



Western Literature Association

HOME ON THE REZ: Sovereignty & Sustainability



57th WLA Conference

Fort Hall, Idaho • October 11–14, 2023

Hotel Layout

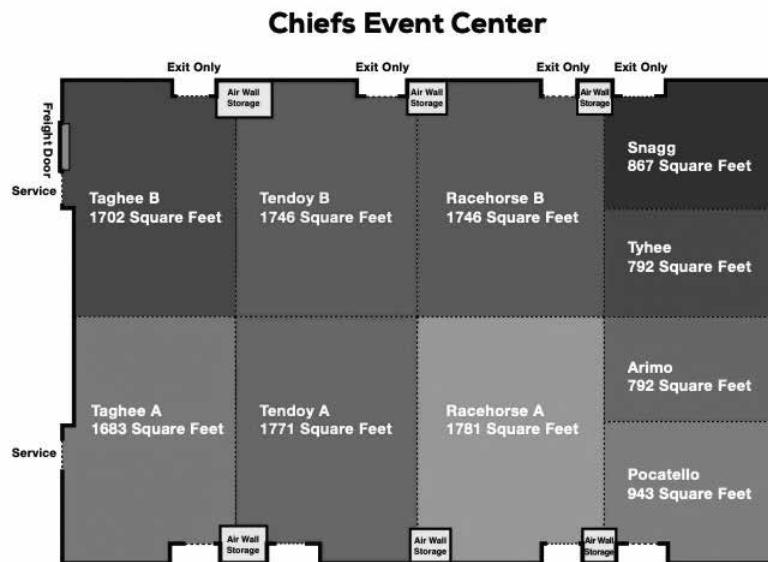
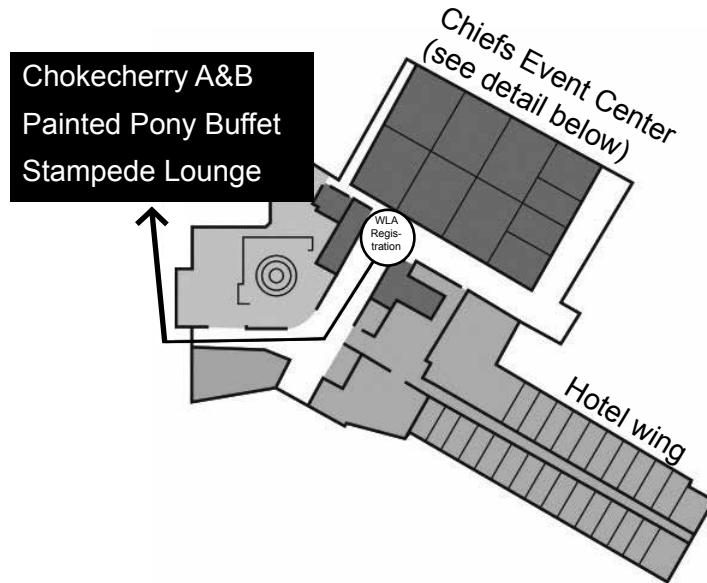


PHOTO CREDITS FRONT COVER:

Beaded wallet made by Shoshone-Bannock Tribal elder Madelyn Punkin. ©1990. Courtesy of owner Randy'L Teton and the family of Madelyn Punkin.

Amanda Zink. *Autumn Rainbow*. ©2016. Chinese Peak of Portneuf Range, Pocatello, Idaho.

Amanda Zink. *Sunflowers over the Portneuf Range*. ©2022. Pocatello, Idaho.



Jennifer Ladino



Amanda Zink

2023 Conference Welcome: Building Partnerships for Sustainable Futures

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.

The SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES

FORT HALL INDIAN RESERVATION
PHONE (208) 478-3700
FAX # (208) 237-0797



FORT HALL BUSINESS COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 306
FORT HALL, IDAHO 83203

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 Chiefs 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,

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

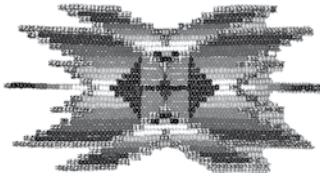
HOME ON THE REZ: SOVEREIGNTY & SUSTAINABILITY

HIGHLIGHTS

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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)



Beadwork Design by Shoshone-Bannock Artist

Madelyn Pankin

Western Literature Association
FORT HALL, ID
2023

Design credit: Tote bag graphic design by Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Member and Business Owner Paula Houtz of White Knife Creations

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



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

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.

[More on next page >>>]



Develynn Hall

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.

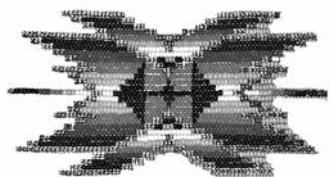
She is in the Idaho Army National Guard and her occupation is 74D, Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Nuclear Specialist (CBRN). She attends drill at the Blackfoot Armory. She falls under the 1-116th Calvary Brigade Combat Team, specifically the 1-148th Field Artillery Regiment, Alpha Battery.

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.



Donna Thompson



Kevin Satterlee

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.



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The Haunted Southwest

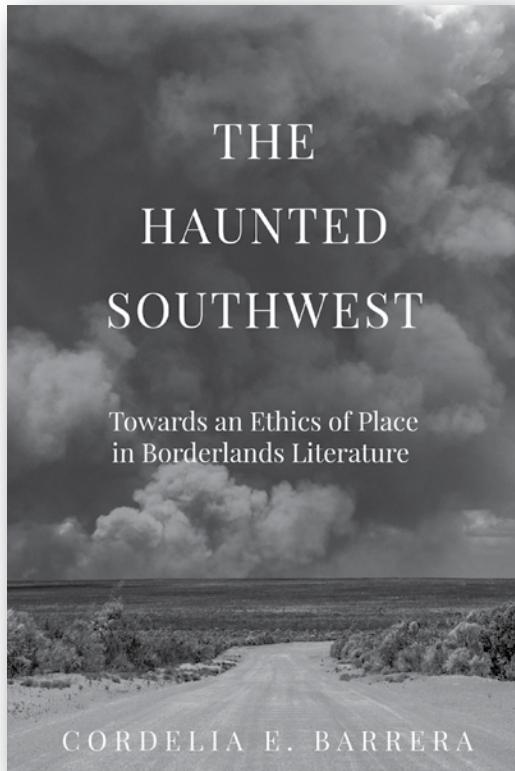
*Towards an Ethics of Place in Borderlands
Literature*

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.



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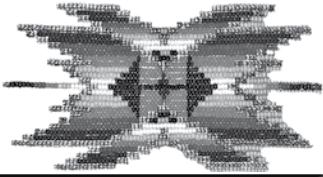
DESERT
HUMANITIES

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

7:30AM – 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 WLA Presidents' Breakfast (Camas Sports Grill): for WLA presidents
8:00AM – 9:15AM Sessions T1
9:30AM – 10:45AM Sessions T2
10:30AM – 12:30PM Mid-Morning Break (Prefunction C)
11:00AM – 12:15PM Sessions T3
12:00PM – 1:00PM 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

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

THURSDAY 9:30AM-10:45AM

T2A: DOCUMENTING AND UNSETTLING EXPROPRIATIVE COLONIALISM

Location: Chief Racehorse A

Session Chair: Amy Hamilton, Northern Michigan University

Fear Displaced: What the Grass Knows

Amy Hamilton, Northern Michigan University

Apprehending Slow Violence in the Osage “Oil Encounter”

Matt Burkhart, Case Western Reserve University

T2B: LITERATURE OF JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT CAMPS

Location: Chief Pocatello

Session Chair: TBA

Uprooted: Examining Tree Symbolism and Homeland Identity in Julie Otsuka’s *When the Emperor Was Divine*

Annelie Sara Furner, Weber State University

The Influence of Trauma on Space and Place in *No-No Boy*

Sarah L Baldwin, Idaho State University

***When the Emperor Was Divine*: Objects and Cultural References as a Sign of Americanization**

Emily Stacey, Idaho State University

T2C: TRANSITIONAL STORIES: SOCIAL ACTIVISM IN THE WEST

Location: Chief Arimo

Session Chair: Jennifer Dawes, Midwestern State University

When Might Isn’t Right: Stories of Fighting for LGBTQ Rights in Wichita Falls, Texas

Annette Bever, Vernon College

Apology or Acknowledgement: The Waco Community Race Relations Coalition and the “Waco Horror”

Jennifer Dawes, Midwestern State University

“I didn’t want her to see me when I was such a wreck”: Women Writing through Cancer

Emily J. Rau, Cameron Steele, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

THURSDAY 9:30AM-10:45AM

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 Beckourt'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 Verisimilitude 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

NEW 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



Jeremy Shay



Joseph Wadsworth



Roselynn Yazzie

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

T5—THURSDAY 3:00PM–4:15PM

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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T5—THURSDAY 3:00PM–4:15PM

T5E: THE BEAR RIVER MASSACRE: WHY ISN'T IT BETTER KNOWN? A CONVERSATION WITH DARREN PARRY

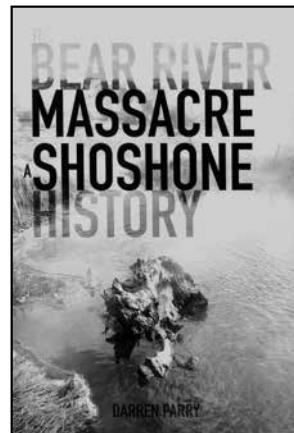
Location: Chief Snagg

Session Chair: Kary Doyle Smout, Washington and Lee University



Darren Parry

Darren Parry is the former Chairman of the North-western 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.



T5—THURSDAY 3:00PM–4:15PM

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

T5—THURSDAY 3:00PM–4:15PM

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

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**spirit
things**

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**FARM
A Multimodal Reader**

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UPC is supported, in part, by Adams State University, Colorado State University, Fort Lewis College, Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Colorado, University of Denver, University of Northern Colorado, University of Wyoming, Utah State University, and Western Colorado University.

Plenary—THURSDAY 4:30PM–5:45PM

PLENARY “HER STORY: SACAJAWEA”—WITH RANDY’L TETON

Sponsored by the ISU History Department

Location: Taghee A-B

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

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.



Randy’L He-Dow Teton

T7—THURSDAY 5:45PM–7:00PM

T7A: RECEPTION AND POSTER SESSION

Location: Prefunction D

Mark Trahant at *Indian Country Today*, 2018-2023

Tara Penry, Alex Nersveen, John Harris. Jr., Jessica Auvil, Malisza Martin, Boise State University

Leaves (a script): An Installation Artwork as a Visual-Spatial Memoir of the Present

Iris Corin Gray, Idaho State University

The Dehumanization of Internment

Emily Stacey, Idaho State University

Grad Social—THURSDAY 6:00PM–7:00PM

GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIAL

Location: Stampede Lounge

Film—THURSDAY 7:00PM–9:00PM

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
Golden 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 Dillon

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.



Liz Moreno-Chuquen

Film—THURSDAY 7:00PM–9:00PM



Colden Baxter

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.



Daniel Stone

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.

Film—THURSDAY 9:30PM–11:30PM

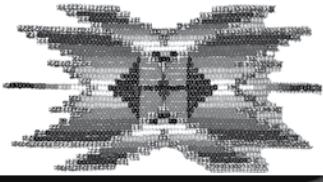
THE LATE SHOW: *ANTLERS* SCREENING

Location: Chief Racehorse A

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: Anzaldúa 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 Narayananamurti, 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

Plenary—F2—FRIDAY 9:30AM–10:45AM

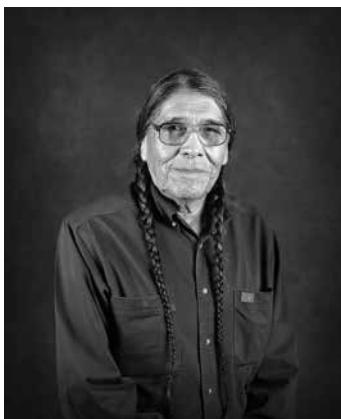
PLENARY: LEGAL AND EXPERIENTIAL PERSPECTIVES ON SOVEREIGNTY WITH THE FORT HALL BUSINESS COUNCIL

Location: Taghee A–B

Session Chair: Tyson Shay, Shoshone-Bannock Hotel

Participants: Nathan Small
Laticia Herkshan
Gaylen Edmo

Representatives from the Fort Hall Business Council and the Shoshone-Bannock community will discuss tribal sovereignty in everyday life.



Nathan Small



Laticia Herkshan



Gaylen Edmo

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—F3—FRIDAY 11:00AM–12:15PM

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



CMarie Fuhrman



Stacy Boe Miller



Bethany Schultz Hurst

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.

PP Luncheon—FRIDAY 12:20PM–1:20PM

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—F4—FRIDAY 1:30PM–2:45PM

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 Dixey

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

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.

[More on next page >>>]

Plenary—F4—FRIDAY 1:30PM–2:45PM



Nolan Brown

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.

F5—FRIDAY 3:00PM–4:15PM

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

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

F5—FRIDAY 3:00PM–4:15PM

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

F5—FRIDAY 3:00PM–4:15PM

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

Indigenous Cinema and the Studio System: The Case of Edwin Carewe's *The Snowbird* (1916)

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.



Michael Sheyahshe.
Photo: Frank Frost Photography

FRIDAY 5:45PM-7:00PM

RECEPTION

Location: Prefunction D

FRIDAY 7:00PM-11:00PM

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



Conant, Idaho, on the South Fork of the Snake River. July 2021. Photo: Amanda Zink

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, 18802–1930s* (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

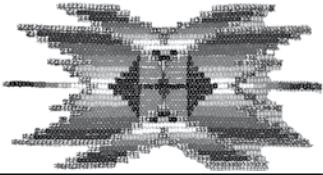
for “Little Edens: Exploring Missionary Projects and National Parks in *The Surrounded*”

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 Beckourt’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 Narayananamurti, 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 Merchant Phillips, Brigham Young University

Partial Restorations: 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,



Yvette Towersap

S2—SATURDAY 10:00AM-11:15AM



Jessica Matsaw

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.”



Matt Wilson

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.



Allen Mayo

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’áhoniyéé Niłhólóqóodoo: (May the Force Be With You): Synthesizing, Harmonizing, Restoring, and Renewing Diné bizaad (The Peoples Language) through Só’tah Anaa’: Siih Náhásdlíj’ (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

S2—SATURDAY 10:00AM–11:15AM

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

SATURDAY 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 12:45PM–6:00PM

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 is the author of the poetry books *This Is How the Bone Sings* (2020) and *The Dead Wrestler Elegies, Championship Edition* (2023). He is co-author with Amorak Huey of the award winning poetry chapbook *Slash / Slash* (2021) and *Poetry: A Writers' Guide and Anthology* (2018). His poems and prose have appeared in *Poetry*, *Alaskan Quarterly Review*, *Massachusetts Review*, *The Normal School*, *Barrelhouse*, *Verse Daily*, *Poetry Daily*, *the American Academy of Poets Poem-a-Day*, and elsewhere. A Kundiman Fellow, he lives with his family in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he teaches creative writing at Grand Valley State University.



W. Todd Kaneko. Photo: Tyler Steimle



WESTERN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

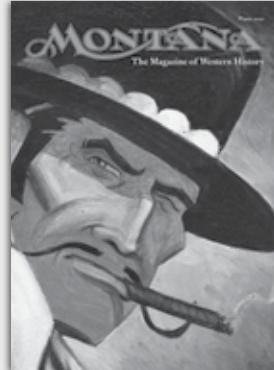
Jennifer Ladino	Co-President	University of Idaho
Amanda Zink	Co-President	Idaho State University
Billy J. Stratton	President Elect	University of Denver
Kalenda Eaton	Vice President	University of Oklahoma
Audrey Goodman	Co-Past President	Georgia State University
Lisa Tatonetti	Co-Past President	Kansas State University
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William R. Handley	Treasurer	University of Southern California
Amy Hamilton	Editor, <i>WAL</i>	Northern Michigan University
Jada Ach	2023	Arizona State University
Sylvan Goldberg	2023	Colorado College
Alex Hunt	2023	West Texas A&M University
Amaia Ibarraran	2023	University of the Basque Country
Sarah Jane Kerwin	2023	Grad student rep, Univ. of Michigan
José Aranda	2024	Rice University
Kirby Brown	2024	University of Oregon
Jenna Hunnep	2024	University of Saskatchewan
Emily Rau	2024	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Elizabeth Martinez	2024	Grad student rep, Univ. of Texas Austin
Susan Bernardin	2025	Oregon State University
James Cox	2025	University of Texas at Austin
Celina Osuna	2025	Arizona State University
Dominique Vargas	2025	California Lutheran University

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

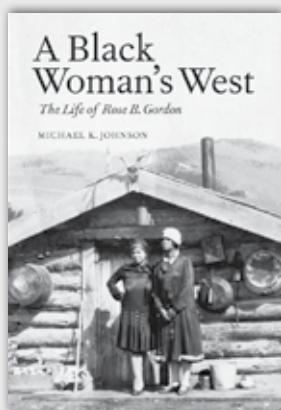
Published since 1951, *Montana* showcases the people, places, and events that shaped the state and the West. The magazine includes feature articles, commentaries on historical events and people, book reviews, and advertising relevant to the West.



Emerging Scholar Article Contest

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

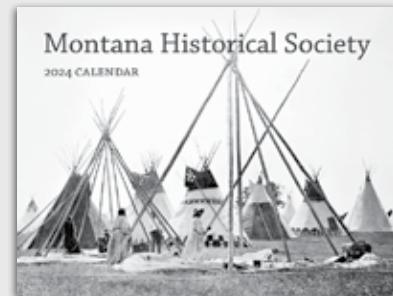


From Montana Historical Society Press
A Black Woman's West: The Life of Rose B. Gordon
by MICHAEL K. JOHNSON

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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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.

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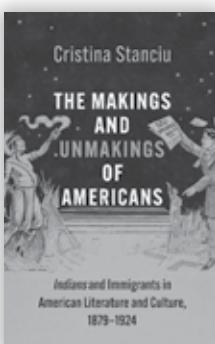
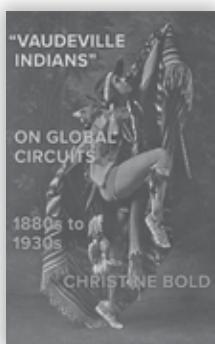
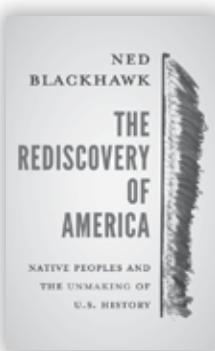
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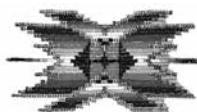
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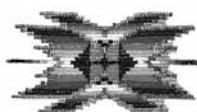
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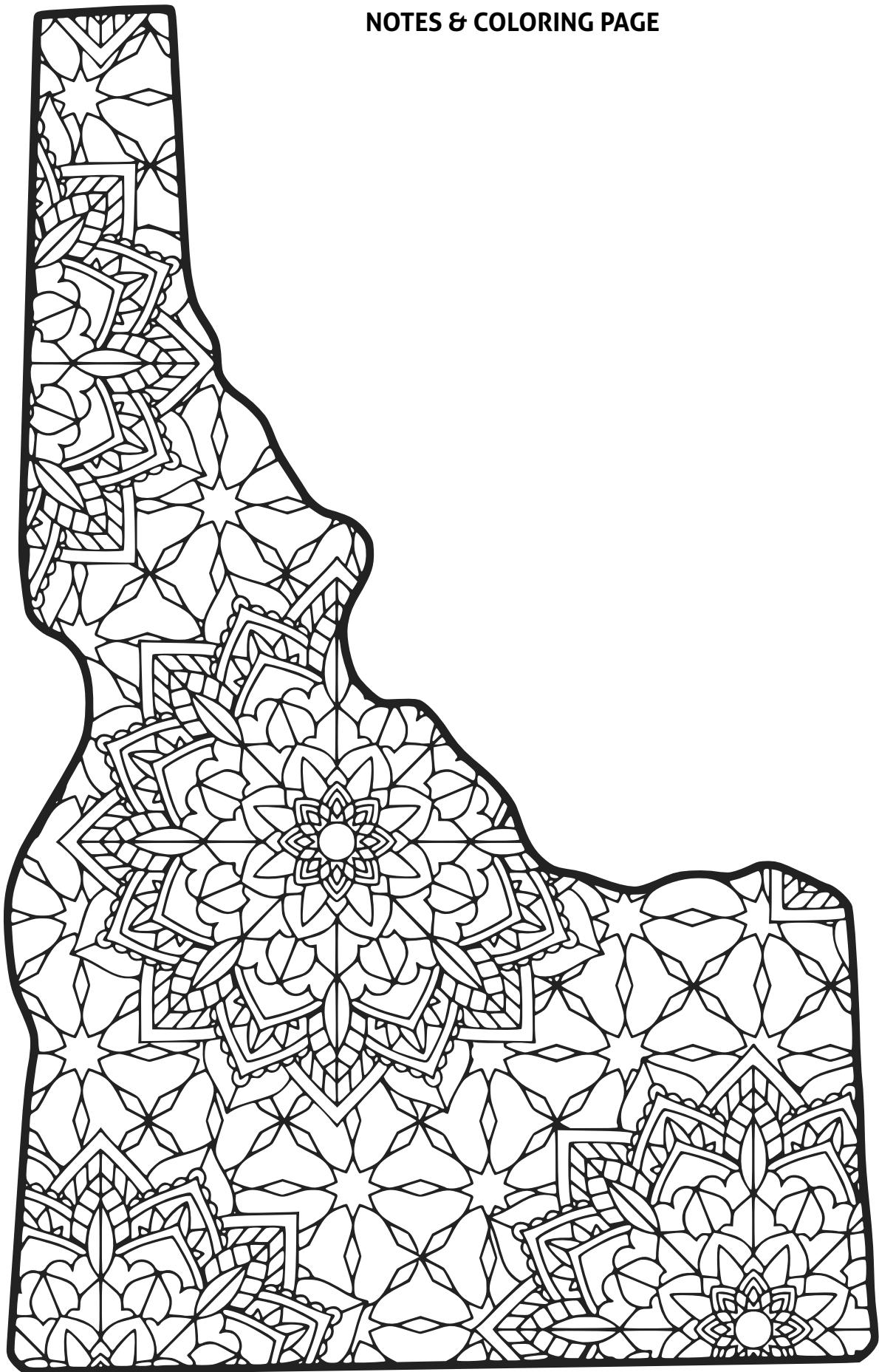
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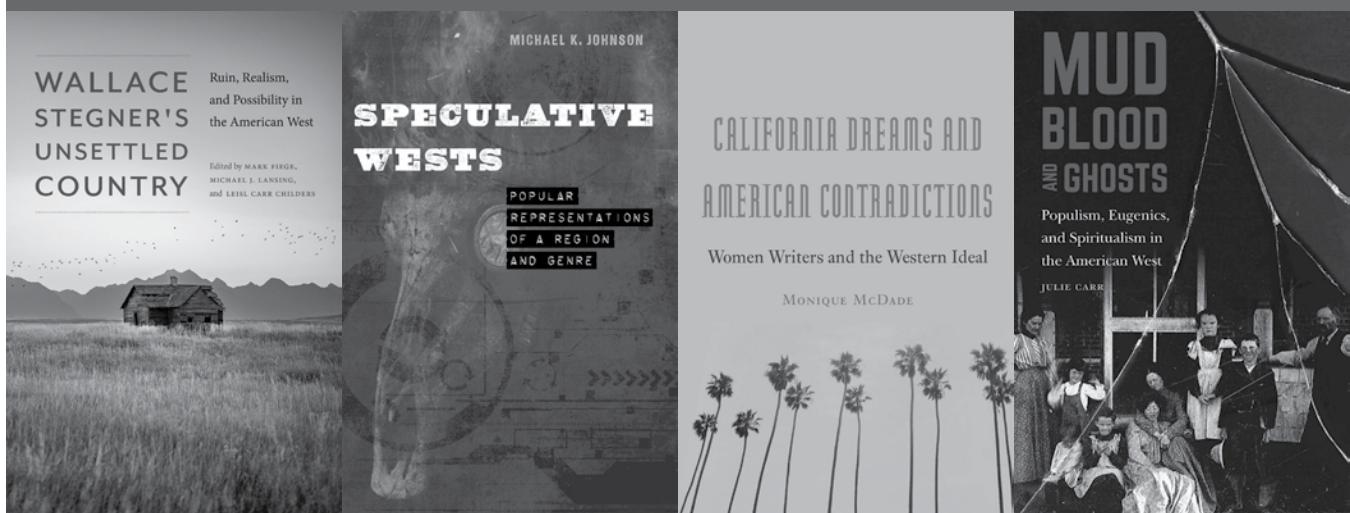
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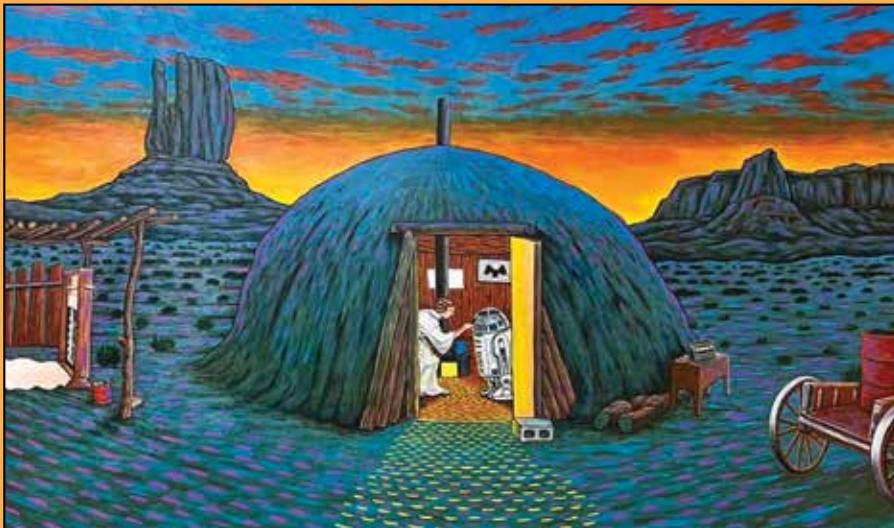


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As President of the Western Literature Association for 2024, I am thrilled to announce that the WLA Conference for next year will take place from October 2–5 in Tucson, Arizona. Situated on ancestral Tohono O'odham lands known as Cuk-Şon and nicknamed "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