HOME ON THE REZ:
Sovereignty & Sustainability

57th WLA Conference
Fort Hall, Idaho • October 11–14, 2023
PHOTO CREDITS FRONT COVER:


Welcome to Fort Hall, home of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, in the beautiful place also known as Idaho, the “Gem State,” and sometimes, for those who live here, “Idahome.” We are excited and proud to host the 57th Western Literature Association Conference in partnership with the Tribes, our generous hosts who have opened their doors and their homelands to WLA members, guests, and the surrounding community. We welcome longtime WLA members and new ones into this community! We look forward, over these next few days, to considering what “home” means to inhabitants of Idaho, the West, and elsewhere, and to working together toward a future that amplifies Indigenous knowledge, centers tribal sovereignty, and creates a more just, sustainable future in this region and beyond.

The ancestral lands of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes include most of what is now Southern Idaho as well as parts of Montana, northern Utah, Nevada, California, and Yellowstone National Park. The Fort Bridger Treaty (1863, 1868) created the Fort Hall Reservation and originally included 1.8 million acres of land. In 1872, a clerical survey error reduced this to 1.2 million acres. Between the passage of the Dawes Act and 1914, the Tribes lost half of this land to allotment and to nearby cities such as Lava Hot Springs and Pocatello. Today, the reservation comprises around 544,000 acres, and the Tribes are buying back as much land as they can; for example, in 2020 they bought about 157 acres in Mountain Home, Idaho. Idaho became a state in 1890 and today holds 53.531 million acres. Idaho comprises a vast variety of ecosystems, from high desert along the southern tier to mountain wilderness in the center to deciduous forests in the northern panhandle. A system of rivers sustains these diverse ecosystems, including the famous Snake River, a major tributary of the Columbia, and its own tributaries, the Clearwater, the Salmon, and the Clark Fork/Pend Oreille, to name a few.

Our conference celebrates Indigenous scholarship, writing, and art, and we are thrilled that every session on all three days features at least one panel dedicated to these subjects and
that all of our keynotes are Indigenous. This year’s Distinguished Achievement Award winner, Mark Trahant, is returning home to receive the award. Born at Fort Hall and an enrolled citizen, Trahant is the highly celebrated editor-at-large of *Indian Country Today*. Randy’L Teton (Shoshone-Bannock), is the only living model for U.S. currency; her image on the 2000 U.S. dollar coin represents the famous Sacajawea, who was herself Shoshone. Teton will discuss Sacajawea’s history and the new book she just published about Sacajawea’s life. Grace Dillon (Anishinaabe), the mastermind behind Indigenous futurisms, will lead a discussion on the future of the planet after a screening of *Utama*, the 2022 Film by Bolivian filmmaker Alejandro Loayza Grisi. Michael Sheyahshe (Caddo), a multimedia artist and scholar, will teach us about Indigenous comics.

We are grateful for the generous support of Idaho State University, the Idaho Humanities Council, the University of Idaho, and the many other sponsors who have made it possible to open these special events to the public and so to share the wisdom of these speakers with a broader audience at no cost. We are excited to amplify the voices of Idaho women writers via a special plenary featuring four of our best. Three plenaries and two panels are composed of Shoshone-Bannock officials across several departments of Tribal government and citizens of the Tribes whose work enriches the community. And our special visit to Minidoka National Historic Site, featuring a poetry reading by W. Todd Kaneko, will foreground the intertwined histories of injustice faced by people of color in the U.S. West, as well as the specific experiences of incarcerated Japanese Americans in Idaho.

This year’s conference theme—“Home on the Rez: Sovereignty and Sustainability”—signals the need to move beyond land acknowledgements to build long-term partnerships with Indigenous peoples as we face climate change and related challenges. Native peoples are no strangers to apocalyptic events; they have survived displacement, land theft, and attempted genocide, and they continue to survive in a settler colonial state. The resilience of Indigenous peoples in the Americas offers knowledge, wisdom, and hope in dark times. As WLA presidents and longtime members, we know allyship means continually educating ourselves, putting in the work to support tribal justice, and standing with tribes to resist cultural appropriation, extraction, and other ongoing colonial practices, as well as to collaborate on strategies for adapting to and mitigating the impacts of the climate crisis. We hope this conference will be one in a long line that prioritizes building partnerships for justice.

And look for the Helpers! If you have questions, the people wearing yellow name badges have answers. We’re so glad you’re here.
September 1, 2023

On behalf of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Fort Hall Business Council, we extend a warm welcome to the 2023 Western Literature Association Conference being held October 11 – 14, 2023 at the Shoshone-Bannock Casino Hotel in the Chief’s Event Center on the Fort Hall Reservation. We are pleased the conference is being held on our homelands, and look forward to engaging in presentations and discussions on Tribal Sovereignty with authors, academic professionals, students and other interested attendees.

We would like to recognize and congratulate the 2023 Distinguished Achievement Award Winner, Mark Trahant, who is a Shoshone-Bannock tribal member. Mark is a prize-winning journalist, multi-book author, and influential editor at Indian Country Today, an independent, nonprofit news enterprise. We look forward to joining in his honoring during the welcome reception and opening ceremony on Wednesday evening of the conference. In addition, we would like to thank the Idaho Humanities Council for providing the support for his recognition.

Our tribal staff members have had the great pleasure of collaborating with Dr. Amanda Zink from Idaho State University on the planning efforts for the conference, and we appreciate her and others’ efforts in ensuring there is a tribal voice and perspective throughout the entirety of the conference. Several tribal members, including students and graduates of ISU are participating as panelists throughout the conference, and we are eager to support and celebrate their efforts as well.

Again, welcome to Fort Hall, Idaho, home of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. We hope you enjoy your stay at the beautiful Shoshone-Bannock Casino Hotel and the accommodations we have to offer.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lee Juan Tyler, Chairman
Fort Hall Business Council
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The WLA is so grateful to its sponsors for supporting the conference in a variety of ways and for enabling us to make many of this year’s events free and open to the public.

We would also like to acknowledge the exhibitors and advertisers in this program who have helped make the conference experience richer for all of us.

We’re especially grateful for our ISU student interns who helped share the labor of putting on this conference and who operate our shuttle system. And we owe a debt to Echo Marshall, PR Manager for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, for all her work to help facilitate our collaboration, and to Destiney Tinno, Sales Executive at the Shoshone-Bannock Casino Hotel, for helping prepare a welcoming space for us.

American West Center at the University of Utah
Charles Redd Center for Western Regional Studies at Brigham Young University
Hares & Hatters Bookshop
Idaho Humanities Council
Idaho State Civic Symphony
Idaho State University Career Path Internship Program
Idaho State University College of Arts and Letters
Idaho State University College of Business
Idaho State University College of Education
Idaho State University College of Science and Engineering
Idaho State University Cultural Events Committee
Idaho State University Graduate School
Idaho State University Department of Anthropology
Idaho State University Department of Art
Idaho State University Department of Communications, Media, and Persuasion
Idaho State University Department of English and Philosophy
Idaho State University Department of Global Studies and Languages
Idaho State University Department of History
Idaho State University Department of Music
Idaho State University Department of Political Science
Idaho State University Department of Psychology
Idaho State University Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminology
Idaho State University Department of Theatre and Dance
Idaho State University Indigenous Peoples Day
Idaho State University Office of Equity and Inclusion
Idaho State University Office for Research
Idaho State University Office of Student Affairs
Lookout Credit Union
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
University of Idaho Department of English
University of Idaho Department of History
University of Idaho School of Global Studies
University of Idaho School of Journalism and Mass Media
57th Western Literature Association Conference

HOME ON THE REZ: SOVEREIGNTY & SUSTAINABILITY

HIGHLIGHTS

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CFP: WLA Conference 2024 outside back cover
Wednesday

10:00AM – 11:00PM  MARK TRAHANT @ SHOSHONE-BANNOCK JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

12:00PM – 1:00PM  INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ WEEK @ ISU: MARK TRAHANT (ISU RENDEZVOUS SUITES)

Both events above are sponsored by ISU College of Arts and Letters; ISU Department of English & Philosophy; ISU Department of Communications, Media, & Persuasion; ISU Office of Equity and Inclusion; ISU Indigenous Peoples Day; Idaho Humanities Council

1:00PM – 4:00PM  WLA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING (CHIEF POCATELLO)

4:00PM – 6:00PM  REGISTRATION (PREFUNCTION A)

4:00PM – 8:00PM  SHOSHONE-BANNOCK VENDORS (PREFUNCTION B)

5:45PM – 7:00PM  OPENING RECEPTION (CHIEF RACEHORSE A)

7:00PM – 9:00PM  OPENING CEREMONIES & DAA PRESENTATION (TAGHEE A-B)

Design credit: Tote bag graphic design by Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Member and Business Owner Paula Houtz of White Knife Creations
Mark Trahant is editor-at-large for Indian Country Today and a citizen of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Trahant was hired to revive ICT after it went out of business in 2017. The success has been phenomenal. The digital site now reaches 700,000 people a month, and the broadcast is carried on two dozen public television stations. Trahant leads the Indigenous Economics Project, a comprehensive look at Indigenous economics, including the economic impact of climate change.

Trahant is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and has held endowed chairs at the University of North Dakota and University of Alaska Anchorage. Trahant has also been a professor at the University of Idaho and the University of Colorado, as well as a columnist and editorial page editor at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Trahant was elected to the National Native American Indian Hall of Fame and will be inducted in October 2023. Trahant has published three books, is working on a fourth, and in 1989 was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in National Reporting for his series of articles on federal Indian policy.

Mark Trahant, recipient of the WLA's Distinguished Achievement Award

[More on next page >>>>]

Mark Trahant, recipient of the WLA's Distinguished Achievement Award

WEDNESDAY 5:45PM–9:00PM

5:45PM OPENING RECEPTION
LOCATION: CHIEF RACEHORSE A

7:00PM GRAND ENTRY & WELCOME
Location: Taghee A-B

Shoshone-Bannock drummers, singers, dancers, and veterans
Jennifer Ladino, WLA Co-President
Donna Thompson, Vice-Chair of the Fort Hall Business Council
Develynn Hall, 2023–2024 Miss Sho-Ban
Kevin Satterlee, Idaho State University President
Amanda Zink, WLA Co-President

“MS. CHIEF: THE MISSING HISTORY OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN AS LEADERS,” BY MARK TRAHANT, WLA’S DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT 2023

Sponsored by UI School of Journalism and Mass Media; ISU Department of Communications, Media, & Persuasion; ISU Department of English & Philosophy; ISU College of Arts and Letters; and the Idaho Humanities Council
**Develynn Hall** is the 2023-2024 Miss Shoshone-Bannock. She is 21 years old and a resident of the Gibson District. Her Indian name is Dazseeum Yhp meaning “Star Woman.” Her parents are Bryce Hall and Helena Jack.

She is employed with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Boys and Girls Club as a Youth Development Professional. She previously worked at the Shoshone-Bannock Casino Hotel front desk and as a housekeeper. She is involved with the Fort Hall Veterans Organization.

She is in the Idaho Army National Guard and her occupation is 74D, Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Nuclear Specialist (CBRN). She attends drill at the Blackfoot Armory. She falls under the 1-116th Calvary Brigade Combat Team, specifically the 1-148th Field Artillery Regiment, Alpha Battery.

Her hobbies include writing short stories and poems, spending time with her family and friends, traveling locally and out of state and karaoke singing in the car with her friends.

Her message to youth is to be involved within their community and to be supportive and encouraging of their peers.

**COVID-19 ETIQUETTE:**
As cases of Covid-19 are rising again throughout the country, please be mindful of the fact that we are sharing indoor spaces with hundreds of people during the conference. If you have or develop any symptoms of illness, please consider wearing a mask for the protection of others.
The Haunted Southwest
Towards an Ethics of Place in Borderlands Literature
Cordelia E. Barrera

In the American Southwest, Hispano, Indian, and Euro-American cultures display conflicting and competing avenues for legitimacy. A finalist for the Texas Institute of Letters Ramirez Family Award, The Haunted Southwest makes use of theories of place, space, and haunting to show how memory instills an ethic and orientation tied to embodied knowledge in the region.

American modernist ideologies accelerated the erasure of Indigenous histories and ways of being-in-the-world. The Haunted Southwest digs under spatial geography to expose sites where colonial and colonized cultures intersect and overlay to create a palimpsest haunted by history. These sites emerge as environments of memory—places of synthesis and renewal for Indigenous and mestiza/o subjects.

Through analysis and re-situation of border rituals and celebrations, alongside works by Larry McMurtry, Cormac McCarthy, Rudolfo Anaya, and others, author Cordelia E. Barrera argues that an eco-spatial poetics attuned to multivocality within postmodern narratives breaks open haunted sites and allows us to re-map landscapes as a repository of ancestral traces and on ethical grounds.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

A book series aiming to map desert multitudes—geographies, histories, cultures, and ecologies—through engagement with scholars and practitioners across humanities disciplines in order to expand static notions of desert places.

Series editor: Celina Osuna

For submissions: cosuna3@utep.edu
Thursday

7:30 AM – 5:00 PM  Registration (Prefunction A)
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  Book Exhibits (Prefunction B)
10:00 AM – 6:00 PM  Shoshone-Bannock Vendors (Prefunction A)

7:30 AM – 9:30 AM  Breakfast (Prefunction C)
8:00 AM – 9:15 AM  WLA Presidents’ Breakfast (Camas Sports Grill): for WLA presidents
8:00 AM – 9:15 AM  Sessions T1
9:30 AM – 10:45 AM  Sessions T2
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM  Mid-Morning Break (Prefunction C)
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM  Sessions T3
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ WEEK @ ISU: GRACE DILLON
Sponsored by ISU College of Arts and Letters; ISU Department of English & Philosophy; ISU Office of Equity and Inclusion; ISU Indigenous Peoples Day; Idaho Humanities Council

12:20 PM – 1:20 PM  Graduate Student Lunch (Painted Horse Buffet)
1:30 PM – 2:45 PM  Newe Pui Tu (Through Tribal Eyes): Covering Our Community (with Sho-Ban News) (Taghee A-B)
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM  Afternoon Break (Prefunction C)
3:00 PM – 4:15 PM  Graduate Student Professionalization I: Academic Writing for Different Contexts (Chief Pocatello) & Sessions T4
4:30 PM – 5:45 PM  Plenary—Her Story: Sacajawea with Randy’L Teton (Taghee A-B)
5:45 PM – 7:00 PM  Reception & Poster Session (Prefunction D)
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM  Graduate Student Social (Stampede Lounge)
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  Utama Screening & Panel Discussion with Grace Dillon (Taghee A-B)
9:30 PM – 11:30 PM  The Late Show: Antlers Screening (Chief Racehorse A)
THURSDAY 8:00AM–9:15AM

T1B: WILLA CATHER: PLACE AND ARCHIVE (A PANEL OF THE NATIONAL WILLA CATHER CENTER)
Location: Chief Pocatello
Session Chair: Emily Rau, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

A Closer Look: Landscape and Gender in the Works of Willa Cather, Laura Gilpin, and Mary Hallock Foote
  Caroline Straty Kraft, University of Texas at Austin

Shades of Nostalgia in Cather’s Fan Mail
  Maria T. Kane, Washington University in St. Louis

The Dynamo’s Virgin: Willa Cather and the Madonna of the Train
  Ariel Clark Silver, Southern Virginia University

Resituating Willa Cather
  Emily Rau, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Connections between Willa Cather’s “Scandal” and Women’s Suffrage
  Carly McGown, Montana State University

Absence by Degrees: Willa Cather and the Erasures of Migration
  Paul Burch, Rice University

T1C: EMBODIED LANDSCAPES: STORIES OF IDENTITY AND PLACE
Location: Chief Arimo
Session Chair: Emily Holmes, University of Idaho

All That I Don’t Remember
  Emily Holmes, University of Idaho

Beyond the Novel: Direct Action, Writing as Transformation, and Emergent Modes
  Spencer R. Young, University of Idaho

Dripping with Decadence: Critiquing Whiteness through Aesthetic Craft in Apocalyptic Narratives
  Gianna Starble, University of Idaho

T1D: ASIAN AMERICANS AND SETTLER COLONIALISM IN THE WEST
Location: Chief Tyhee
Session Chair: Dominic Dongilli, University of Iowa

Writing Asian Postfrontier Fiction
  Nina McConigley, Colorado State University

Asian Cowboys: Settler Complicities and Asian-Indigenous Solidarity in Asian North American and Transnational Literature and Visual Art
  Ryan Tan Wander, Valdosta State University

Indians Playing Indian: South Asian American Wests and Indigeneity
  Surabhi Balachander, University of Michigan
THURSDAY 8:00AM–9:15AM

T1E: INDIGENOUS COMICS

Location: Chief Snagg

Session Chair: Christopher Conway, The University of Texas at Arlington

Home on the Island: Reimaging Islands and Storied Futures in “Ayanisach” in Moonshot and “The Song of She and the Island” in Mayfly Island
  Yingwen Yu, Texas Christian University

How Comics Reestablish the Oral Traditions of Native Americans
  Brianna Lords, Idaho State University

“We are in the soil, but we are the future too”: A Textual and Visual Analysis of Joe Sacco’s Paying the Land
  Suparna Sinha, Idaho State University

T1G: DISMANTLING THE HUMAN-NONHUMAN BINARY

Location: Chokecherry A

Session Chair: Dylan Couch, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Garden Affect: Emotions, Material Agency, and Embodiment in Leslie Marmon Silko’s Gardens in the Dunes
  Dylan Couch, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Molly Gloss’s Wild Life and Western Legend
  Jennifer Eastman Attebery, Idaho State University

Dismantling the Human-Nonhuman Binary: An Indigenous Ecocritical Reading of Nomadland
  Emily Catherine Thomas, Brigham Young University

T1H: HOME ON (& OFF) THE REZ: NARRATING CONNECTIONS TO PLACE

Location: Chokecherry B

Session Chair: James Mayo, Jackson State Community College

Home on (and off) the Rez: Language and Place in Angeline Boulley’s Firekeeper’s Daughter and Warrior Girl Unearthed
  Elizabeth Ann Redd, Idaho State University

“Homing In” on Smoke Signals
  James Mayo, Jackson State Community College

Bringing Native American History Home: Centering Instruction on the Tribes Whose Lands We Occupy
  Emily Ward, Rockland Junior Senior High School

Recipient of the WLA/Charles Redd Center K–12 Teaching Award
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<td><strong>Fear Displaced: What the Grass Knows</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Apprehending Slow Violence in the Osage “Oil Encounter”</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Uprooted: Examining Tree Symbolism and Homeland Identity in Julie Otsuka’s <em>When the Emperor Was Divine</em></strong></td>
<td>Annelie Sara Furner, Weber State University</td>
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<td><strong>The Influence of Trauma on Space and Place in <em>No-No Boy</em></strong></td>
<td>Sarah L Baldwin, Idaho State University</td>
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<td><strong>When the Emperor Was Divine: Objects and Cultural References as a Sign of Americanization</strong>*</td>
<td>Emily Stacey, Idaho State University</td>
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<td><strong>When Might Isn’t Right: Stories of Fighting for LGBTQ Rights in Wichita Falls, Texas</strong>*</td>
<td>Annette Bever, Vernon College</td>
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<td><strong>Apology or Acknowledgement: The Waco Community Race Relations Coalition and the “Waco Horror”</strong>*</td>
<td>Jennifer Dawes, Midwestern State University</td>
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<td><strong>“I didn’t want her to see me when I was such a wreck”: Women Writing through Cancer</strong>*</td>
<td>Emily J. Rau, Cameron Steele, University of Nebraska-Lincoln</td>
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### T2D: WESTERN HORRORS: GENRE, GEOGRAPHY, AND THE PSYCHE

**Location:** Chief Tyhee  
**Session Chair:** Michael Johnson, University of Maine-Farmington  

The Self as a Construction of Others: Implications for Westerns, Spy Thrillers, and Horror Genres from a Cognitive Reading of *The Sympathizer*  
Jacob Orse, Idaho State University  

Saloum: Western Horror from the Global South  
Michael Johnson, University of Maine-Farmington  

Django, Proust and Memory Objects in the Italian Western  
Richard Parker, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

### T2E: LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAN WEST (A PANEL OF THE PACIFIC ANCIENT AND MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION)

**Location:** Chief Snagg  
**Session Chair:** Anne Mai Yee Jansen, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo

**Eastern Women Westing: Asian American Cozy Fiction & Stories of Home**  
Anne Mai Yee Jansen, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo  

The Impossibility of the Novel: Exploring Temporality and Form in Billy-Ray Beclourt’s *A Minor Chorus*  
Mathilde Magga, University of Washington  
Recipient of the Louis Owens Award  

How the West Erased: Wilderness & Indigenous Presence  
Becca Lucas, California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo  

Hosting Ghosts: Masculinity in Domestic Spaces in Arturo Islas’ *The Rain God*  
Elizabeth Martinez, University of Texas at Austin

### T2F: ¿DE DÓNDE ERES Y A QUÉ TE DEDICAS?: SITES OF EMBODIED SCHOLARSHIP

**Location:** Chief Racehorse B  
**Session Chair:** Priscilla Solis Ybarra, University. of North Texas

Placemaking and Embodied Research: *Día a Día con Mi Mami*  
Priscilla Solis Ybarra, University of North Texas  

Port Houston: In This Hood, We, Latinx, Break Statistics  
Vanessa Ramirez, University of North Texas  
Recipient of the Louis Owens Award  

Magnolia Oaks/El Barrio de Magnolia: An Ecological Sketch  
José Aranda, Rice University  

From the Sierra Norte to the Wasatch Mountains: Indigenous Knowledge in Migration and the Rootedness of Place  
Lourdes Alberto, University of Utah
T2—THURSDAY 9:30AM–10:45AM

T2G: PRINT CULTURE ACTIVISM
Location: Chokecherry A
Session Chair: Amanda J. Zink, Idaho State University

Filipino Labor Impact: How America Is Changed in Carlos Bulosan’s America Is in the Heart
Landen Jay Fergus, Idaho State University

A Republic of Monsters: Charles Wilkins Webber’s Texas Gothic
Jimmy L. Bryan, Lamar University

An Immigrant Cartoonist’s Fight against the Klan in Dallas, 1920–1924
Christopher Conway, University of Texas at Arlington

T2H: VIOLENCE AND RESISTANCE
Location: Chokecherry B
Session Chair: Amaia Ibarraran-Bigalondo, University of the Basque Country

Trauma, Focalization & Flame in Steph Cha’s Your House Will Pay
Sharon Premkumar, Idaho State University

Hartford & the West: Ocean Vuong’s Re-Generation of Samuel Colt’s Western Frontier
Crista Diane Fiala, University of Saint Joseph

There There and Modes of Simulacra Resistance
Brian Arechiga, University of Southern California

Recipient of the Dorys Crow Grover Award

T3—THURSDAY 11:00AM–12:15PM

T3A: TAYLOR SHERIDAN’S WESTS: A MASS MEDIA AND POSTWESTERN PHENOMENON
Location: Chief Racehorse A
Session Chair: Stefan Rabitsch, University of Oslo

Limits of Law and Lawlessness in Wind River and Sicario
Celina Osuna, Arizona State University

Cowgirl with the Yellow Hair: Sheridan’s 1883 Challenge to Hypermasculinity in the Western Genre
Tracey Hanshew, Eastern Oregon University

“Authenticity is the one thing that money [can] buy”: The Ironic Poetics and Politics of Verismilitude in Yellowstone
Stefan Rabitsch, University of Oslo

Wind River: What Power(s) Fuel Taylor Sheridan’s Opposition to Femi(ni)cide?
Tereza Jiroutova Kynclova, Faculty of Humanities, Charles University
T3—THURSDAY 11:00AM–12:15PM

T3B: RACE, INDIGENEITY, AND DIGITAL ARCHIVES
Location: Chief Pocatello
Session Chair: Jennifer Dawes, Midwestern State University

Black Western Literature and the Digital Archive
Kalenda Eaton, University of Oklahoma

Re-visiting the Death of Mourning Dove: Sovereignty of Indigenous Archives and the Rise of Settler Artificial Intelligence
Randal Houle, Independent Scholar

Taking Stock of the Archive: Native Art, American Ephemera, and Cultural Preservation
Jillian Moore, Duquesne University

T3C: QUEER WESTS
Location: Chief Arimo
Session Chair: Dominic Dongilli, University of Iowa

“It’s a Pigeon”: Intra- and Interspecies Care in Kelly Reichardt’s First Cow and Showing Up
Sarah Jane Kerwin, Oberlin College

“I’ll Show You Where the Road Is”: Queer Canyons and Arid Affections in Beef
Jada Ach, Arizona State University

Deborah Miranda’s Bad Indians as a Continued Decolonization of Indigenous Queer and Two-Spirit Identities
Orion Liggett, California State University - Chico

T3D: 19TH CENTURY WESTS: REPRESENTATIONS AND REPERCUSSIONS
Location: Chief Tyhee
Session Chair: Erin N. Bistline, Ohio State University

Recasting the Past: Nineteenth-Century Accounts of Spanish Colonial Exploration
Kerin Holt, Utah State University

Gender, Embodiment, and Diaristic Representation on Susan Shelby Magoffin’s Santa Fe Trail
Robert Gunn, University of Texas at El Paso

Revolutionary Designs of 1848: Italian Independence and American Conquest in Willa Cather’s Death Comes for the Archbishop
Paul Formisano, University of South Dakota

“So Long as Game May be Found Thereon...”: Indian Hunting Rights and Wrongs in Wyoming
Cleve Davis, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
T3—THURSDAY 11:00AM–12:15PM

T3E: MODERN INDIGENOUS MOBILITY: BUILDING TRANSNATIONAL RELATIONS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Location: Chief Snagg

Session Chair: Christine Bold, University of Guelph (emerita)

Double Visions: Graciela Iturbide's Indigenous/American Photo Narratives
  Audrey Goodman, Georgia State University

Modern Indians in (and beyond) the Deutsche Reich: (Re)Claiming Indigenous Lands, Nations, and Futures through Transatlantic Indigenous Travel
  Michael Taylor, Brigham Young University

Restaging & Relating Heritage: Cherokee Fancy-Dancer Winnie Guess and the Bacone Choir’s Cross-Country Tour
  Shannon Claire Toll, University of Dayton

T3F: REMAPPING ANCESTRAL SPACES: EARTH, WATER, ART

Location: Chief Racehorse B

Session Chair: Joanna Hearne, University of Oklahoma

Ghosting Settler Maps, Remapping Indigenous Spirits: Rebecca Pelky’s “Bird Mound Facing Devil’s Lake”
  Chadwick Allen, University of Washington
  Recipient of the Thomas J. Lyon Award

Movements, Ancestors, and Altars in Red, Black, & Two-Spirit Intersections: The Arts & Poetry of M. Carmen Lane & Alán Pelaez Lopez
  Lisa Tatonetti, Kansas State University

The Reparative Imperative: Allison Hedge Coke’s Look at This Blue
  Susan Bernardin, Oregon State University

T3G: STAGING AND DOCUMENTING CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS

Location: Chokecherry A

Session Chair: Surabhi Balachander, University of Michigan

Dance Battles in David Henry Hwang’s The Dance and the Railroad
  Julie Reid, Idaho State University

Ghosts in the Machine: The Role of Offstage Movement in the Theatrical Spaces of David Henry Hwang
  Luke M. Fredette, Idaho State University
T3—THURSDAY 11:00AM–12:15PM

T3H: WATER AND WESTERN FUTURITIES
Location: Chokecherry B
Session Chair: Quinn Grover, Brigham Young University–Idaho

Home Lost: The Ecocatastrophe Storytelling of Women’s Sickness and Bird Extinction in Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place and Marilynne Robinson’s Mother Country
Meng Wang, University of Arizona

Uneulogizing Ti’tsa-pa, or the Great Salt Lake: Playing with Western Futurities
Kyle Kamaiopili, Utah Valley University

Reflections on Water: Growing Up in California’s Great Central Valley
Sharon Reynolds, U.S. Navy and Palomar College

Imperial Dreams—Literature of the Imperial Valley
Lawrence Coates, Bowling Green State University

THURSDAY 12:20PM–1:20PM

GRADUATE STUDENT LUNCHEON
Location: Painted Horse Buffet

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Museum will be open during the conference days: Wednesday–Friday. 9:00am to 4:30pm. Admission is $4. The museum is just across the road from the hotel parking lot.

We will be live tweeting at the Western Literature Association Conference. Follow us on Twitter at https://twitter.com/WesternAmerica1 and use the hashtags #westernlit2023.
Please also use the same hashtag for Instagram and help us document the conference!
Follow @westernlit-association!
T4—THURSDAY 1:30PM–2:45PM

NEWE PUI TU (THROUGH TRIBAL EYES): COVERING OUR TRIBAL COMMUNITY

Location: Taghee A-B

Session Chair: Dana Edmo-Hernandez, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Participants: 
  Lori Ann Edmo, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
  Jeremy Shay, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
  Joseph Wadsworth, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
  Roselynn Yazzie, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Editors and content creators from Sho-Ban News will discuss their experiences as storytellers for the Shoshone-Bannock community.

Lori Ann Edmo has been Editor of Sho-Ban News since 1998. Before that, she worked briefly as a copy-editor for the Idaho State Journal and as publication manager for the UCLA American Indian Studies Center. Edmo has a BA in Journalism from the University of Montana, Missoula. Roselynn Yazzie is Assistant Editor at Sho-Ban News; Jeremy Shay is the Web/Graphics Specialist; and Joseph Wadsworth is Videographer.

T5—THURSDAY 3:00PM–4:15PM

T5A: WHITE TROUBLE AND FEMINIST CRITICAL REGIONALISM: READING CONTEMPORARY WESTERN WOMEN’S WRITING

Location: Chief Racehorse A

Session Chair: José Aranda, Rice University

Forgiveness, Justice, and Faith in Marilynne Robinson’s Novels
  Krista Comer, Rice University

“California, come home”: Looking at Climate Catastrophe and Settler Colonialism with Allison Hedge Coke in Look at This Blue: A Poem
  Lydia Marie Heberling, California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo

From Wagon Train Morality to the Oregon Trail Generation: Feminist Regionalism in Joan Didion and Claire Vaye Watkins
  Alex Trimble Young, Arizona State University
T5B: GRADUATE STUDENT PROFESSIONALIZATION I: ACADEMIC WRITING FOR DIFFERENT CONTEXTS

Location: Chief Pocatello
Session Chair: Sarah Jane Kerwin, Oberlin College

Participants: Amy Hamilton, Northern Michigan University
               Emily Rau, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
               Spencer R. Young, University of Idaho
               Jillian Moore, Duquesne University

T5C: TEMPORALITIES, TERRITORIES, TOXICITIES (A PANEL OF THE STEPHEN GRAHAM JONES SOCIETY)

Location: Chief Arimo
Session Chair: Billy J. Stratton, University of Denver

‘Pink Eye Was All the Rage’: Colonial Identity Sickness in Stephen Graham Jones’ The Bird Is Gone: A Monograph Manifesto
   Sara Spurgeon, Texas Tech University

Can a Moose be a Time Machine? Stephen Graham Jones’ Ledfeather and the Nature of Time, Space, and Reality in Western History
   Billy J. Stratton, University of Denver

The Convenience Store as a Trope of Liminality in the Works of Stephen Graham Jones
   Bernadette V. Russo, Mount Saint Vincent University

T5D: NATIVE “LITERATURES” AND LINGUISTIC SOVEREIGNTY: A ROUNDTABLE

Location: Chief Tyhee
Session Chair: Elizabeth Ann Redd, Idaho State University

Participants: Bailey J Dann, Idaho State University
               Keeley Joe, Idaho State University
               Bobette Haskett, Idaho State University
               Rebecca Barnet, Idaho State University

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Darren Parry is the former Chairman of the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation. He serves on the Board of Directors for Utah Humanities and for PBS Utah. He attended the University of Utah and Weber State University and received his Bachelor’s Degree in Secondary Education. Parry is the author of *The Bear River Massacre: A Shoshone History* and teaches Native American History at Utah State University. He lectures around the country on Native American issues surrounding history and Indigenous views related to sustainability. He recently gave a lecture at the University of Copenhagen and spoke about Indigenous Views to Climate and Environment. His passions in life are his wife, Melody, seven children, and seventeen grandchildren. His other passion is his Tribal family. He wants to make sure that those who have gone before him are not forgotten.

T5F: THE FARM: IDAHO WRITERS, LANDSCAPE, AND INDIGENOUS IMPLICATIONS

Location: Chief Racehorse B

Session Chair: Joyce Kinkead, Utah State University

Turning Water into Wine: The Persistence of Dowsing in Contemporary Grape Farming  
Lynne S. McNeill, Utah State University

The Farm in Literature & Culture: Engaging Students with Excerpts from *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer  
Bonnie B Moore, Utah State University

Decolonizing Thanksgiving: Weaving Indigenous Food and Culture into a Farm Literature & Culture Course  
Joyce Kinkead, Utah State University

Transformational Farming on the Snake River Plain: Annie Pike Greenwood, Settler Boosterism, and Indigenous Farming  
Evelyn Funda, Utah State University
**T5G: PUBLIC HUMANITIES, WESTERN COMMUNITIES**

**Location:** Chokecherry A

**Session Chair:** Curtis Whitaker, Idaho State University

- Rudolfo Anaya, *Llanero: Bless Me, Ultima* in Southern Plains Context
  
  Alex Hunt, West Texas A&M University

- The Cybercene Lab: A Forthcoming Humanities-Based Exploration of Healing and Habitability in a Transformed World
  
  Vetri Nathan, Rutgers University

**T5H: TRIPPIN’ ON WESTERN HIGHWAYS**

**Location:** Chokecherry B

**Session Chair:** James Mayo, Jackson State Community College

- Reading the I-15 from *The Sweet Spot*, A Novel in Progress
  
  Meredith Louise Harvey, Aurora University

- Free Your Mind and the West Will Follow: Psychedelic Journeys in the New West
  
  Matthew Young Heimburger, University of Utah

- Arterial Roads: Selling the Myth of the American West on Route 66
  
  Phoebe Eliza Billups, Northern Michigan University
Randy’L Teton was born and raised in southeastern Idaho and is a tribal member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation. Teton was the official model for the U.S. Native American Dollar coin featuring Sacajawea, which was released in 2000. She then served as a Tribal Ambassador to the U.S. Mint for two years to promote the coin and the Shoshone history of Sacajawea (aka Sacagawea or Sakakawea). Teton was public affairs manager for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes for eleven years and is currently employed with the U.S. Forest Service as a Public Affairs/Tribal Relations Specialist in the Office of Communication. Teton attended the Institute of American Indian Arts, Fort Lewis College, and the University of New Mexico, specializing in U.S. history, fine arts, Native American history, and museum studies. Her awards include the Southeast Idaho Business Journal’s “Twenty under 40” award, the “Idaho Hometown Hero Medal Award,” and a selection as one of 100 “Trailblazing Women of Idaho.” She was the first Native American to receive a “Lifetime Achievement” from Idaho State Journal’s Business Award. Her work for gender equality was recognized in 2023 with the Yellow Rose Award from the Zonta Club of Pocatello. Teton’s first children’s book, It’s Her Story: Sacajawea, was just released. She is currently working on a memoir.
OSH/NISH/GISHTIGWAAN BIITAWAANAKWAD, ‘HIS/HER/MY/YOUR HEAD BETWEEN THE CLOUDS’ IN GLOBAL INDIGENOUS FUTURISMS/SPECULATIVE CLIMATE FICTIONS

UTAMA SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION LED BY GRACE DILLON

Sponsored by the ISU College of Business; ISU College of Science and Engineering; ISU Department of English & Philosophy; ISU Department of Global Studies; ISU Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminology; UI School of Global Studies; and Idaho Humanities Council

Location: Taghee A-B

Session Chair: Grace Dillon, Portland State University

Participants: Liz Moreno-Chuquen, Xavier University / Idaho State University
Colden Vance Baxter, Idaho State University
Daniel Stone, Upper Snake River Tribes

Alejandro Loayza Grisi’s 2022 film Utama follows an elderly Quechua couple through the perils of climate change in the Bolivian highlands. Following a screening of the film, Grace Dillon will lead a panel discussion on the local global impacts of climate change on Indigenous peoples.

Grace L. Dillon (Anishinaabe, Métis, Irish) is a professor of Indigenous Nations Studies in the School for Gender, Race, and Nations at Portland State University, as well as affiliate faculty in Women, Gender, and Sexualities and the Department of English. She is the Indigenous Futurisms editor for the Routledge Handbook of CoFuturisms (October 30, 2023) along with co-editors Isiah Lavender III, Taryne Taylor, and Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay. Dillon edited Walking the Clouds: An Anthology of Indigenous Science Fiction (2012), Hive of Dreams (2003), and, with Michael Levy and John Rieder, a special double issue on Indigenous Futurisms for the journal Extrapolation (2016). Dillon serves on the Ethnic Board of the International Space Station (ISS), on NASA workshops, and on Project North Star work.

Liz Moreno-Chuquen earned her bachelor’s degree in Literary Studies and Comparative Literature at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, in her home country. She earned her MA and PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Latin American Literatures & Cultures. She taught at Idaho State University from 2019 to 2023 in the Spanish and Global Studies programs. Moreno-Chuquen has published research in several Spanish-language journals on topics such as critical racial studies, visual culture, and Afro-Latin American literature. In summer 2023 she moved to Xavier University in Cincinnati to teach in their Classics and Modern Languages department.
Colden Baxter has worked for many years as a partner with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to accomplish research and educational goals and cultivate collaborative Tribal-university relationships. With many students, collaborators, and partners like the Tribes, his research focuses on rivers and streams, ecological linkages between water and land, and connections between people and rivers. Colden is Professor and Director of the Stream Ecology Center and Center for Ecological Research & Education at Idaho State University, and he and his wife Lenny are parents to two daughters.

Daniel Stone is an enrolled member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, living with his wife and son on the Fort Hall Reservation in Southeastern Idaho, currently working as the Environmental Director for the Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation. Stone has over fifteen years of experience working with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes’ Natural Resource Division in both a technical capacity; devoting the majority of his time to developing/managing complex interdisciplinary resource management projects for Idaho’s ESA-listed salmon and adaptive responses to climate change for his Tribe. He received his Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy) from Idaho State University in 2004, a Juris Doctor from the University of Idaho, College of Law in 2007, and, was accepted to the Idaho State Bar Association as a practicing attorney in 2008. He has also served as a member of the Fort Hall Business Council (governing body for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes 2017-2018) and is a current member of the Idaho Conservation League’s Board of Directors.

Grace Dillon (Anishinaabe, Métis, Irish) served as cultural consultant on Guillermo del Toro’s 2021 supernatural horror film, Antlers. Come watch so you can chat with her about it during the rest of the week!

Content warning: creature violence and themes of child abuse.
Friday

7:30AM – 5:00PM  Registration (Prefunction A)
8:00AM – 5:00PM  Book Exhibits (Prefunction B)
10:00AM – 6:00PM  Shoshone-Bannock Vendors (Prefunction A)

7:30AM – 9:30AM  Breakfast (Prefunction C)
8:00AM – 9:15AM  Sessions F1 & Graduate Student Professionalization II
9:30AM – 10:45AM  Plenary: Legal and Experiential Perspectives on Sovereignty (Taghee A-B)
10:30AM – 12:30PM  Mid-Morning Break (Prefunction C)
11:00AM – 12:15PM  Plenary: Idaho Women Writers Roundtable (Taghee A-B)
12:00PM – 1:00PM  Indigenous Peoples’ Week @ ISU: Michael Sheyahshe

Sponsored by ISU College of Arts and Letters; ISU Department of English & Philosophy; ISU Department of Art; ISU Office of Equity and Inclusion; ISU Indigenous Peoples Day; Idaho Humanities Council

12:20PM – 1:20PM  Past Presidents’ Luncheon: WLA Past & Future (Painted Horse Buffet)
1:30PM – 2:45PM  Plenary: Living History of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (Taghee A–B)
2:00PM – 4:00PM  Afternoon Break (Prefunction C)
3:00PM – 4:15PM  Sessions F5
4:30PM – 5:45PM  Plenary: Michael Sheyahshe: This Is the Way: A Journey into Indigenous Representation in Comics and Media (Taghee A-B)
5:45PM – 7:00PM  Reception (Prefunction D)
7:00PM – 11:00PM  WLA Awards Banquet and Dance (Taghee A-B)
F1—FRIDAY 8:00AM–9:15AM

F1A: WEST OF THE REST: PARLEYING TAYLOR SHERIDAN’S MOVIE AND TELEVISION OEUVRE

Location: Chief Racehorse A
Session Chair: Nicolas Witschi, Western Michigan University

Petromodernity and Hell or High Water
   Quinn Grover, Brigham Young University-Idaho

“I am a cowboy”: Elsa Dutton: Re-envisioning Hypermasculinity in the West
   Tracey Hanshew, Eastern Oregon University

Narration, Self-writing, and Crafting Self-hood in 1883
   Jillian Moore, Duquesne University

“I’m gonna let the world know we’re here”: Yellowstone as Postwest(ern) Classroom
   Stefan Rabitsch, University of Oslo

F1B: GRADUATE STUDENT PROFESSIONALIZATION II: NAVIGATING CONFERENCES

Location: Chief Pocatello
Session Chair: Elizabeth Martinez, University of Texas at Austin

Participants: José Aranda, Rice University
   Kirby Brown, University of Oregon
   James Cox, University of Texas Austin
   Audrey Goodman, Georgia State University

F1C: HISTORICAL FICTIONS: DECOLONIZATION AND DARK TOURISM

Location: Chief Arimo
Session Chair: Laura Beard, University of Alberta

Pioneer Days in the Black Hills: Home on the Frontier in “Historic Deadwood”
   Laura Beard, University of Alberta

Decolonizing Lakota Masculinity: Joseph M. Marshall III’s Historical Fiction
   Peter Bayers, Fairfield University

Further Notes toward the Decolonization of Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kiak (Black Hawk)
   Donovan Gwinner, Aurora University

F1D: A STAGED READING OF WALKING STEVEN HOME

Location: Chief Tyhee

Walking Steven Home: A Verbatim Play by Gregory Hinton in Memory of Steven Nelson and in Honor of His Family
   Jef Petersen, Idaho State University

“Walking Steven Home” is a curated assembly of Impact Statements from the family of Steven Nelson (1966–2016) at the April 10, 2017 District Court of the Third Judicial District of the State of Idaho sentencing hearing of his confessed killer, Kelly Bryan Schneider.

Curated by playwright Gregory Hinton, with the Nelson family’s consent. Presented by faculty and students of Idaho State University Department of Theatre and Dance.
F1—FRIDAY 8:00AM–9:15AM

F1F: WEIRD WESTS: MONSTERS, EAGLES, AND OUTLAWS
Location: Chief Racehorse B
Session Chair: Michael Johnson, University of Maine-Farmington

Anna North’s Outlawed (2021), Emma Tammi’s The Wind (2018), and Dorothy Scarborough’s The Wind (1925): Outlaws, Domesticity, Gender, and Reproduction

Kerry Fine, Arizona State University

An Eagle at Pine Ridge and the Ontological Turn

Sam Stoeltje, Independent Scholar

Subversive Monsters, Subversive Crafts: Anzaldúan Aliens and Rasquache Blood in The People of Paper and The Rag Doll Plagues

Christopher David Rosales, California State University Long Beach

F1G: ENCOUNTERS WITH IDAHO NATURALISM
Location: Chokecherry A
Session Chair: James Mayo, Jackson State Community College

Mirror Images: Parallels in the Life and Works of Mary Hallock Foote

Megan Riley McGilchrist, The American School in London

Janet Campbell Hale’s Fugitive Ceremonies

Dominique Vargas, California Lutheran University

F1H: INTERROGATING BORDERLANDS
Location: Chokecherry B
Session Chair: Krishna Narayanamurti, University of Southern California

Crossing the End of the World: (Re)Constructing the U.S.-Mexico Border

Liliana Lule, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Carmen Boullosa’s Recovery of Nineteenth-Century U.S. Southern Women Writers in Texas: The Great Theft

Theresa Strouth Gaul, Texas Christian University

Post-Western Nightmare or Frontera Fantasy? The Rise of Peso Pluma, Corridos Tumbados y Bélicos, and the Evolution of the Narcocorrido

Christopher Muniz, University of Southern California
Representatives from the Fort Hall Business Council and the Shoshone-Bannock community will discuss tribal sovereignty in everyday life.

Nathan Small is the former Chairman of the Fort Hall Business Council. He retired in June 2022. Small was instrumental in opening the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes’ first gaming operation and served as gaming manager from 1990 to 1998. He has been a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Bar Association since 1980 and has held positions as both prosecutor and public defender in the Tribal Courts. He worked in the Tribal Water Resources Department and the Environmental Waste Program, advocating for the protection of clean environmental resources. He is also a founding board member of the Coalition of Large Tribes, which promotes tribal sovereignty. He has advocated for the Tribes’ Treaty Rights and Tribal Sovereignty for decades, testifying many times at the state capitol in Boise and in Washington D.C.

Laticia Herkshan is an enrolled citizen of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall and a descendant of the Modoc, Tohono O’odham, and Eastern Shoshone Nations. She attained four degrees from Idaho State University in the social sciences. She currently holds two positions at ISU: in Geosciences doing K–12 STEM outreach with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; and as the GEM3 Indigenous STEM Education Research Scholar, working toward identifying and advocating for STEM education and the programming needs of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Herkshan’s other work and research includes advocating for Native student support in higher education and for ethical Tribal-university partnerships in education and research.

Gaylen Edmo is serving his first term on the Fort Hall Business Council as Sgt-At-Arms. He attended the United States Naval Academy where he wrestled for the Navy. Edmo holds degrees in Environmental Studies with a minor in Sustainability and a Juris Doctorate with emphases in Federal Indian Law and Natural Resources-Environmental Law. Edmo has clerked for Echo Hawk & Olsen, PLLC in Pocatello; Native American Rights Fund in Boulder, Colorado; and for the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho in Boise. He has held positions at the Tribal Water Resources Department and the Tribal Resident Fisheries Program. He is a lifelong big game, salmon, and yaha (rock chuck) hunter, practicing the treaty rights to hunt and fish the unoccupied lands of the U.S.
PLENARY: IDAHO WOMEN WRITERS ROUNDTABLE
Sponsored by UI Department of English

Location: Taghee A-B
Session Chair: Jennifer Ladino, University of Idaho

Participants: Alexandra Teague, University of Idaho
Stacy Boe Miller, Independent Scholar
CMarie Fuhrman, Western Colorado University
Bethany Schultz Hurst, Idaho State University

Alexandra Teague’s newest book, Spinning Tea Cups: A Mythical American Memoir, was released this month. She is previously the author of three books of poetry—Or What We’ll Call Desire, The Wise and Foolish Builders, and Mortal Geography—and the novel The Principles behind Flotation, as well as co-editor of Bullets into Bells: Poets & Citizens Respond to Gun Violence. She is a professor at the University of Idaho, where she co-directs the MFA program.

Stacy Boe Miller is an essayist and poet. Her work can be found or is forthcoming in The Sun, Copper Nickel, Mid-American Review, Bellingham Review, Terrain.org, where she recently won the Editor’s Prize in Poetry, and other journals. Her poetry manuscript was a finalist for the Blue Lynx Prize for Poetry with Lynx House Press, The Wheeler Prize with The Journal, and the St. Lawrence Poetry Prize with Black Lawrence Press. She is working on a memoir, is the current Poet Laureate of Moscow, Idaho, and teaches workshops locally throughout the year.

CMarie Fuhrman is the author of Camped Beneath the Dam: Poems and co-editor of Cascadia: Art, Ecology, and Poetry and Native Voices: Indigenous Poetry, Craft, and Conversations. She has poetry and nonfiction published or forthcoming in multiple journals and anthologies. Fuhrman is an award winning columnist for the Inlander and Director of the Elk River Writers Workshop. She is Associate Director and Director of Poetry at Western Colorado University, where she teaches nature writing. She is also the host of Terra Firma. She resides in the Salmon River Mountains of Idaho.

Bethany Schultz Hurst is the author of Blueprint and Ruin (2021 Michael Waters Poetry Prize) and Miss Lost Nation, finalist for the 2016 Kate Tufts Discovery Award. Her work has appeared in Best American Poetry and Verse Daily, and in journals such as Ploughshares, Narrative, and The Gettysburg Review. She lives in Pocatello, Idaho, where she is a professor at Idaho State University.
PAST PRESIDENTS’ LUNCHEON: WLA PAST AND FUTURE
Location: Painted Horse Buffet
Chairs: Audrey Goodman, Georgia State University
       Lisa Tatonetti, Kansas State University
Advance ticket required.

PLENARY: LIVING HISTORY OF THE SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES
Location: Taghee A-B
Session Chair: Bailey Dann, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Participants: Louise E. Dixey, Shoshone Bannock Tribes
              Velda Racehorse, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
              Nolan Daris Brown, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

A presentation by members of the Shoshone-Bannock Language and Cultural Preservation Department.

Louise E. Dixey (Shoshone-Bannock) is the Cultural Resources Director for the Language and Cultural Preservation Department of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. She has served in this position since December 2016. From 2008–2016, Dixey worked as a Realty Assistant for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, working with fee-to-trust land acquisitions and processing easements and rights-of-way. Before that she held several positions in the Tribes, she has worked as General Manager for the Tribes' gaming enterprise, as internal auditor for the Shoshone-Bannock Gaming Commission, as Paralegal for the Tribal Attorneys and as an Independent Advocate in Tribal Court. After completing her general education requirements at the University of Idaho, Dixey completed her BS in Political Science and Public Policy Analysis at Idaho State University.

Velda Racehorse (Shoshone-Bannock) is the Tribal Archivist for the Language and Cultural Preservation Department of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Velda has been employed in several capacities including Tribal Secretary, Associate Judge, Enrollment Director and committee member, Tax Commission Member, and Fort Hall Business Council member. She has served on both the Shoshone-Bannock Jr./Sr. High School and Chief Taghee Elementary Academy School Boards.
Nolan Daris Brown (Shoshone-Bannock and Anishinaabe descendant) is the Original Territories and Historical Research Manager for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, having worked in this area since 2017. He assists in tribal historical and general research projects, documenting cultural and historic sites within the Tribes’ original lands, and coordinating educational and interpretive endeavors for the tribal membership and general public. Brown’s work has involved projects with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming State Parks, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho State Historical Society, Idaho Indian Education Summit, the Nature Conservancy, Museum of Idaho, and other entities.

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**F5A: EUROPEAN RE-VISIONS OF THE AMERICAN WEST**

**Location:** Chief Racehorse A  
**Session Chair:** Amaia Ibarraran-Bigalondo, University of the Basque Country

- From Morgan Kane to Sat-Okh: Finding and Teaching the West in Norwegian and Polish Backyards  
  Stefan Rabitsch, University of Oslo
- Almodovar Goes West: *Strange Way of Life*: A Spanish Queer Western?  
  Amaia Ibarraran-Bigalondo, University of the Basque Country
- Reuben Wu, Cosmic Photography, and the Deterritorialization of the American West  
  Christopher Conway, The University of Texas at Arlington

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**F5B: SUSTAINING FILIAL UNITY THROUGH SELF-SOVEREIGNTY IN FATIMA FARHEEN MIRZA’S A PLACE FOR US**

**Location:** Chief Pocatello  
**Session Chair:** Makayla Steiner, Brigham Young University

- The Push of a Finger: Frameworks of Reflection in Mirza’s *A Place for Us* and Tolstoy’s *Confession*  
  Rachel Terry, Brigham Young University
- What If We Were Meant To Look Closer?: The Limits of Perspective in *A Place for Us*  
  JoLyn Brown, Brigham Young University
- Vanishing, Detaching, and Finding the Third Way: Philosophical Quietism in *A Place for Us*  
  Brittany Maloy, Brigham Young University
### F5C: GRAPHIC WESTS: METHODS AND MODALITIES
**Location:** Chief Arimo  
**Session Chair:** Kalenda Eaton, University of Oklahoma  
**Revisioning the Western Hero:** Bocquet and Anlor’s “Ladies with Guns” (2022-)  
  *Antoinette Sol, University of Texas Arlington*  
**Undocumented Methods:** Using Duncan Tonatiuh’s *Undocumented* to Explore Multi-sociality  
  *Rob Watkins, Idaho State University*  
**Graphic Landscapes:** Drafting the West in the Aftermath of Japanese American Incarceration  
  *Dominic Dongilli, University of Iowa*  

### F5D: INDIGENOUS AND PLANETARY SURVIVANCE  
**Location:** Chief Tyhee  
**Session Chair:** Ryan Hediger, Kent State University  
**Survivance and Solastalgia:** Resisting Settler Colonialism in/with D’Arcy McNickle’s *Wind from an Enemy Sky*  
  *Ryan Hediger, Kent State University*  
**Beyond Borders:** Transmotion, Survivance, and Speculative Indigeneity in Frank Herbert’s *Dune*  
  *Arjun Chopra, University of California, Riverside*  
**The Optics of Survivance in Tommy Orange’s *There There***  
  *Kara Lapp, Montana State University*  
**In the Beginning, There Was Coyote:** Survivance in Thomas King’s *Green Grass, Running Water*  
  *Krista Danielson, Kansas State University*  

### F5E: LOOKING/WEST  
**Location:** Chief Snagg  
**Session Chair:** Rachel Heise Bolten, Stanford University  
**Star**  
  *Rachel Heise Bolten, Stanford University*  
**Gary Snyder, Bioregionality, and the Broadside Tradition**  
  *Nick Neely, Eastern Oregon University*  
**Unhomely Visual Wests:** On Edward Hopper’s *Western Motel* (1957)  
  *Stephen Tatum, University of Utah*  
**Clarence Dutton’s Extractive Visuality**  
  *Sylvan Goldberg, Colorado College*
F5F: ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS MODERNISMS

Location: Chief Racehorse B

Session Chair: Kirby Brown, University of Oregon

Beyond the Bureau of American Ethnology: Remembering the Alaska Native Brotherhood/Sisterhood as a Co-National Network of Indigenous Writers

Michael Taylor, Brigham Young University

Fugitive Indigeneity in Paul Green’s *The Last of the Lowries* and Lynn Riggs’s *The Cherokee Night*

James Cox, University of Texas Austin

Geographies of Allotment Modernisms

Jonathan Radocay, University of Washington

John Joseph Mathews, Francis La Flesche, and the Indigenous World of the North American Midcontinent

Angela Calcaterra, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Native/Black Birds: Voicing the Ruptures of Modernity through Joy Harjo’s Indigenous Jazz Poetics

Audrey Goodman, Georgia State University

The Five Moons: Ballet’s Modernist Indigenous Starscape

Shannon Claire Toll, University of Dayton

Following Chief Clear Sky’s Vaudeville Outfit

Christine Bold, University of Guelph (emerita)

Syncretic Modernism in *The Chemawa American*

Amanda J. Zink, Idaho State University


Joanna Hearne, University of Oklahoma

F5G: TROUBLING “HOME” IN POETRY AND PROSE

Location: Chokecherry A

Session Chair: Jada Ach, Arizona State University

Salt

Mel Anderson, Idaho State University

Recipient of the Creative Writing Award

Home away from Home: Collective Memory Narratives as Home in *Woman of Light*

Amanda Stevens, Idaho State University

Calling Home in Mari Sandoz’s *Capital City*

Nicole Gray, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

From Earth Lodge to Cabin: Homes and Homesteading in the Narratives of Mari Sandoz

Matthew Evertson, Chadron State College
F5—FRIDAY 3:00PM–4:15PM

F5H: SPECULATIVE WESTS, INDIGENOUS FUTURISMS

Location: Chokecherry B

Session Chair: Megan Ashleigh Lolley, University of Idaho

Native American Fantasy and Gaps in Tradition
   Brian Attebery, Idaho State University

“Looking into the Eyes of the Trufflepig”: Latinx Speculative Fiction in the Texas/Mexico Borderlands
   Chaney Hill, Rice University

Cyclical Healing and Resurgence in Native American Literature: The Marrow Thieves and Hunting by Stars by Cherie Dimaline
   Megan Ashleigh Lolley, University of Idaho

Secret Histories: Frontier Narratives, Female Dishevelment, and Native Slipstream as a Reading Practice
   Jordan Kay Savage, University of Essex

Plenary—F6—FRIDAY 4:30PM–5:45PM

PLENARY: THIS IS THE WAY: A JOURNEY INTO INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATION IN COMICS AND MEDIA—WITH MICHAEL SHEYAHSHE

Sponsored by ISU Department of Art, ISU Department of English & Philosophy; Idaho Humanities Council

Location: Taghee A-B

Session Chairs: Amanda J. Zink, Idaho State University
                Jennifer Ladino, University of Idaho

Michael Sheyahshe is an enrolled tribal member of the Caddo Nation, author of Native Americans in Comic Books: A Critical Study, and founder of alterNative Media (“aNm”), a Native American / Indigenous-owned consultancy serving clients worldwide. Sheyahshe holds two B.A. degrees from the University of Oklahoma in Film and Native American Studies, and an MFA in 3D Modeling from the Academy of Art University. Sheyahshe’s original comic book character, Dark Owl, is featured in INC’s Universe #0, and he has created comic book illustrations in various online and museum displays for the Smithsonian Institution’s NMAI. Sheyahshe has been featured in AH Comics’ MOONSHOT: The Indigenous Comic Collection, volumes 1, 2, and 3, authoring volume introductions, contributing scripts, and serving as co-editor for volume 3. He has created graphic novels as part of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime’s (OVC) Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials. Sheyahshe has also served as Cultural Consultant for Darkhorse Comics.
RECEPTION
Location: Prefunction D

FRIDAY 5:45 PM–7:00 PM

WLA AWARDS BANQUET AND DANCE
Location: Taghee A-B

After the awards ceremony, we will be entertained by Wax Jacket, an ISU Commercial Music Program band that is both an originals and cover band that plays a range of genres. The group was first formed after the composition of their song “Ice Trays.” They have played together for only a few months. Tonight Wax Jacket will be playing an acoustic set, an all originals set, and finishing with their full band on a fun set of covers.

Band members are:

Jaden Andrews, Piano
Claire Dye, Vocals and Guitar
Philip Inman, Drum Kit

Ben Graham, Bass Guitar
Ryker Reese, Saxophone
Enid McMahon, Trumpet

2023 WLA AWARD RECIPIENTS

Distinguished Achievement Award
For an influential scholar or creative writer in western American literature

Mark Trahant, Editor-at-Large for Indian Country Today

Delbert & Edith Wylder Award
For outstanding service to the association

Susan Bernardin, Oregon State University

Thomas J. Lyon Book Award
For most outstanding book published last year in western American literary or cultural studies

Chadwick Allen, University of Washington
for Earthworks Rising: Mound Building in Native Literature and Arts (University of Minnesota Press)

Christine Bold, University of Guelph
for “Vaudeville Indians” on Global Circuits, 1880s–1930s (Yale University Press)

Don D. Walker Prize
For best essay or book chapter published in western American literary and cultural studies in 2022

Timothy Foster and John Beusterien
for “The Thirsty Llano Estacado: The Manuel Maés Ballad Corpus,” Great Plains Quarterly 42.1/2

Creative Writing Award
For the best creative writing submission to the conference

Mel Anderson, Idaho State University
for her poem “Salt”

WLA/Charles Redd Center K-12 Teaching Award

Emily Ward, Rockland High School (Idaho)
for “Shoshone-Bannock History and Native American Policy”

J. Golden Taylor Award
For best essay presented at the conference by a graduate student

Patrick Vincent, University of California, Riverside
for “‘Mi Tierra Es Su Tierra / Mi Mundo Es Su Mundo’: Performance, Neoliberalism, and the West in Tropic of Orange”

Dorys Crow 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

Brian Arechiga, University of Southern California
for “There There and Modes of Simulacra Resistance”

Lauren White, University of Southern California
for “Little Edens: Exploring Missionary Projects and National Parks in The Surrounded”

Louis Owens Awards
For graduate student presenters contributing exceptional scholarship and expanding diversity in the association

Mathilde Magga, University of Washington, presenting “The Impossibility of the Novel: Exploring Temporality and Form in Billy-Ray Beclout’s A Minor Chorus”

Vanessa Ramirez, University of North Texas, presenting “Port Houston: In This Hood, We, Latinx, Break Statistics”
Saturday

8:00AM – 11:00AM  Registration (Prefunction A)
8:00AM – 1:00PM  Book Exhibit (Prefunction B)
10:00AM – 1:00PM  Shoshone-Bannock Vendors (Prefunction A)

7:30AM – 9:30AM  Breakfast (Prefunction C)
8:30AM – 9:45AM  Sessions S1
10:00AM – 11:15AM  Sessions S2
10:30AM – 12:30PM  Mid-Morning Break (Prefunction C)
11:30AM – 12:30PM  WLA Business Meeting (Chief Racehorse A)
12:45PM – 6:00PM  MINIDOKA NHS VISIT AND W. TODD KANEKO POETRY READING
Prior registration required
S1—SATURDAY 8:30AM–9:45AM

S1A: UNSEEN: OUR PAST IN A NEW LIGHT: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON LITERARY OCCLUSION
Location: Chief Racehorse A
Session Chair: Stefanie Plato, School District #25 -Highland High School

Whiteness in *Lord of the Flies*
  Story Holston, Highland High School, Pocatello

Reasons: Finding the Why in a World of A.I.
  Savannah Lawrence, Highland High School, Pocatello

Unseen History in Octavia Butler’s *Kindred*
  Stefanie Plato, Highland High School, Pocatello

Going to Extremes: Literary Responses to Our Climate Crisis
  Glenda Funk, Highland High School, Pocatello

S1B: PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS, INDIGENOUS IMPLICATIONS
Location: Chief Pocatello
Session Chair: Jennifer Ladino, University of Idaho

Beyond Removal and Reservation: National Parks and Indigenous Modernities
  Michael R. Schrimper, University of Colorado Boulder

Leave No Trace: Moab’s Disappearing Monument
  Sarah Jane Sloane, Colorado State University

Little Edens: Exploring Missionary Projects and National Parks in *The Surrounded*
  Lauren White, University of Southern California
  Recipient of the Dorys Crow Grover Award

Forgotten Idaho Parks: The Owyhee Mountains and Treaty Rock Park
  Brian J Twenter, University of Central Oklahoma

S1C: PLACE AND DISASTER IN L.A.
Location: Chief Arimo
Session Chair: Lawrence Coates, Bowling Green State University

Creating Space for All: Understanding and Addressing Toxic Masculinity in Divakaruni’s *Arranged Marriage*
  Celia Gallup, Idaho State University

Speculative and Sacredly Ordinary: Contemporary Literary Atmospheres of Los Angeles
  Meagan Meylor, University of Southern California

“Mi Tierra Es Su Tierra / Mi Mundo Es Su Mundo”: Performance, Neoliberalism, and the West in *Tropic of Orange*
  Patrick Vincent, University of California, Riverside
  Recipient of the J. Golden Taylor Award
S1—SATURDAY 8:30AM–9:45AM

S1D: Q&A WITH RECENT SHOSHONE-BANNOCK ISU STUDENTS
Location: Chief Tyhee

Session Chair: Amanda J. Zink, Idaho State University

Participants: Zachery Wadsworth, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Marquette Bagley, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Dana Edmo-Hernandez, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Angela Marie Eldredge, Chief Tahgee Elementary Academy
Laticia Joyce Herkshan, Idaho State University
Terrance Jay Tso, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

S1F: REREADING EARLY ECOWRITERS
Location: Chief Racehorse B

Session Chair: Dylan Couch, University of Wisconsin - Madison

An Almost Unbroken Place: Environmental Rupture and Repair in Abbey and Anzaldúa’s Southwest
Krishna Narayanamurti, University of Southern California

The Case against Aldo Leopold
Zak Breckenridge, University of Southern California

How the West Was Feminist: (Re)productive Labor in Sanora Babb’s Whose Names Are Unknown
Jessica Colleen Perez Lopez, United States Air Force Academy

S1G: WESTERN MYTHOLOGIES OF PLACE AND IDENTITY
Location: Chokecherry A

Session Chair: Audrey Goodman, Georgia State University

Subversion of the Western Myth in Silent Film: Douglas Fairbanks’s Wild and Wooly (1917)
Margie Judd, University of Nevada

“Thirsty Clouds” and the American West: Place, Identity, and Eco-media Studies
Susan Kollin, Montana State University

“It Won’t Be Long’: (Re)Productive Bodies, Commodity, Movement, and the Material in Sanora Babb’s Whose Names Are Unknown”
Erin Lindsey Seaward-Hiatt, Idaho State University
S1—SATURDAY 8:30AM–9:45AM

S1H: POSTSECULAR ECOTHEOLOGIES IN MARILYNNE ROBINSON’S FICTION
Location: Chokecherry B
Session Chair: Ariel Clark Silver, Southern Virginia University

A Way to Be in the World: Apocalypse, Disorganized Worlds, and Incoherent Gods in *Lila*
Eli Marchant Phillips, Brigham Young University

PartialRestorations: On the Fraught Nature of Reconciliation and Redemption in Marilynne Robinson’s *Housekeeping* and *Gilead*
Zachary Dee Stevenson, Brigham Young University-Provo

Words are Not Enough: The Transcendence of Touch in *Lila*
Kimberly Hansen, Brigham Young University

Postsecular Personhood and Edenic Symbolism in Marilynne Robinson’s *Lila*
Samantha M. Sorenson, Brigham Young University

S2—SATURDAY 10:00AM–11:15AM

S2A: RESILIENCE, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, AND EDUCATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY
Location: Chief Racehorse A
Session Chair: Amanda J. Zink, Idaho State University

Participants: Yvette Towersap, MA, Montana State University
Jessica Matsaw, M.Ed, PhD Student, University of Idaho
Matt Wilson, MEd, Shoshone-Bannock School District 537
Allen Mayo, MBA, MDiv, Ed. Specialist, Shoshone-Bannock School District 537

A critical discussion on Tribal Education by students and educators of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

Yvette Towersap (Shoshone-Bannock) is the former Policy Analyst for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. With over twenty years of experience working in tribal government, she was hired in 2023 as the director of the Tribal Department of Energy. Towersap holds a BA in anthropology from Idaho State University, a Master’s in environmental law from Vermont Law School, and an MA in U.S. history from the University of Utah. She is a recipient of the Nick Yengich Memorial Editors’ Choice Award for the article “Public Lands and American Indians: Traditional Use and Off-Reservation Treaty Rights” and has published a chapter in *Western Lands, Western Voices: Essays on Public History in the American West*. She is currently a PhD student at Montana State University in the Department of History.

Jessica Matsaw (Shoshone-Bannock) is currently a PhD student at the University of Idaho in the College of Education, Health, & Human Science. She works as the Sho-Ban site coordinator for UI’s Cultivating Relationships program and is an instructor for the Indigenous Knowledge for Effective Education Program (IKEEP) at UI, which prepares and certifies culturally responsive Indigenous teachers to meet the unique needs of Native American Students in K-12 schools. Matsaw holds a BS in sociology with a minor in psychology, a certificate in diversity and stratification, and an MEd in curriculum and instruction. With her husband,
Sammy, Matsaw is also the co-founder of RiverNewe.org, a program for Indigenous and minoritized youth to find healing and wholeness in connection with homelands and rivers.

Matt Wilson (Kiowa/Comanche) is currently the principal of Shoshone-Bannock Jr./Sr. High School. Originally from Oklahoma, he attended Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas and holds a MS in Education from the University of Oregon. Wilson holds it as a point of pride and a point of connection to his students that he went from being a high school dropout to a high school principal. He views his work as an opportunity to help Indigenous youth know that “they are cared for and belong.”

Allen Mayo (Choctaw) has served as acting Administrator for the Shoshone-Bannock School District since January 2022. He taught high school math at Shoshone-Bannock Jr./Sr. High School from 2009-2016, 8th grade math in the Pocatello School District from 2016-2018, and returned to Shoshone-Bannock Jr./Sr. High School in 2018, first as a principal and then as a math teacher before serving in his current role. Mayo grew up in Pocatello and received his BS in physics with a computer science emphasis and a minor in mathematics from Idaho State University. In Enid, Oklahoma, he earned an MBA and an MDiv, working as a youth pastor for several years before becoming an educator. He earned an Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership and Administration, with an emphasis on principal preparation, through Walden University.

S2B: INDIGENOUS STAR WARS (A PANEL OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AMERICAN INDIAN LITERATURES)

Location: Chief Pocatello
Session Chair: Brian J Twenter, University of Central Oklahoma

Star Wars “Indian Episodes”: A Long Time Ago in a Galaxy Far, Far Away…
Brian J Twenter, University of Central Oklahoma

Áts‘áhoníyéé Nihólóó dóo: (May the Force Be With You): Synthesizing, Harmonizing, Restoring, and Renewing Diné bizaad (The Peoples Language) through Só‘tah Anaa’: Siih Náhásdíį́ (Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope)
Renae Watchman, McMaster University
S2—SATURDAY 10:00AM–11:15AM

S2C: FORMAL ARRAYS OF AMERICAN INDIAN LITERATURE

Location: Chief Arimo

Session Chair: John Francis Kent Coffey, Binghamton University

“The gesture of his voiceful hands”: E. P. Johnson’s Storying the Present
  Kristen Rose Brown, Northern State University

Before John Rollin Ridge Went West: The Arkansas Literary Origins of a Complicated Cherokee Writer
  Travis Franks, Utah State University

The Use of Fair Play and the Contemporary Other Detective in The Round House, by Louise Erdrich
  John Francis Kent Coffey, Binghamton University

Haunted Bodies, Haunted Text: “Haunting Back” in Layli Long Soldier’s Whereas
  Dan Hanson, Montana State University

S2D: PYROGEOGRAPHIES, ENVIRONMENTAL NARRATIVES, AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

Location: Chief Tyhee

Session Chair: Jennifer Ladino, University of Idaho

On Fire Oral Histories: Literature, Data & Narratives
  Nick Koenig, University of Idaho

Placed for Disaster: Marginalized Geographies and Social Vulnerabilities in Tōhoku, Japan, and the American West
  Tony R. Magagna, Millikin University

Pedagogy of the Commercialized: Manipulating Science and Story in Disaster Films of the American West
  Shannon Kobs Nawotniak, Zac Gershberg, Idaho State University

S2E: CREATIVE WESTS: WRITING SPACE AND PLACE

Location: Chief Snagg

Session Chair: Lawrence Coates, Bowling Green State University

The Oratory of All Souls, A New Book of Poems
  Richard Robbins, Minnesota State Mankato

An Education at the Puyallup Reservation
  Melody Graulich, Utah State University

Reseeing Home: Exploring the Origins of Land
  Megan McOmber Wight, Brigham Young University
S2F: THE WEST FROM BACK EAST
Location: Chief Racehorse B
Session Chair: Stephen Tatum, University of Utah

Robert Louis Stevenson’s Western Romance
  Trenton B. Olsen, Brigham Young University-Idaho

Paterson in the West: William Carlos Williams’s Fragmented Understanding of Place
  Aristotle Christopher Johns, University of Utah

Lost in the Purgatorial Wests of Cormac McCarthy: Shifting Landmarks of the American Frontier from East Tennessee to West Texas
  Billy J. Stratton, University of Denver

S2H: WESTERN SPACES AS INVENTION AND ADVENTURE
Location: Chokecherry B
Session Chair: Erin N. Bistline, Ohio State University

Exploring Adventure in Edwin C. Brown’s “How I Escaped Murder in Alaska”
  Erin N. Bistline, Ohio State University

Leigh Brackett’s Desert Worlds
  Gary Reger, Trinity College

Authenticity, Kitsch, and the Ridiculously Real in Top Gun: Maverick
  David Buchanan, US Air Force Academy

Saturdays 11:30am–12:30pm

WLA BUSINESS MEETING
Location: Chief Racehorse A
Presiding: William R. Handley, Executive Secretary

Nominations for positions on the Executive Council will be taken during this meeting. You can self-nominate. If you are nominating another person, please be sure to check with them if they are willing to stand. Nominees are highly encouraged to attend this meeting. The actual vote will take place digitally AFTER the conference.
Field Trip—SATURDAY 12:45 PM–6:00 PM

MINIDOKA NHS VISIT AND W. TODD KANEKO POETRY READING
Sponsored by UI Department of History and UI Department of English

Field Trip Leaders: Jennifer Ladino, University of Idaho
Amanda J. Zink, Idaho State University

Participation by pre-registration only.
Please meet at the circular info desk in the hotel lobby!


W. Todd Kaneko. Photo: Tyler Steimle
## Executive Council

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Ladino</td>
<td>Co-President</td>
<td>University of Idaho</td>
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<td>Amanda Zink</td>
<td>Co-President</td>
<td>Idaho State University</td>
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<td>Billy J. Stratton</td>
<td>President Elect</td>
<td>University of Denver</td>
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<td>Kalenda Eaton</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>University of Oklahoma</td>
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<td>Audrey Goodman</td>
<td>Co–Past President</td>
<td>Georgia State University</td>
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<td>Lisa Tatonetti</td>
<td>Co–Past President</td>
<td>Kansas State University</td>
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<td>William R. Handley</td>
<td>Exec. Secretary</td>
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<td>William R. Handley</td>
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<td>Amy Hamilton</td>
<td>Editor, WAL</td>
<td>Northern Michigan University</td>
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<td>Alex Hunt</td>
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<td>West Texas A&amp;M University</td>
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<td>Amaia Ibarraran</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>University of the Basque Country</td>
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<td>Sarah Jane Kerwin</td>
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<td>Grad student rep, Univ. of Michigan</td>
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<td>José Aranda</td>
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<td>Kirby Brown</td>
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<td>Jenna Hunnef</td>
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<td>Dominique Vargas</td>
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<td>California Lutheran University</td>
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To nominate a WLA member for the Executive Council: Find out if your nominee is willing to serve. Nominations will be taken at the Business Meeting. Self-nominations are accepted. 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, although voting will take place online after the conference.
You get more from the Montana Historical Society

Montana The Magazine of Western History
Published since 1951, Montana showcases the people, places, and events that shaped the state and the West. The magazine includes feature articles, commentaries on historical events and people, book reviews, and advertising relevant to the West.

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ENTER YOUR WORK for a chance to be published in Montana The Magazine of Western History. The contest winner will also receive $1,000 and a free trip to present at the 2024 Montana History Conference. Deadline: January 8, 2024
Learn more and submit at: mhspublications.submittable.com/submit

From Montana Historical Society Press
A Black Woman’s West: The Life of Rose B. Gordon
by MICHAEL K. JOHNSON

Born in Montana Territory, Rose Beatrice Gordon (1883–1968) was the daughter of an African American couple that migrated west in the early 1880s. The story of her life in Montana offers unique insights into the rural West in the twentieth century.
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Who We Are

Based out of West Texas A&M University (WTAMU), the Center for the Study of the American West’s (CSAW) mission is to promote the study of the American West as both a region culturally unique and as a product of broad historical forces. CSAW is housed in the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum (PPHM), the largest history museum in Texas.

What We Do

Since its founding, CSAW had established itself as an organization seeking to promote the American West, both on the local scene and in terms of the larger scholarly field. In this endeavor, CSAW focuses on development of interdisciplinary scholarship through research, education, and public outreach and remains dedicated to cultivating a critical vision of region and place in a globalized era.

How to Get Involved

BOOK AWARD
The Bonney MacDonald Book Award recognizes a book that demonstrates excellent scholarly or creative insight concerning the North American West. Books from any discipline, genre, or publisher are eligible. The 2023 winner will be announced later this year. Books published in 2023 can be submitted for consideration for the 2024 award cycle.

RESEARCH SUPPORT
CSAW offers Research Grants in Western American Studies for faculty, staff, and students from WTAMU and scholars from other institutions who would benefit from the use of the Cornette Library special collections and the PPHM archives, both housed on the WTAMU campus and rich in regional artifacts. Grants up to $2,000 are available depending on the applicant’s research topic and need.

CURRICULUM
CSAW student interns gain on-the-job experience, are exposed to the American West and to interdisciplinary studies, and assist with research and public outreach. WTAMU students from all disciplines are welcome to apply. Both the History and English B.A. and M.A. programs at WTAMU offer emphasis in Western American Studies.

FORGOTTEN FRONTERA
The Forgotten Frontera project aims to recognize and document the history of Mexican American and Tejano history in the Southern Great Plains region, where these people made a significant contribution not adequately recognized in the region’s written histories.

For more information, contact csaw@wtamu.edu or visit wtamu.edu/csaw
A Brief Natural History of Civilization
Why a Balance Between Cooperation & Competition Is Vital to Humanity
Mark Bertness

Violent Appetites
Hunger in the Early Northeast
Carla Cevasco

Art and Myth of the Ancient Maya
Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos

California
An American History
John Mack Faragher

A World Without Soil
The Past, Present, and Precarious Future of the Earth Beneath Our Feet
Jo Handelsman With Research and Creative Contributions by Kayla Cohen

Catching the Light
Joy Harjo Why I Write

Ecology of Dakota Landscapes
Past, Present, and Future
W. Carter Johnson and Dennis H. Knight

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The Many Lives of Calamity Jane
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A New History of Indigenous Power
Pekka Hämäläinen

Home Rule
Households, Manhood, and National Expansion on the Eighteenth-Century Kentucky Frontier
Honor Sachs

The Rediscovery of America
Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History
Ned Blackhawk

"Vaudeville Indians" on Global Circuits, 1880s-1930s
Christine Bold

The Makings and Unmakings of Americans
Indians and Immigrants in American Literature and Culture, 1879-1924
Cristina Stanciu

Assembled for Use
Indigenous Compilation and the Archives of Early Native American Literatures
Kelly Wisecup

A Journey to Freedom
Richard Oakes, Alcatraz, and the Red Power Movement
Kent Blansett

Memory Lands
King Philip’s War and the Place of Violence in the Northeast
Christine M. DeLucia

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<th>YEAR</th>
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<td>Sonoma, California</td>
<td>John S. Bullen</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Durango, Colorado</td>
<td>Maynard Fox</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>Bellingham, Washington</td>
<td>L. L. Lee</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>Sioux Falls, South Dakota</td>
<td>Arthur R. Huseboe</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>Park City, Utah</td>
<td>Mary Washington</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>Albuquerque, New Mexico</td>
<td>Richard Etulain</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>Bernice Slote/Helen Stauffer</td>
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<td>1981</td>
<td>Boise, Idaho</td>
<td>James H. Maguire</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>Denver, Colorado</td>
<td>Martin Bucco</td>
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<td>1983</td>
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<td>George Day</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Reno, Nevada</td>
<td>Ann Ronald</td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>Fort Worth, Texas</td>
<td>Gerald Haslam</td>
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<td>1986</td>
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<td>Tom Pilkington</td>
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<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Lincoln, Nebraska</td>
<td>Susan J. Rosowski</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Eugene, Oregon</td>
<td>Glen Love</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>Coeur D’Alene, Idaho</td>
<td>Barbara Meldrum</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Denton, Texas</td>
<td>Lawrence Clayton</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Estes Park, Colorado</td>
<td>James C. Work</td>
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<td>Joseph Flora</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Wichita, Kansas</td>
<td>Diane Quantic</td>
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<td>1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Vancouver, BC</td>
<td>Laurie Ricou</td>
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<td>1996</td>
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<td>Susanne K. George</td>
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<td>1997</td>
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<td>Gary Scharnhorst</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Banff, Alberta</td>
<td>Robert Thacker</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Sacramento, California</td>
<td>Michael Kowalewski</td>
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<td>Norman, Oklahoma</td>
<td>Robert Murray Davis</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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<td>Susan Naramore Maher</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Tucson, Arizona</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Houston, Texas</td>
<td>Krista Comer</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Big Sky, Montana</td>
<td>Susan Kollin</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Los Angeles, California</td>
<td>William R. Handley</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Boise, Idaho</td>
<td>Tara Penry</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Tacoma, Washington</td>
<td>Ann Putnam</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Boulder, Colorado</td>
<td>Karen Ramirez &amp; Nicolas Witschi</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Spearfish, South Dakota</td>
<td>David Cremean</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Prescott Resort, Arizona</td>
<td>Gioia Woods</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Missoula, Montana</td>
<td>Nancy Cook &amp; Bonney MacDonald</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Lubbock, Texas</td>
<td>Sara Spurgeon</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Berkeley, California</td>
<td>Richard Hutson</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Victoria, Canada</td>
<td>Anne L. Kaufman &amp; Laurie Ricou</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Reno, Nevada (50th anniversary)</td>
<td>Susan Bernardin &amp; David Fenimore</td>
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<td>YEAR</td>
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<td>PRESIDENT/S</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Big Sky, Montana</td>
<td>Linda Karell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
<td>Florence Amamoto &amp; Susan Maher</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>Michael Johnson &amp; Emily Lutenski</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Estes Park, Colorado</td>
<td>SueEllen Campbell &amp; Alex Hunt</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Virtual Environment</td>
<td>Kerry Fine &amp; Rebecca Lush</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021/22</td>
<td>Santa Fe, New Mexico</td>
<td>Audrey Goodman &amp; Lisa Tatonetti</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>Fort Hall, Idaho</td>
<td>Jennifer Ladino &amp; Amanda Zink</td>
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As President of the Western Literature Association for 2024, I am thrilled to announce that the WLA Conference for next year will take place from October 2–5 in Tucson, Arizona. Situated on ancestral Tohono O’odham lands known as Cuk-son and nicknamed “the Old Pueblo” by subsequent settlers, we were able to secure the Hilton El Conquistador Resort as our conference venue. Located in the Sonoran Desert in the foothills of the spectacular Santa Catalina Mountains, this site amplifies any perceptions inspired by these layered geographic and spatial significations. Such associations speak to the meaning and status of the American West and its dynamic (re)inscription through the storytelling processes of writing, art, filmmaking, performativity, and song. As a means of synthesizing such qualities and ideas, this conference will be focused on the theme of Speculative Territorializations of New Western Literatures. The theme is offered to stimulate thought-provoking discussions and the exploration of new insights arising from the physical and mythic landscapes of the American West, including Pacific Island borderlands, reaching beyond Jean-François Lyotard’s conception of the West Coast as “Pacific wall.”

Organized around this inclusive and expansive subject, the 2024 conference aims to inspire fresh intellectual and artistic engagement with a range of relevant texts, while extending ongoing experimentations in western literature and transcending the boundaries of literary genres and temporal contexts. This theme also seeks to provide a fertile ground for playful intellectual inquiry, reflecting the vibrant enthusiasm for diverse and forward-thinking speculative futures and artistic forms, which are central to current discussions about the West and the direction of western literature, art, film, and popular culture.

~Billy J. Stratton, 2024 President • www.westernlit.org/wla-conference-2024