Christine Bold, University of Guelph, Canada

Thursday

9:00AM–10:15AM



T2B: Virtual Wests

Location: Lindell A

Chair: Sara Humphreys, University of Victoria

The Video Game West – “Gateway” to History & Issues

William Chadwick Beharriell, St. Clair College, Canada

Refuge in the Open: Examining the Forms of Violence and Anarchy in *Blood Meridian*, *Westworld*, and *Red Dead Redemption*

Travis Garrett Zimpfer, University of Colorado-Boulder

Black Mirror’s “San Junipero,” Authenticity, and the Myth of the West

Katie Michele Googe, University of Southern California

T2C: Writers of the Progressive Era

Location: Lindell C

Chair: Emily J. Rau, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

“The Railroad had prevailed”: The Force of the Railroad in Frank Norris’s *The Octopus*

Emily J. Rau, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jack London’s Klondike Frontier and the Time of Settler Colonial Biopolitics

Ryan Wander, University of California, Davis

“A Little New Bit of World”: Space, Movement, and Unbounded Potential in Willa Cather’s “The Enchanted Bluff”

Sarah Jane Kerwin, University of Michigan

T2D: Public Humanities and the Archives

Location: Lindell D

Chair: Alex Hunt, West Texas A&M University

Minding the Gaps and Blurring the Borders: Unheard Voices of the George Sessions Perry Archive

Cory Lock, St. Edward’s University

Buffalo Borderlands, Academic Centers: Doing Western American Scholarship in Public

Alex Hunt, West Texas A&M University

From *Small Domestic Acts* to International Stages: The Art and Intersectional Activism of Joan Lipkin and That Uppity Theatre Company

Maria Beach, Independent Scholar

T2E: Placing St. Louis in U.S. Cultural Studies

Location: Lindell B

Chair: Amanda J. Zink, Idaho State University

“The rights of the star-born”: Native American Presence/Absence, the Mound Builders Myth, and Civic Pageantry in St. Louis and Ste.-Geneviève, Missouri

Randi Eldevik, Oklahoma State University

How the Bosnians Became White: Constructions of Whiteness in St. Louis

Corinne Wohlford, Benjamin Moore, Fontbonne University

Preparing to Paint American Indians by Building Friendships: Abby Williams Hill, Chief Luther Standing Bear (Sioux), White Bull (Sioux), and Chief Standing Rock (Seneca) at the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair

Melody Graulich, Utah State University

T2F: Keeping Faith with Place: The Ethical Imperative of Ecological Integrity (A panel organized by the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature)

Location: Waterman

Chair: Christian Knoeller, Purdue University

What the River Knows

Ryan Robert Schnurr, Purdue University

Reading Time into Place with Literary Naturalists Paul Gruchow, Elizabeth Dodd, and William Stafford

Michelle Marie Campbell, Purdue University

Rethinking the Aims of Prairie Restoration: Paul Gruchow’s Vision of Environmental History

Christian Knoeller, Purdue University

T2G: Grad Student Panel: “The Best Advice I Received in Grad School/Gave to Grad Students”

Location: Forsyth

Chair: Jessica Colleen Perez Lopez, Michigan State University

Participants:

Evelyn Funda, Utah State University

Sylvan Goldberg, Colorado College

Ashley Elaine Reis, SUNY Potsdam

Sara L. Spurgeon, Texas Tech University

Thursday

9:00AM–10:15AM



T2H: Mexican American Women Writers

Location: Portland

Chair: Priscilla Solis Ybarra, University of North Texas

Adaptation in the Borderlands

Tisha Marie Reichle, University of Southern California

Recipient of the Louis Owens Award

The Crazy Woman: Faith Healing, Trauma, and Magical Realism in *So Far from God*

Gretchen Collier, Northern Arizona University

Thursday

10:30AM–11:45AM



T3A: Regionality, Internationality, Musicality, and the Diabolical

Location: Regency Room

Chair: Brady Harrison, University of Montana

Me and the Devil Blues: Limón's *Dancing with the Devil*, American Blues, and Black Aesthetics

James Benson Wirth, University of Washington

"The Sound of Cultures Colliding": Roger Knox, the Pine Valley Cosmonauts, and

Transglobal Aboriginal Country

Brady Harrison, University of Montana

Composing and Composition in "Harlem Renaissance" Los Angeles

Emily Lutenski, Saint Louis University

T3B: Borderlands of Genre

Location: Lindell A

Chair: Susan Kollin, Montana State University

The Blood-Dimmed Frontier: Western Horror and the Borderlands of Genre

Jeffrey Chisum, University of Southern California

Did Charles Portis Read Todd Downing? Native American and Settler Crime Fiction across the US-Mexico Border

Jenna Hunnef, College of William & Mary

The Native Gothic in the Poetry of John Rollin Ridge

Amanda Brooke Monteleone, University of Texas at Arlington

Recipient of the Dorys Grover Award

T3C: Desert as Dump

Location: Lindell C

Chair: Laurie Ricou, University of British Columbia

Human Beings as Desert Trash

Gary Reger, Trinity College

All That Remains: The Half-Life of Desert Waste

Jada Ach, University of South Carolina

The Storied Desert: Creating Value in Discarded Objects

Jennifer Ann Dawes, Henderson State University

T3D: Comparative Contexts for Percival Everett's Fiction

Location: Lindell D

Chair: Kerry Fine, Arizona State University

Cinematic Enactment in Percival Everett's *God's Country*

Paul T Eaton, University of Maine-Orono

"[O]ne is lost to understand what this ... has to do with the [black] experience": How and Why Percival Everett and André Alexis Reframed Greek Myths in Their Fiction

Derek C. Maus, State University of New York at Potsdam

The "Slumbering Monstro of the Southwest": Indian Water Rights in Percival Everett's *Watershed* and Paolo Bacigalupi's *The Water Knife*

Paul Formisano, University of South Dakota

T3E: Indigenous Poetics

Location: Lindell B

Chair: Linda Helstern, North Dakota State University

Pollinators, Polli-Nation, and the Poetry of Carter Revard

Linda Helstern, North Dakota State University

Indigenous Hubs and the Eco-poetics of Tommy Pico and Michael Wasson

Kyle Bladow, Northland College

T3F: Transmotion, Transgression: Epistemologies across Borders

Location: Waterman

Chair: Peter Brock Olson, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse

Unthinking Epistemic Borders with Black Elk's "Great Vision"

Samuel Fletcher Stoeltje, Rice University

Robert Pirsig, the "Wizard of Bozeman": Lost Borders, Divine Madness, and the Vision Quest

Peter Brock Olson, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse

"A crisis of spirit": Alcoholism and Victimry in N. Scott Momaday's *House Made of Dawn* and James Welch's *The Death of Jim Loney*

Caitlin Simmons, University of Iowa

T3G: Regionalism, Race, and Iconography in the American West

Location: Forsyth

Chair: Christine Bold, University of Guelph

The Sketch as a Global Form: Rethinking Resistance and Stereotypes in Sui Sin Far's Fictional Sketches

Monique McDade, University of Nevada, Reno

How Bill Pickett Became Western: Racialization, Animalization, Performance

Susan Nance, University of Guelph, Canada

"For they were there!": Dell Comic's *Lobo* and the Black Cowboy in American Comic Books

Mike Lemon, Texas Tech University

T3H: Western Temporalities

Location: Portland

Chair: Robert William Thacker, St. Lawrence University

Cather, Indigeneity, and Temporality

William R. Handley, University of Southern California

"Red Blood and Delicate Joys": Syncopated Time and Ecological Form in Mary Austin's *The Land of Little Rain*

Meagan Rose Meylor, University of Southern California

Recipient of the Dorys Grover Award


The Old Iron Days: Conservative Temporality and the Western Imagination in the Writing of Theodore Roosevelt and His Circle

Stephen Mexal, California State University, Fullerton

Pilgrim on the Plains

Susan N. Maher, University of Minnesota Duluth

Thursday
12:00PM–1:30PM



PAST PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON

A Conversation:

Florence Amamoto and Eugene B. Redmond

Location: Empire Room

Lunch starts at 12:00 (with prepaid tickets only).

The conversation from 12:30 to 1:30 is open to all attendees.



Florence Amamoto
Co–Past President 2017


After a sit-down lunch, WLA Past President Florence Amamoto will have a discussion with Black Arts Movement poet, scholar, and activist Eugene B. Redmond.

Dr. Redmond's work has often been devoted to East St. Louis, where he grew up. There, he worked alongside other storied black artists, like dancer Katherine Dunham and jazz musician Miles Davis. His poetry often engages with the histories and contemporary politics and experiences of this place, and he continues to foster engagement with the arts, particularly among young people, through the city's Eugene B. Redmond Writers' Club, which was founded over thirty years ago.



Photo by Christian Gooden for the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*.
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Thursday
1:30PM–2:45PM



PLENARY: “The Streets of Laredo”

With Distinguished Achievement Award Honoree JOSÉ E. LIMÓN

Introduction by Long Le-Khac

Location: Khorassan Main

Coming at the end of my career, this lecture brings together my various interests in folklore, cultural anthropology, film studies, and literary criticism—even some social science—all effected through historical thinking.

“The Streets of Laredo,” also known as “The Cowboy’s Lament,” is arguably the best-known popular song of the American West. But, unlike any other such song, it has generated much expressive culture beyond itself as song. While, indeed, it has been covered by many singers, it has also resulted in film and television renderings, high modernist poetry, and the novel—the latter most notably in Larry McMurtry’s work by that same title in his Lonesome Dove series. Indeed, he has called it his favorite song of the American West. I will try to account for the song’s influence on these various genres of literature and popular culture together with a second issue.

In my career, I have also focused my inter-disciplinary interests on ethnic Mexicans in Texas—the cradle of the American West. Yet this song has nothing to say about this community save implicitly in the simple naming of “Laredo” (Texas) in the title and first two lines. In what is otherwise a completely Anglophone and Anglo American/Irish cultural composition, this naming seems odd considering that, historically, Laredo has been demographically Spanish/national Mexican/and ethnic Mexican in at least the 95th percentile to the present day. It is also located at an extreme border of the American West and was never really part of the “cattle kingdom.” My remarks will also explore the seeming disjunction between its appearance in the song and this identity as a very Hispanic/Mexican border place. In doing so, I will address the debate between the “old” and the “new” Western history and their concomitant literatures.

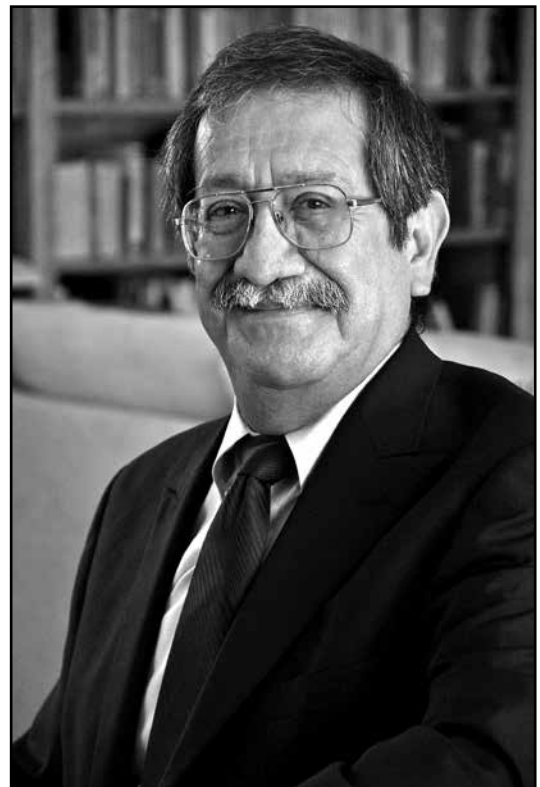



Photo: Amelia McKenna

Thursday
2:30PM–3:30PM



Coffee Service

Location: Khorassan West

T6A: Cowgirls and Western Girlhood

Location: Regency Room

Chair: Rebecca M. Lush, California State University San Marcos

Spirit: Riding Free and the Frontiers of Western Girlhood: Nostalgia, Academics, and Motherhood

Meredith Harvey, George Williams College of Aurora University

Where Have All the Cowgirls Gone: Regionalism as an Instrument of Self-Creation Myths in Female Texas Poets

Kara Dorris, University of North Texas

"You Can't Hold Places Still": Environmental 'Trouble,' Literature, and Activism in US Western Women's Writing

Elizabeth J Wright, Penn State University

T6B: Post-Western Frontiers

Location: Lindell A

Chair: Stefano Rosso, University of Bergamo, Italy

The Mad West: Reconceptualizing the Beat Generation's Left Coast

Robert Bruce Bennett, Montana State University

"Ramblin'": Ken Kesey, Ornette Coleman, and Post-Western Jazz Frontiers

Rob Wallace, Northern Arizona University

"Always about America"? Transnationalism and the Nation in Asian Post-Westerns

Johannes Fehrle, Independent Scholar, Germany

Mr. West's Cowboy, Lemonade Joe, and Val Kilmer's Dead Man: The Continuing Presence of the U.S. West in the Eastern European Cinematic Imaginary

Marek Paryz, University of Warsaw, Poland

T6C: Percival Everett's Western Fiction

Location: Lindell C

Chair: Joshua Smith, Biola University

Percival Everett's Western Revenant

Kerry Fine, Arizona State University

"Reading the Slash" in Percival Everett's *American Desert*

Joe Weixlmann, Saint Louis University

If Wishes Were Wellness: The West after Vietnam in Percival Everett and Doug Peacock

Carolyn Dekker, Finlandia University

Thursday

3:00PM–4:15PM



T6D: Negotiating Borderlands in the Early American West

Location: Lindell D

Chair: Amy T. Hamilton, Northern Michigan University

The Gothic and the Containment of the Northwest Indian War

David Lawrimore, Idaho State University

“To Summon and Vanish an Antique America”

Derek Kane O’Leary, UC Berkeley

Reliance and Alliance: Rethinking Native American Engagement in the Spanish Colonial West

Keri Holt, Utah State University

Charles Brockden Brown’s Caving Texts and Landscapes

Daniel Diez Couch, United States Air Force Academy

T6E: Morbid Fascination: A Roundtable Discussion of Dark Tourism in the American West

Location: Lindell B

Chair: Jennifer Ann Dawes, Henderson State University

In this roundtable discussion, our panelists will focus on the complex and sometimes sensitive subject of Dark Tourism as we consider the ways that Western sites and historical events are staged for touristic consumption.

Participants

Maria Cecilia Azar, California State University, Los Angeles

Judson Barber, University of Texas at Austin

Jennifer Ann Dawes, Henderson State University

Gary Reger, Trinity College

T6F: Rethinking the Anthropocene

Location: Waterman

Chair: Jenny Kerber, Wilfrid Laurier University

The Ongoing Coloniality of Environmentalism and the Concept of the Anthropocene

Priscilla Solis Ybarra, University of North Texas


May Swenson and the Place of the Human

Paul Crumbley, Utah State University

“The freedom of birds” and the “measure of blood”: Biopolitics and Cormac McCarthy’s West

Susan Kollin, Montana State University

Thursday
3:00PM–4:15PM



T6G: Creative Writing: Poetry of Places, Bodies, Streets

Location: Forsyth

Chair: Conrad Shumaker, University of Central Arkansas

The West Side of Town

Candace Lee Black, Minnesota State University Mankato

Body Turn to Rain: New and Selected Poems

Richard Robbins, Minnesota State University

The Ballet of the Streets and Other Poems

Anna Schmidt, Maryville University

Border Identity: Navigating a Netherworld between the “Near West” States of Iowa and South Dakota

Penni Elizabeth Pearson, Northern State University

T6H: The Gifts of Pedagogy and Place: Reflecting on José E. Limón’s Legacy

Location: Portland

Chair: Cory Lock, St. Edward’s University

Searching for Home, Finding Spirit with José Limón

Christina Garcia Lopez, University of San Francisco

Connection through Respeto: Legacies Continue

Kamala Platt, School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies (SHARCS), New College, ASU Online

Exploring the Texan-Midwestern Link with José Limón

Olga Lydia Herrera, University of St. Thomas

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Thursday
4:30PM–5:45PM



PLENARY:
With Distinguished Achievement Award Honoree
PERCIVAL EVERETT
Introduction by Joe Weixlmann

Location: Khorassan Main



PERCIVAL EVERETT is a two-time winner of the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for Fiction, a recent recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship in fiction, the author of around thirty books (novels, short stories, poetry), including the parodic genre western *God's Country*, as well as multiple books set in the American West, including *Suder*, *Walk Me to the Distance*, *Watershed*, *Wounded*, *The Water Cure*, *Assumption*, and his recent short story collection, *Half an Inch of Water*.

No other contemporary African American author has accomplished as extensive (and complex) a representation of African American western experience. He is a Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California.

Thursday
5:45PM–7:00PM

Reception and Cash Bar

Location: Khorassan West

Thursday
7:30PM–???????

Graduate Student Social Gathering
DRESSEL'S PUBLIC HOUSE

419 N. EUCLID AVE.

The graduate student social will be on the second floor.

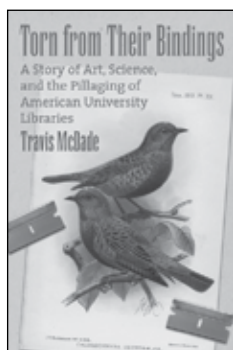
KANSAS

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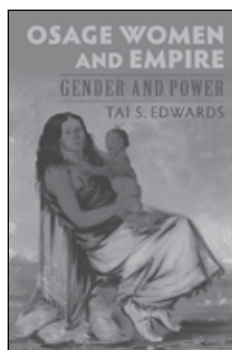
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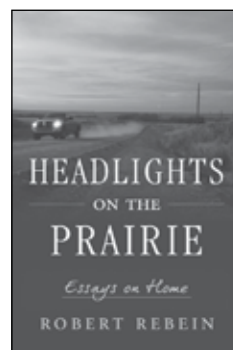
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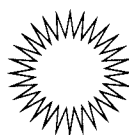
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FRIDAY OVERVIEW

7:30AM – 9:00AM

Presidents' Breakfast (Presidents only) (Ogie Boardroom)

7:45AM – 4:00PM

Registration (Khorassan Lobby)

8:00AM – 5:00PM

Book Exhibit (Khorassan West)

8:30AM – 10:30AM

Coffee Service (Khorassan West)

9:00AM – 10:15AM

Sessions F1 & Roundtable: Annotating *Ántonia* at 100 (Lindell C) &
Grad Student Panel "Beyond Academia" (Forsyth)

10:30AM – 11:45AM

Sessions F2

12:00PM – 1:30PM

Graduate Student Luncheon with José E. Limón and Teresa McKenna (Empire Room)
& Readers Theatre: Life after the Mississippi—A Parody and Critique in 1.5 Acts,
with a little music for good measure (Regency Room)

1:30PM – 2:45PM

Sessions F3 & Roundtable: Why Indigenous Literatures Matter (Regency Room)

2:30PM – 3:30PM

Coffee Service (Khorassan West)

3:00PM – 4:15PM

Sessions F4

4:30PM – 5:45PM

Plenary: "A Reading for the Mound Builders" (Khorassan Main)

6:00PM – 7:00PM

Reception and Cash Bar (Khorassan West)

7:00PM – 11:00PM

WLA Banquet

Followed by a Musical Performance Featuring Candice Ivory (Starlight Room)



Coffee Service

Location: Khorassan West

Friday

8:30AM–10:30AM



Friday

9:00AM–10:15AM



F1A: Living a Feminist Life in the West: Reading, Writing, Teaching

Location: Regency Room

Chair: Amanda Ross Gradisek, Walsh University

“We come here, we work, we die”: The Logic of Misogyny in the Faux-Feminist West(ern)

Randi Tanglen, Austin College

Intersecting Missions: Feminism, Catholicism, and *Tracks*

Amanda Gradisek, Walsh University

Colonialism and Gendered Violence in the Grassy, Bloody West

Amy T. Hamilton, Northern Michigan University

F1B: African American Representation and Presence in the Weird Western

Location: Lindell A

Chair: Rebecca M. Lush, California State University San Marcos

The Legend of Bass Reeves and Black Lawmen in SyFy’s *Wynonna Earp*

Rebecca M. Lush, California State University San Marcos

Over-determined and Under-thought: The Heroic Function of Blackness in Stephen King’s *Dark Tower*

Jacob Burg, Brandeis University

Captives, Slaves, and Racial Subversion in William Sanders’ Alt History Western, *Journey to Fusang*

Sara L. Spurgeon, Texas Tech University

Uncle Tom’s Cabin Showdown: Stowe, Tarantino, and the Minstrelsy of the Weird West

Joshua Smith, Biola University

F1C: Annotating *Ántonia* at 100

Location: Lindell C

Moderator: Daryl W Palmer, Regis University

To mark the centenary of Willa Cather's *My Ántonia*, we invited annotations of 250 words or less that refer to precise passages in the novel. We encouraged subject experts from all arenas—Agriculture to Zoology—to submit. With an aim toward including as many voices as possible in our session, we invited several of these contributors to share their annotations during our session, allowing time for a discussion of particular contributions before raising broader questions about annotation and *My Ántonia*.

Cultural Perspective on the Mushrooms from "Some Deep Bohemian Forest"

Evelyn Funda, Utah State University

Blind Boone

Tracy Sanford Tucker, Willa Cather Foundation

W. T. Benda's Drawing of Lena Lingard

Melissa J. Homestead, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Homesteading Nebraska

Robert Thomas Marcell, Homestead National Monument of America

New Approaches to Shared Authority and Annotation

Cassandra Tucker, Independent Scholar

The Two Introductions and *The Professor's House*

Robert William Thacker, St. Lawrence University

F1D: Settler Transit and the Transnational West

Location: Lindell D

Chair: Brady Harrison, University of Montana

This Stretch of the River: Affective Mappings Responding to Settler De/Re-territorializing

Laura M De Vos, University of Washington

Make Settler Fantasy Strange Again: Unsettling Normative White Masculinity in Robert E. Howard's *Weird West*

Travis Franks, Arizona State University

Recipient of the J. Golden Taylor Award

Explorer Narratives, Whitefella Dreamings, and the Settler-Colonial Imaginary

Tom Lynch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Extractivism, Indigenization, and Resistance in the Westerns of Ivan Sen and Taylor Sheridan

Alex Trimble Young, Arizona State University

F1E: Indigenous Women Writers and Tribal Knowledges

Location: Lindell B

Chair: Susan Bernardin, Oregon State University

“In harmony with the desert”: Syncretic Modernism in Polingaysi Qoyawayma’s *No Turning Back*

Amanda J. Zink, Idaho State University

Why a New Edition of Mourning Dove’s *Cogewea* Matters

Sara Humphreys, University of Victoria, Canada

“We Are Here Thousands of Years”: Tribal Subjectivities and the White Possessive in

Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Almanac of the Dead*

Andrew Hamilton, University of Minnesota

F1F: Contextualizing Western Masculinities

Location: Waterman

Chair: Peter Bayers, Fairfield University

Frog Stories: The Trouble to Come

Chris Dolle, University of Iowa

“He was no longer a white man”: The Fragility of White Settler Masculinity in John Joseph Matthews’s *Sundown*

William Conable, University of Oregon

Decolonizing Lakota Male Masculinities in Ella Deloria’s *Waterlily*

Peter Bayers, Fairfield University

F1G: Grad Student Panel “Beyond Academia”

Location: Forsyth

Chair: Rachel Heise Bolten, Stanford University

Session participants will talk about their transitions from humanities Ph.D.s to their current careers and be available to discuss how graduate students can create similar opportunities.


Participants

Jenny Price, Public Writer, Artist, and Historian (Author of *Thirteen Ways of Seeing Nature in L.A.* and *Flight Maps: Adventures with Nature in Modern America*)

Eliza Sanders, Advancement Officer for Corporate and Foundation Relations at the University of Missouri-St. Louis

Jody Sowell, Curator of Exhibitions and Research, Missouri History Museum

Friday
9:00AM–10:15AM



F1H: Creative Writing: Western Places in Poetry and Prose

Location: Portland

Chair: Joshua Dolezal, Central College

The Road to Billings

Joshua Dolezal, Central College


Pheasant Tail Nymph

Jillian Moore Bennion, Duquesne University

Poems from *West to South*

Conrad Shumaker, University of Central Arkansas

Friday
10:30AM–11:45AM



F2A: Monstrously Breaking Boundaries: Subversion and Survivance in the Works of Stephen Graham Jones

Location: Regency Room

Chair: Bernadette V Russo, Texas Tech University

Wendigo and Survivance in “The Fast Red Road”

Bernadette V Russo, Texas Tech University

Recipient of the Louis Owens Award

Subverting the “REDline”: Stephen Graham Jones’s Blackfeet Borderlands

Nadhia Grewal, Goldsmiths University of London, United Kingdom

Monsters on the Border: Place in *Mongrels*

Erin N. Bistline, Texas A&M University

He’s the One Who Fights the Monsters for Us: Confrontations with Monstrosity, Horror, and Evil
in the Works of Stephen Graham Jones

Billy J. Stratton, University of Denver

F2B: Popular Westerns

Location: Lindell A

Chair: Stefano Rosso, University of Bergamo, Italy

Willa Cather and Edith Lewis Playing Cowboy in the Southwest

Melissa J. Homestead, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Ec-centric Westerns: From Emilio Salgari to Tex Willer and Beyond

Stefano Rosso, University of Bergamo, Italy

Buying the Bull: Gender, Class, and the Implied Politics of *Urban Cowboy* (1980)

Michael Charles Brickey, St. Louis University

F2C: Black Settlers, Native Slave Narratives, Vagrancies (Feminist Critical Regionalism 1)

Location: Lindell C

Chair: Audrey Goodman, Georgia State University

"Nobody ever tell it what white man do to Indian. That's reason I tell it. That's history. That's truth.
I seen it myself." T'tc~tsa

Jean Pfaelzer, University of Delaware

Post-Marital Agency, Collaborative Authorship, and Mobile Couplehood in *Twice Sold, Twice Ransomed*

Martha Pitts, Fairleigh Dickinson University

Housekeeping, and the Uneven Politics of Women's Mobility

Mallory Pladus, Rice University

F2D: Chicanx Literatures

Location: Lindell D

Chair: José F. Aranda, Rice University

What Is a Border?


Sharon Ann Reynolds, Palomar College

Racial Identity and Surveillance: An Exploration of Sovereignty through Richard Vasquez's *Chicano: A Novel*

Jessica Colleen Perez Lopez, Michigan State University

What They Are Drawing On: Love and Rockets, Chicano Comics, and Feminist 'Zines

Victoria Herrera Cannon, Saint Louis University

Friday
10:30AM–11:45AM


F2E: The Geologic West (A panel organized by the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment)

Location: Lindell B

Chair: Daniel Clausen, University of Nebraska

Burroughs and Muir at the Grand Canon: Nature Writing and the Shapes of Ecotourism

Eric Morel, University of Washington

Unsettling Dreams: Investigating Environmental Crisis in Earthquake Fiction from the Pacific Northwest

Hannah Rose Smay, University of Utah, Environmental Humanities

Precarious West: *Butcher's Crossing* and the Anthropocene's Unexceptionality

Sylvan Goldberg, Colorado College

A Matter of Perspective: Landscape, Ecology, and the Aesthetics of the Great Plains

Cory Glen Willard, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

F2F: The Nuclear West

Location: Waterman

Chair: Matt Burkhardt, Case Western Reserve University

The "Cold War West" in Don DeLillo's *Underworld*

Vincent Gerard Casaregola, Saint Louis University

Telling Stories of the Nuclear Midwest: Waste Sites, Environmental Justice, and Activism

Kyoko Matsunaga, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, Japan

Toxic Travelogues: Crossblood Pilgrims, Radioactive Ruins, and the "Nuclear" Family in the Postindian West

Joshua Tyler Anderson, Ohio State University

F2G: Western Futurities: Speculative, Decolonial, Utopian

Location: Forsyth

Chair: Maria O'Connell, Wayland Baptist University


Speculative Migration: The "Plausible Desirable Futures" of Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West*

Trent McDonald, Washington University in St. Louis

Beware *La India!* Indigenous and Feminist Disruption in the Speculative World of Jaime Hernandez's *Love* and *Rockets Series*

Amelia Flood, St. Louis University

Friday
10:30AM–11:45AM



F2H: California Writers I

Location: Portland

Chair: Florence Amamoto, Gustavus Adolphus College

Creeping Women and Vicious Wallpaper: Moral Rhetoric in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wall-paper"

Chaney Elizabeth Hill, Boise State University

"I never became a communist until I went to Russia": One of the Many Lives of
Kansas-Oklahoma-Colorado-California Writer Sanora Babb (1907–2005)

Christie Smith, Colorado Mountain College

Maternal Thinking in *An Owl on Every Post*

Katherine Emily Witt, US Air Force Academy



Friday
12:00PM–1:30PM



Graduate Student Luncheon with José Aranda

Location: Empire Room

Hosted by Rachel Heise Bolten and Jes Lopez, Grad Student Representatives on the Executive Council

José Limón is one of our Distinguished Achievement Award recipients this year (see p. 14). Teresa McKenna is a foundational scholar in Chicana feminist studies and Associate Professor Emerita at the University of Southern California. Both have graciously agreed to join the Grad Student Luncheon for informal conversation.

Friday
12:00PM–1:30PM



Readers Theatre: Life after the Mississippi—A Parody and Critique in 1.5 Acts, with a little music for good measure

Location: Regency Room

Co-written, directed, and produced by David Fenimore, Rebecca Lush, and Alan Weltzien.

Cast members recruited from the WLA membership.

In honor of the 2018 location, this year Readers Theatre proposes a riotous sendoff of R. Rex Stephenson's theatrical adaptation of *Twain's Life on the Mississippi*. Per Readers Theatre tradition, our performance will be a meta-theatrical extravaganza using our signature jocular style as we re-adapt an existing adaptation. *Life* follows Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer as the two go off to solve a mystery involving Uncle Silas and includes a show-stopping fight on a steamboat that under Readers Theatre's leadership will be choreographed for maximum hilarity. We will not shy away from including comedic critiques of Twain in our adaptation so that *Life* will be entertaining but also a form of scholarly commentary.



Friday
1:30PM–2:45PM



F3A: Why Indigenous Literatures Matter: A Roundtable Discussion with a Response from Daniel Heath Justice

Location: Regency Room

Chair: Kirby Lynn Brown, University of Oregon

Roundtable discussion on the 2018 release of Daniel Heath Justice's *Why Indigenous Literatures Matter* by Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

Participants:

James H. Cox, University of Texas at Austin

Daniel Heath Justice, University of British Columbia, Canada

Sheela Jane Menon, Dickinson College

Dustin Tahmahkera, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Lisa Tatonetti, Kansas State University

Candessa Tehee, Northeastern State University

F3B: The Broken Heart of the West: Missouri Then as Now

Location: Lindell A

Chair: Emily Lutenski, St. Louis University

Cowboy Cops and Black Lives Matter: Ebb Tides and the Great White West[ern]

Debbie Olson, Missouri Valley College

Regarding the Rage of Others: Three Billboards toward Ebbing Misery

Lars Larson, University of Portland

F3C: Environmental Science, Rhetorics, and Visualities (Feminist Critical Regionalism 2)

Location: Lindell C

Chair: Krista Comer, Rice University

“Nowhere Is It Placid”: Turbulent Discourse in the Feminist West

Rachel Linnea Brown, University of Kansas

“The Personal Is Geological”: Anthropocene Feminism and the Personal Memoir in

Terese Marie Mailhot’s *Heart Berries*

Annie Culver, Rice University

Entangled Locations: Feminist Ways of Seeing Contemporary Wests

Audrey Goodman, Georgia State University

F3D: Hydropolitics, Unruly Rivers, and Ghostly Oceans

Location: Lindell D

Chair: Sylvan Goldberg, Colorado College

“Water wanted all things equal”: Hydropolitics in Linda Hogan’s *Solar Storms*

Lubna Alzaroo, University of Washington

Faulkner’s Unruly Rivers and Undue Burdens

Jeannette Schollaert, University of Maryland

Bringing the Atlantic West: *O Pioneers!* and the Ghost of Maritime Literature

Matthew Kastrup Hitchman, University of Washington

Friday
1:30PM–2:45PM


F3E: Western Hubs, Gateways, and Borders

Location: Lindell B

Chair: Tim Steckline, Black Hills State University

Broken Spokes: Cultural and Commercial Transit in the Indigenous Hub of Gallup, NM

Carolyn Marie Kuchera, University of New Mexico-Gallup

Gates without Walls, Walls without Gates: Open Borders as Western Marronage

Tim Steckline, Black Hills State University

Challenges to Borders in Gretel Ehrlich's Work

Jill Hampton, University of South Carolina-Aiken

Spanish Missions, Textbooks, and Archives: California's Indigenous Hubs

Lydia Marie Heberling, University of Washington, Seattle

Recipient of the Louis Owens Award

F3F: Travel, Tourism, and Public Land Use

Location: Waterman

Chair: Jennifer Ladino, University of Idaho

Public Lands as Settler Commons

April Anson, University of Oregon

"The God-given right to play": Leisure as a Contested Practice and the African American West

Shelly Jarenski, University of Michigan Dearborn

Equity in the Outdoors: Decolonizing Western Lands at the Crag, along the Trail, and on the Slopes

Ashley Elaine Reis, SUNY Potsdam

Books as Well as Men Are Fallible: Facts, Credibility, and Western Boosterism in the Early Nineteenth Century

J. T. Jamieson, University of California, Berkeley

F3H: California Writers II

Location: Portland

Chair: Richard Hutson, University of California, Berkeley

Canaan in California: The Typological Impulse in Religious Discourse of the Gold Rush

Lawrence William Coates, Bowling Green State University

Crossing Cynical Borders: Wright Morris's *Love among the Cannibals*

John Samson, Texas Tech University

"The Split Level Life": Ross Macdonald's *The Chill* (1963)

Richard E. Hutson, University of California, Berkeley



Coffee Service

Location: Khorassan West

Friday
2:30PM–3:30PM

Friday
3:00PM–4:15PM

F4A: Feminist Westerns and the “Strange Stuff” of the Femicide (Feminist Critical Regionalism 3)

Location: Regency Room

Chair: José F. Aranda, Rice University

Women Gunfighters in *Westworld*: West, Affect, Power

Victoria Elizabeth Lamont, University of Waterloo, Canada

Lipstick Traces: The “Strange Stuff” of Dreamland and the Problem of the Allegorical

Stephen Tatum, University of Utah

After Postfeminism: Feminist Westerns & California Bodies in *Twentieth Century Women*

Krista Comer, Rice University

F4B: Indigenous ReMappings of the Mississippi River

Location: Lindell A

Chair: Kelly Wisecup, Northwestern University

Indigenous ReMappings of the Mississippi River

Kelly Wisecup, Northwestern University

Writing the River: Ioway Map-Making and the Literature of Indian Diplomacy

Frank Peter Kelderman, University of Louisville

Mississippi Palimpsests: Joy Harjo’s “New Orleans” and Heid E. Erdrich’s “Pre-Occupied”

Sara Cerne, Northwestern University

Indigenous Origins, Separation, and Return on the Mississippi

Angela Calcaterra, University of North Texas

Friday
3:00PM–4:15PM


F4C: Western Pedagogies

Location: Lindell C

Chair: Alex Hunt, West Texas A&M University

Politics of Location and Belonging: Pedagogical Strategies for the Diverse Classroom

Gwendolyn Christy Edward, University of Missouri—Columbia

On Using Fan Fiction to Teach *My Ántonia*

Todd Richardson, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Welcome to the West, Adam Smith!

Kary Doyle Smout, Washington and Lee University

Teaching from the Border: The Dime Novels of the Texas Collection

Tara C. Foley, Baylor University

F4D: Futurisms

Location: Lindell D

Chair: Sara L. Spurgeon, Texas Tech University

Social Activism and Indigenous Futurism through Native Slipstream and Time in *Ledfeather*

Alise Marie Wisniewski, University of Denver

Indigenous Futurisms in Comic Form: Past, Presence, and Future in “Ue-Pucase”

Julia M Fleming, University of Denver

The Posthuman Woman of Color and Survivance in Octavia Butler’s Afro-Futurism

Maria O’Connell, Wayland Baptist University

The Devolution of English and the Killing of Written Text in Jack London’s *The Scarlet Plague* (1913)

Hisayuki Hikage, Reitaku University, Japan

F4E: African American Westerners

Location: Lindell B

Chair: Kalenda Eaton, Arcadia University

Black Montana: Self-Representation and Representation in the Strange Story of Taylor Gordon

Oliver Alan Weltzien, University of Montana Western

Buffalo Soldiers in the Borderlands West: Shelton Johnson’s *Gloryland*

Jennifer Ladino, University of Idaho

Juanita Harrison and Black Internationalism: A Literary and Cultural Biography

Cathryn Halverson, Minot State University

F4F: Creative Writing: Nonfiction

Location: Waterman

Chair: Joshua Dolezal, Central College

Salal and Street Signs: Voyages of Discovery, Reflections on Place

Anne L. Kaufman, Milton Academy

Postcards from an American Love Story

Max Frazier, Bennington College

An Unquiet Retreat

Nicholas Henson, Citrus College

F4G: Representations of (Still)Birth in Western Literatures

Location: Forsyth

Chair: Katherine Emily Witt, US Air Force Academy

“That Violent and Promiscuous Birth”: Captivity and Creation in Mary Hallock Foote’s Arid West

Quinn Grover, BYU-Idaho

“Heathenish Customs”: Birth and Loss in Susan Shelby Magoffin’s Diary

Erin Murrah-Mandril, University of Texas at Arlington

F4H: Western Work

Location: Portland

Chair: Drucilla Wall, University of Missouri-Saint Louis

Rifts, Ruptures, and the Need for Reconciliation: The Role of Work in John Keeble’s “The Chasm”

Nathan Anderson, Marietta College

“The Work of Nations”: Liberal Representations of Immigrant Labor and Free Trade in Speculative Post-NAFTA Border Fiction

Ryan M. Brooks, West Texas A&M University

The Renaissance of Reinvention: An Analysis of Power, Profit, and Desperation in Elmer Kelton’s

“The Day the Cowboys Quit”

Jason Bryce Herbert, West Texas A&M University

Friday
4:30PM–5:45PM



PLENARY: “A Reading for the Mound Builders”



Location: Khorassan Main

Chair: Chadwick Allen, University of Washington

The 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair marked the centennial of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, the 1804–1806 Lewis and Clark “corps of discovery” expedition, the so-called opening of the American West to US expansion. But even prior to 1803, St. Louis was already a location multiply aligned in time and space, already a locus of multiple social, political, economic, artistic, and spiritual convergences. Situated on the western bank of the Mississippi in the shadow of Cahokia—a complex center of large platform, burial, and boundary-marking mounds built on the eastern bank roughly a thousand years before the present—what is now St. Louis was once urban Cahokia’s mounded suburb, part of a vast network of Mississippian mound-building cultures. Well into the nineteenth century riverboat captains and other travelers knew St. Louis as Mound City. By 1904, however, all but one of the earthworks at St. Louis had been looted and destroyed, their carefully packed soils dispersed as fill dirt, including sixteen mounds still extant in 1903 on the specific site chosen for the World’s Fair, St. Louis’s 1300-acre Forest Park. This WLA plenary, “Reading for the Mound Builders,” honors the memory of the Indigenous ancestors who built and first used the mounds at St. Louis and Cahokia and celebrates the living presence of their descendants, whose works reactivate the Mississippian principles that undergird these remarkable structures. Chadwick Allen (Chickasaw ancestry) will introduce and frame the reading, which will feature performances by the highly acclaimed writers and intellectuals LeAnne Howe (Choctaw), author of *Shell Shaker*; Allison Adelle Hedge Coke (Cherokee, Huron, and Creek ancestry), author of *Blood Run*; and Phillip Carroll Morgan (Choctaw and Chickasaw), author of *Anompolichi: The Wordmaster*.

Presenters:

Chadwick Allen, University of Washington

Allison Adelle Hedge Coke, University of California Riverside

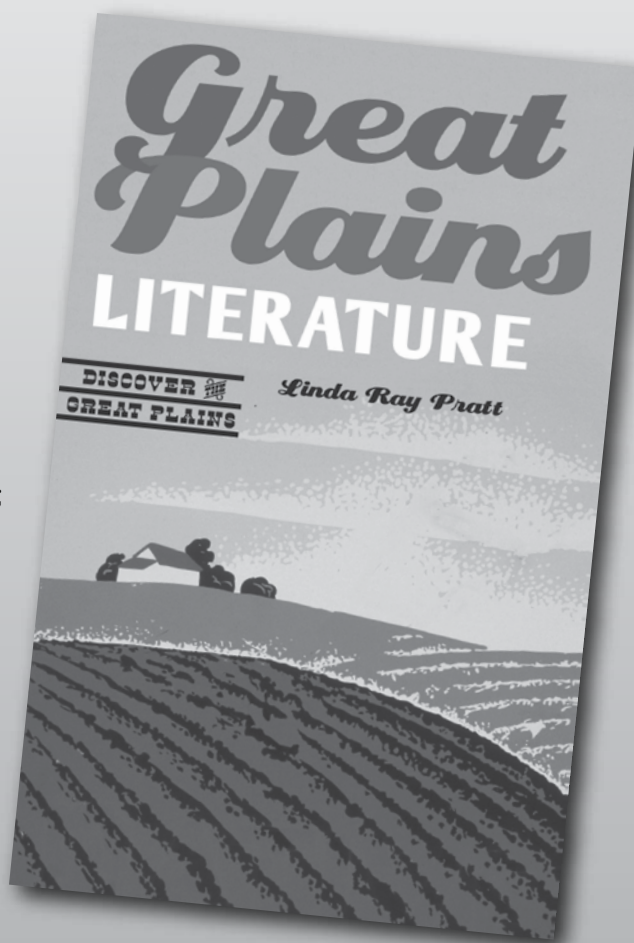
LeAnne Howe, University of Georgia

Phillip Carroll Morgan, Chickasaw Nation

NEW

In *Great Plains Literature*, a new book in the *Discover the Great Plains* series from the Center for Great Plains Studies, **Linda Ray Pratt** provides engaging, insightful commentary about the influential literature of the region. She discusses *Black Elk Speaks* and the destruction of Indian culture; *Giants in the Earth* and the attempts of settlers to conquer the land; Cather; the Dust Bowl writers; and Sandoz, Haruf, Olsen, Kooser, and others who help us understand regional culture and the forces that still shape our modern world of environmental threat, ethnic and racial hostilities, declining rural communities, and growing urban populations.

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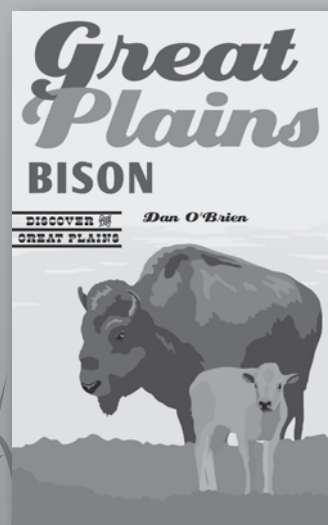
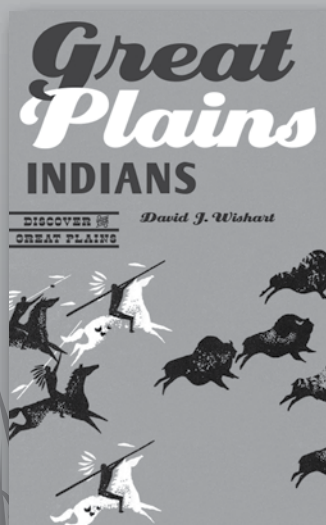


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Friday
6:00PM–7:00PM

Reception and Cash Bar

Location: Khorassan West

Friday
7:00PM–11:00PM

WLA Awards Banquet Followed by a Musical Performance by Candice Ivory

Location: Starlight Room

The “Queen of Avant Soul,” Candice Ivory, will perform at the WLA awards banquet. Today she’s a St. Louisan, but Ms. Ivory has roots in Memphis, Tennessee, and is immersed in the jazz, blues, gospel, and soul traditions of both places. **Her performance will start after the award presentation, around 9:00, and is open to all attendees.**



2018 WLA Award Recipients

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

For an influential scholar or creative writer in western American literature

Percival Everett and **José E. Limón**

DELBERT & EDITH WYLDER AWARD

For outstanding service to the association

Tom Lynch (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

THOMAS J. LYON BOOK AWARD

For most outstanding book published in 2017 in western American literary and cultural studies

Richard Etulain

for *Ernest Haycox and the Western* (University of Oklahoma Press)

DON D. WALKER PRIZE

For best essay published in western American literary studies in 2017

Jessica Hurley (University of Chicago)

for "Impossible Futures: Fictions of Risk in the Longue Durée," *American Literature* 89.4

FREDERICK MANFRED AWARD

For the best creative writing submission to the conference

Sidney Thompson (Texas Christian University)

for "Thataway," an excerpt from *Bazz: Narrative of the Life of Bass Reeves* (a novel in progress)

WLA/CHARLES REDD CENTER K-12 TEACHING AWARD

Nathan Parker (Holland Hall School, Tulsa, OK)

for "Susan Glaspell's 'A Jury of Her Peers' / *Trifles*: Everyone's Favorite High-Plains Playwright"

J. GOLDEN TAYLOR AWARD

For best essay presented at the conference by a graduate student

Travis Franks (Arizona State University)

for "Make Settler Fantasy Strange Again: Unsettling Normative White Masculinity in Robert E. Howard's *Weird West*"

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

Meagan Meylor (University of Southern California)

for "'Red Blood and Delicate Joys': Syncopated Time and Ecological Form in Mary Austin's *The Land of Little Rain*"

Amanda Monteleone (University of Texas at Arlington)

for "The Native Gothic in the Poetry of John Rollin Ridge"

LOUIS OWENS AWARDS

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

Lydia Heberling (University of Washington-Seattle), presenting "Spanish Missions, Textbooks, and Archives: California's Indigenous Hubs"

Tisha Reichle (University of Southern California), presenting "Adaptation in the Borderlands"

Bernadette Russo (Texas Tech), presenting "Wendigo and Survivance in 'The Fast Red Road'"

SATURDAY OVERVIEW

8:00AM – 12:00PM

Book Exhibit (Khorassan West)

8:00AM – 9:15AM

- Plenary: *"Island of the Blue Dolphins as History and Literature of the West: A Public Humanities Collaboration,"* with Sara L. Schwebel (Khorassan Main)
- The Stephen Graham Jones Society Organizational Meeting (Regency Room)

8:30AM – 10:30AM

Coffee Service (Khorassan West)

9:30AM – 10:45AM

Sessions S2 & WLA/Charles Redd Center K-12 Educator Panel (Regency Room)

11:00AM – 12:15PM

WLA Business Meeting (Khorassan Main)

12:30PM – 5:00PM

Excursion: Cahokia Mounds



Research Support Program

Who can apply?

Faculty and students from any institution and discipline are welcome to apply for these competitive grants as long as the research focuses on the American West.

To apply, visit wtamu.edu/csaw or contact CSAW at csaw@wtamu.edu or 806.651.5238.

- Awards up to \$2,000/grant depending on the researcher's topic and need.
- Provides access to the West Texas A&M University special collections and Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum archives.
- Promotes and develops interdisciplinary scholarship, education, and public outreach in relation to the American West.
- Assists with non-monetary support for the recipient's visit to Canyon, Texas.
- Helps find venues for research publication, also including the *Panhandle-Plains Historical Review*.

Spring 2019 Grant Applications

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DUE BY APRIL 1, 2019



CSAW's mission is to promote the study of the American West as both a region culturally unique and as a product of broad historical forces. Through research support, CSAW seeks to encourage Western American Scholarship by developing collections at the Cornette Library and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum along with providing grants for American West scholars.

Saturday
8:00AM–9:15AM



PLENARY: “*Island of the Blue Dolphins* as History and Literature of the West: A Public Humanities Collaboration”
With Sara L. Schwebel

Location: Khorassan Main

Sara L. Schwebel, Professor of English at the University of South Carolina, will speak about the possibilities of public humanities collaborations. Her multimedia project in conjunction with Channel Islands National Park is organized around the children’s book *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, and equips K–12 teachers with tools to teach not only about the book, but also about the Indigenous woman whose isolation due to Spanish colonial policies of *reducción* inspired it.



The Stephen Graham Jones Society Organizational Meeting

Location: Regency Room

Chairs: Bernadette V Russo, Texas Tech University, and **Billy J. Stratton**, University of Denver

The focus of this meeting is to organize and determine a course for the society, including membership, the potential for a future journal, and other aspects essential to establishing the organization. For the inaugural year, Dr. Billy J. Stratton has agreed to serve as president.

Saturday
8:30AM–10:30AM



Coffee Service

Location: Khorassan West



Saturday
9:30AM–10:45AM


S2A: WLA/Charles Redd Center K-12 Educator Panel

Location: Regency Room

Chair: Randi Tanglen, Austin College

Susan Glaspell's "A Jury of Her Peers"/*Trifles*: Everyone's Favorite High-Plains Playwright

Nathan Lyle Parker, Holland Hall School, Tulsa, OK

Recipient of the WLA/Charles Redd Center K–12 Teaching Award

S2B: Film and Television

Location: Lindell A

Chair: Jeffrey Chisum, University of Southern California

The Reel Borderlands: The Migrant Child in Rebecca Cammisa's *Which Way Home*

Guadalupe Escobar, University of Nevada, Reno

Lies My TV Told Me: "Laughing Back" to Media Stereotypes in US Ethnic Literature

Anne Mai Yee Jansen, University of North Carolina at Asheville

The Pioneer Woman Versus Modernism: Post-1930s Ambivalence toward an American Nationalist Myth

Patricia Oman, Hastings College

S2C: Creative Writing: Fiction

Location: Lindell C

Chair: Jillian Moore Bennion, Duquesne University

"Thataway," an excerpt from the novel *Bazz: Narrative of the Life of Bass Reeves*

Sidney Thompson, Texas Christian University

Recipient of the Frederick Manfred Award

Badlands

William Jensen, Center for the Study of the Southwest

Short Story: Set It on Fire

Lori Baker Martin, Pittsburg State University

Archives, Fiction, & History: Writing Westerns

Thomas Fox Averill, Washburn University

S2D: Confluences of History and Region

Location: Lindell D

Chair: Carol M. Barnett, Centenary University

Unwilling and Unsung: Heroines of the Westward Migration

Carol M. Barnett, Centenary University

Mari Sandoz' *Crazy Horse* and Its Bioregional Historiography

Yejin Kim, The Incheon Academy of Science and Arts, Republic of South Korea

Migrants to Settlers: Figuring 19th-Century Narratives of Norwegians in Texas

Solveig Sigurdardottir, Rice University

S2E: Reading and Writing Survivance

Location: Lindell B

Chair: Jenna Hunnef, College of William & Mary

"They Always Need an Exception": Native Personhood, Erasure, and Forgiveness in

Louise Erdrich's *The Plague of Doves*

Kassie Jo Baron, University of Iowa

"The coming of the border white man": Cosmopolitics in Charles Eastman's *The Soul of the Indian*

Kristen Brown, University of South Carolina

Notes toward the Liberation of Black Hawk's Colonized Identity

Donovan Gwinner, Aurora University

Becoming a Better Species: Indigenous Apocalypse and Ecological Epistemology in *Robopocalypse*

Luke Morgan, Texas Tech University

S2F: Western Illustration and Photography

Location: Waterman

Chair: Mike Lemon, Texas Tech University

The Southeast West: The Lone Ranger and Japanese American Incarceration on the Mississippi Delta

Mika Kennedy, University of Michigan

Photo-Text as Poem: Wright Morris Does Wittgenstein

Michael Brown, Creighton University

Hard World for Little Things

Rachel Heise Bolten, Stanford University

"Revised and Enlarged": Illustrations as Borderlands in John Wesley Powell's *Canyons of the Colorado*

Elizabeth Mathias, US Air Force

Saturday

9:30AM–10:45AM



S2G: Climate Writing

Location: Forsyth

Chair: Matt Burkhart, Case Western Reserve University

Climates of Violence, Spirits of Resistance: Climate Fiction by Chang-rae Lee and Louise Erdrich

Michael Gorman, Hiroshima City University, Japan

Re-reading the Poetry of Northern Infrastructure in a Changing Climate

Jenny Kerber, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada

The Desert[ing] of the Real? Anthropocene Pageantry in TC Boyle's *The Terranauts*

Matt Burkhart, Case Western Reserve University

Saturday

11:00AM–12:15PM



WLA Business Meeting

Location: Khorassan Main

Presiding: Nicolas S. Witschi, WLA Executive Secretary

See Executive Council Member nominating procedures on next page.

Saturday

12:30PM–5:00PM



Excursion to Cahokia Mounds

Meet in the Khorassan Lobby.



BADGE RECYCLING PROGRAM

You will notice boxes marked "Badge Recycling." When you leave the conference, please drop your conference badge into one of these boxes or hand it to an "official." Thanks for saving the environment!



Name	Title/Term	Affiliation
Emily Lutenski	Co-President	St. Louis University
Michael K. Johnson	Co-President	University of Maine, Farmington
SueEllen Campbell	Co-President Elect	Colorado State University
Alex Hunt	Co-President Elect	West Texas A&M University
Rebecca Lush	Co-Vice President	California State University, San Marcos
Kerry Fine	Co-Vice President	Arizona State University
Florence Amamoto	Co-Past President	Gustavus Adolphus College
Susan Naramore Maher	Co-Past President	University of Minnesota, Duluth
Nicolas Witschi	Executive Secretary	Western Michigan University
Nancy Cook	Treasurer	University of Montana
Tom Lynch	Editor, WAL	University of Nebraska–Lincoln
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
Jessica Lopez	2019 (grad rep)	Michigan State University
Jennifer Dawes	2020	Henderson State University
Jenny Kerber	2020	Wilfrid Laurier University
Kyoko Matsunaga	2020	Kobe City University of Foreign Studies
Joshua Smith	2020	Biola University

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 Cremean
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 Maher

SAVE THE DATE



The WLA Conference 2020 will be co-hosted by Rebecca Lush and Kerry Fine on **October 21–24** and will take place in the beautiful coastal area of the Hilton San Diego Del Mar, located just one mile from the beach and in close proximity to the Cedros Avenue Design District and Solana Beach.

The theme will be **Graphic Wests**.

The 2020 Distinguished Achievement Award recipients, poet Juan Felipe Herrera (21st National Poet Laureate), and fiction author Stephen Graham Jones, whose works exemplify “Graphic Wests,” will join us at the WLA’s 55th annual conference.

More information is forthcoming at <http://www.westernlit.org/wla-conference-2020/>



Exhibits

We thank our exhibitors for joining us in St. Louis. We know that traveling and sending materials has become more expensive, but it makes such a difference to look through your offerings in person. We appreciate your attendance:

- Center for the Study of the American West at West Texas A&M University
- Hastings College Press
- Left Bank Books
- The Scholar’s Choice
- University of Nebraska Press
- University of New Mexico Press
- University Press of Kansas

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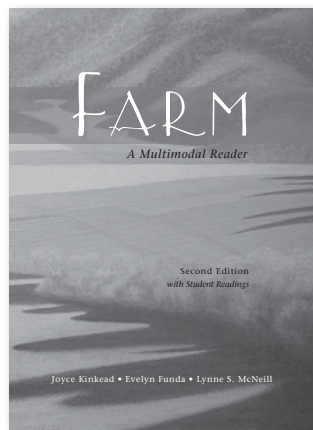


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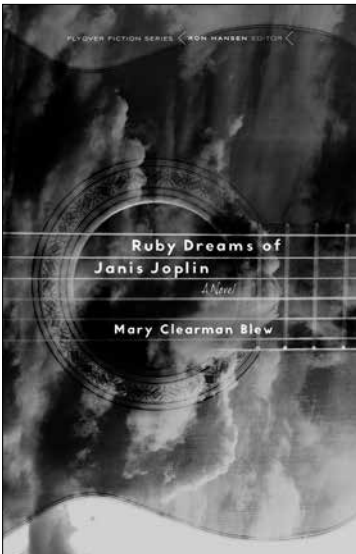
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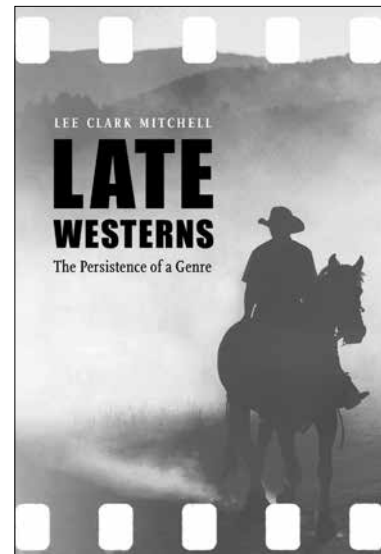


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Western Literature Association 2019 Conference

Not Cloudy All Day: Climates of Change in the American West

September 18-21, 2019
Estes Park, Colorado

The 2019 annual conference of the Western Literature Association will take place September 18-21 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. Our location in the high Colorado mountains at the edge of Rocky Mountain National Park is a majestic landscape claimed by Arapaho, Ute, and other tribes, US expansionists, British nobility, millions of visitors (44.4 million in 2017), and the federal government, notably the National Park Service. It is a fitting place to think about changes sweeping the West, especially the material and cultural effects of climate change (and the often unrecognized importance of weather and climate) and changing attitudes and policies concerning public lands. Our Distinguished Achievement Award winner is Leslie Marmon Silko. We will be joined by a number of excellent Colorado authors and activists.

We welcome proposals on any aspect of the literatures (broadly conceived) of the North American West. We especially encourage panels, papers, and "structured conversations"* that explore the following topics as they apply to these literatures:

The likely effects of a changing climate (and weather) on the lands, peoples, and cultures of the American West

- Defeat, resilience, denial, unrealistic and realistic hope, and other emotional literary and cultural responses to changes in climate (e.g., in Dust Bowl literatures)—or to other basic shifts in material realities
- Public lands, especially those maintained by the National Park System
- Environmental history and its relations to literature and other cultural expressions
- The varying abilities of different genres to deal with such topics: YA fiction, speculative vs realistic fiction, experimental eco-poetics/poetry vs traditional poetic forms, film, social media, visual arts, feature journalism, personal nonfiction literature, and so on
- The work of Distinguished Achievement Award Winner Leslie Marmon Silko and other Native American writers of the West

Proposals for panels and roundtable discussions should include an abstract for each paper or presentation. *For the experimental "structured conversations," which we envision as collaborative discussions driven by one-page "prompts" by 3-4 participants on a focused topic directly related to the conference theme, please submit a short description of your topic and the primary questions/ideas to be posed/proposed by your leading participants.

The deadline for submissions is May 20, 2019. Please submit questions to Alex Hunt or SueEllen Campbell at wlaconference2019@westernlit.org. For more information, see <http://www.westernlit.org/wla-conference-2019/>