51st WLA CONFERENCE
Big Sky, Montana
September 21–24, 2016

The Profane West
We thank our sponsors, without whom this conference would not have been possible:

Humanities Montana
Office of the President, Montana State University
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The Writing Center, Montana State University
The Yellowstone Writing Project
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A special thank you to Sabine Barcatta, Jeff Lynch, Mandy Hansen, Kirk Branch, and Allison Wynhoff Olsen for their many contributions to making WLA 2016 a success.
Wednesday, 21/Sep/2016

1:00pm – 4:00 pm
WLA Executive Council Meeting (Dunraven)

4:00pm – 5:30pm
Yellowstone Writing Project Orientation (Lamar)

4:00pm – 7:00pm
Registration (Firehole Lounge)

5:30pm – 6:30pm
Welcome Reception and Cash Bar (Lower Atrium)

6:30pm – 9:30pm
Winter in the Blood Film Screening and Discussion (Amphitheater)
Introduced by Nicol Rae, Dean, College of Letters and Science, Montana State Univ. Discussion moderated by Susan Bernardin, SUNY Oneonta

An opening night screening of Winter in the Blood, the 2013 award-winning film based on James Welch’s novel, followed by a discussion with directors Alex and Andrew Smith, actor Lily Gladstone, and Lois Welch.

Seating is limited to 70, so please arrive promptly.

We will be live tweeting at the Western Literature Association conference. Follow us on Twitter at https://twitter.com/WesternAmerica1 and use the hashtags #westernlit2016 or #wlaBigSky.

Please also use those same hashtags for Instagram and help us document the conference! Follow western_literature!
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<td>7:45 AM – 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Registration (Firehole Lounge)</td>
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<td>8:00 AM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Book Exhibit (Cheyenne)</td>
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<td>Session 1 &amp; Yellowstone Writing Project: A New Look at Thanksgiving (Lamar)</td>
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<td>9:00 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Light Continental Breakfast                                       &amp;</td>
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<td>9:30 AM – 10:45 AM</td>
<td>Plenary Address by Michael Cobb: “Pioneer Sex” (Missouri Ballroom)</td>
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<td>11:00 AM – 12:15 PM</td>
<td>Session 3 &amp; Roundtable: Leslie Marmon Silko: New Critical Essays from Bloomsbury (Lamar)</td>
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<td>12:30 PM – 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Past Presidents Luncheon Table (Huntley Dining Room)</td>
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<td>1:00 PM – 2:00 PM</td>
<td>Plenary: Sacred and Profane West: A Conversation with Stephen Graham Jones (Huntley Dining Room)</td>
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<td>2:00 PM – 3:15 PM</td>
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<td>Session 5 &amp; Roundtable: Winter in the Blood (Lake/Canyon)</td>
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<td>8:00 PM – 9:15 PM</td>
<td>Conference Address: From Woman Warrior to Book of Peace, by Distinguished Achievement Award Recipient Maxine Hong Kingston (Missouri Ballroom)</td>
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<td>9:15 PM – 10:15 PM</td>
<td>Reception with Cash Bar for Maxine Hong Kingston (Lower Atrium)</td>
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<td>9:15 PM – 11:30 PM</td>
<td>Graduate Student Social Gathering (Montana Jack’s)</td>
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Thursday

8:00am - 9:15am

T1A: The Sacred and the Profane: Western Literature as Public Humanities
Location: Lake/Canyon
Session Chair: Ken Egan, Humanities Montana
Ken Egan (Humanities Montana), Opening Remarks
O. Alan Weltzien (University of Montana Western), On the Road with Norman Maclean and Thomas Savage
Randi Tanglen (Austin College), Humanistic Inquiry, Schools, and the Heart of the Greater Good
David Mogen (Colorado State University), Healing Stories: From Classrooms to Hospitals

T1B: Poetry’s Interventions
Location: Jefferson
Session Chair: Nicholas Bradley, University of Victoria
Paul Varner (Emeritus, Abilene Christian University), Ambrosia for the Living: Edward Dorn’s Poetic Voices in Chemo Sábe
Nadine Antoinette Maestas (Southern New Hampshire University and UCLA), The Profane Wests of Allen Ginsberg’s “Howl”
Nicholas Bradley (University of Victoria, Canada), Writing a Poet’s Life: The Case of Al Purdy
Natalie Peeterse (Open Country Press), Federico García Lorca in the American West

T1C: From Profane to Sacred? The Afterlives of Ivan Doig
Location: Madison
Session Chair: Janelle Zauha, Montana State University
Janelle Zauha (Montana State University), From Profane to Sacred? The Afterlives of Ivan Doig / in the Classroom
Ariana Paliobagis (Country Bookshelf), From Profane to Sacred? The Afterlives of Ivan Doig / and the Bookish Community
Molly Arrandale (Montana State University Library), From Profane to Sacred? The Afterlives of Ivan Doig / and the Digital Humanities
Hannah McKelvey (Montana State University Library), From Profane to Sacred? The Afterlives of Ivan Doig / in the Archives

T1D: Graduate Student Discussion Panel: Applying for Research and Dissertation Fellowships
Location: Gibbon
Moderator: Landon Lutrick, University of Nevada, Reno

Featuring Susan Kollin, Montana State University
Morgan Day Frank, Stanford University
Emily Lutenski, St. Louis University
Sara Spurgeon, Texas Tech University
**T1E: Yellowstone Writing Project: A New Look at Thanksgiving**

*Location: Lamar*

Presented by Dorothea “Dottie” Susag, Humanities Montana Speaker in the Schools Bureau

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**T1F: Perspectives from the Midwest**

*Location: Dunraven*

**Session Chair: Todd Richardson, University of Nebraska at Omaha**

Rodney Paul Rice (South Dakota School of Mines and Technology), Wright Morris, Loren Eiseley, and Floyd Warner’s Immense Journey

Todd Richardson (University of Nebraska at Omaha), Encounters with Nebraska Authors

Keri Holt & Christine Cooper-Rompato (Utah State University), Representing Disability in the West: Laura Ingalls Wilder’s *Pioneer Girl* and the Little House Series

Daniel Clausen (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Nebraska Georgics: William Kloefkorn, Bioregion, and Memory

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**T1G: Language, Rhetoric, and the Profane West**

*Location: Obsidian*

**Session Chair: Doug Downs, Montana State University**

Michael Brown (Creighton University), “Bullshit More Than Lying”: Dorothy Johnson, Liberty Valance, and Vico’s “Age of Men”

Doug Downs (Montana State University), The Profane Zen: Understanding *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* as Rhetorical Theory

Bernadette V. Russo (Texas Tech University), Deconstructing the Master’s House with His Own Tools: Linguistic Transmotion, Code Switching, and Double-Voiced Discourse as Agency in Gerald Vizenor’s *Heirs of Columbus*

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**9:00am - 10:00am Light Continental Breakfast**

**9:00am - 11:00am Coffee & Tea (both Lower Atrium)**

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**This Year’s Willa Pilla Contenders:**

- **Thursday, 11:00—T3D:** Anne Mai Yee Jansen
- **Friday, 4:30—F6A:** Earll Kingston
- **Saturday, 8:00—S1A:** Emry McAlear
- **Saturday, 8:00—S1H:** John T. Price, Michael Branch, O. Alan Weltzien
9:30AM - 10:45AM

**T2A: Plenary Address by Michael Cobb:**

“Pioneer Sex”

Location: Missouri Ballroom
Moderator: Cathryn Halverson, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Michael Cobb is Professor of English at the University of Toronto, and he is the author of three books: *Racial Blasphemies: Race and Religious Irreverence in American Literature; God Hates Fags: The Rhetorics of Religious Violence;* and *Single: Arguments for the Uncoupled.* He has also written for the *New York Times, the Washington Post,* *Slate,* the *Wall Street Journal,* *Public Books,* and *Salon.* He’s currently writing a book about love, loss, landscapes, environment, and attachment in the Digital Age called, “Holdings,” and a book about friendship, co-written with the *Atlantic Monthly’s* Kate Bolick, called, “More.”

11:00AM - 12:15PM

**T3A: Managed, Mapped, and Mangled: Violence and Social Justice in Animal Studies**

Location: Madison
Session Chair: Susan Nance, University of Guelph

Susan Nance (University of Guelph, Canada): Who Cares about a Little Ol’ Steer? Stories of Endless Bounty, Profane and Profound, at the Rodeo

Elizabeth J. Wright (Pennsylvania State University): “Gaunt, thirsty, lame, wounded, broken-winded, frightened, discouraged”: Social Justice and Horsemanship in US Western Women Writing

Patricia Hackbarth (www.SceneChanges.org), NASA and the Magnificent Shrinking Western Bestiary

**T3B: Leslie Marmon Silko: New Critical Essays from Bloomsbury, a Roundtable**

Location: Lamar
Session Chair: David Lewis Moore, University of Montana

David Lewis Moore (University of Montana), “Linked to the Land”: An Introduction to Reading Leslie Marmon Silko

Lincoln Faller (University of Michigan), EuroAmerica, Europe, and the Indigenous: The Complex (and Complicating) Dialectics of Silko’s Jamesian Turn

Becca Gercken (University of Minnesota Morris), A World of Water, A World of Sand: Teaching *Gardens in the Dunes* and Robert Sullivan’s *Star Waka*

Carolyn Jennifer Dekker (Finlandia University), The Lost Women of Ceremony
T3C: Burning the Apron: Dakota Women Poets Reimagine Midwestern Manners

Location: Gibbon

Melinda Ann Obach (University of South Dakota), Burning the Apron: Dakota Women Poets Reimagine Midwestern Manners

Marcella M. Remund (University of South Dakota), Burning the Apron: Dakota Women Poets Reimagine Midwestern Manners

Staci R. Schoenfeld (University of South Dakota), “Burning the Apron: Dakota Women Poets Reimagine Western Manners”

T3D: Bodies and Burdens: Native American Storytelling in the Profane West

Location: Lake/Canyon

Session Chair: Jim Miranda, University of Colorado at Boulder

Jim Miranda (University of Colorado at Boulder), The Real Geronimo and the Collective Burden of Storytelling

Joshua Tyler Anderson (Ohio State University), Profane Geographies/Profane Bodies: Towards a Post-Indian Monster Theory in the Repatriation Era

Alexander Newby (Montana State University), Apparition States: The “Westing” of Place

Anne Mai Yee Jansen (University of North Carolina at Asheville), LMAO (Literature, Monsters, Apocalypses, and Other Nonsense): Indian Humor and Monster Theory*

*This essay is a contender for the Willa Pilla Award.

T3E: Dispatches from the Postwest

Location: Dunraven

Session Chair: Robert Bruce Bennett, Montana State University

Robert Bruce Bennett (Montana State University), The Beach Boys’ Postwestern Dirge

Christopher Schaberg (Loyola University New Orleans), Airports of Tomorrow or, Without Western Frontiers

Rob Wallace (Bowling Green State University), The Man Who Fell to the West: David Bowie in New Mexico and California, 1971–1976

T3F: Safe Spaces/Wild Places

Location: Gallatin

Session Chair: Cheryll Glotfelty, University of Nevada, Reno

Delinda Lane King (West Texas A&M University), A Natural Resistance: The Power of Story in Refuge

Liz Onufer (Idaho State University), Safe Places, Wild Spaces and Family Legacy in Marilynne Robinson’s Housekeeping

Eric Morel (University of Washington), Alexander Posey: Reader of Nature Writing in Creek Country

Alexandra Meany (Loyola Marymount University), “Timelessly speaking of change”: Reading Scales of Time and Space in the Prose and Poetry of Adrienne Rich
T3G: HISTORICAL READING AND READING HISTORY

Location: Obsidian
Session Chair: Carol Loranger, Wright State University

Edward Watts (Michigan State University), “Oh! It’s a great waste!”: “Nat. Puckett, the Indian-Hater” (1852) and the Ironies of Vigilantism

Carol Loranger (Wright State University), Conrad Richter’s Anthropocene

Alison Louise McLennan (Five Star Publishing Frontier Fiction Cengage Learning), The Presence and Absence of Western Whores as Anti-heroines

Elizabeth Barclay Mathias (University of Utah), Suspended Salvage: Taxidermy and Thirdspace in Elizabeth Bacon Custer’s Boots and Saddles and Tenting on the Plains

T3H: WILLA CATHER: CRITIC AND AGITATOR

Location: Jefferson
Session Chair: Maria Mackas, Georgia State University

Maria Mackas (Georgia State University), Women in Willa Cather’s My Ántonia: Mapping Their Way to the Other Side of Othered

Max Frazier (U.S. Air Force Academy), Cather’s First War Novel: My Ántonia and the Great War

Christine Hill Smith (Colorado Mountain College), “Who AM Us, Anyway?”: Contemporary Racism Provoked by My Ántonia

12:30PM - 1:00PM

Location: Huntley Dining Room

Past Presidents Luncheon Table
Tickets required.

1:00PM - 2:00PM

PLENARY: SACRED AND PROFANE WEST:
A CONVERSATION WITH STEPHEN GRAHAM JONES

Location: Huntley Dining Room
Moderated by Susan Bernardin and David Fenimore

Stephen Graham Jones has been a National Endowment of the Arts Fellow and has won the Texas Institute of Letters Award, among other awards. His stories have been published in magazines, anthologies, and textbooks, and his novels cover the spectrum from gritty to innovative to thriller. His most recent novel is the beautiful and unnerving werewolf novel Mongrels (2016). The Fiction of Stephen Graham Jones: A Critical Companion is due out this fall from the University of New Mexico Press.
2:00PM - 3:15PM

T4A: “IF I AM NATURE TO ANYTHING”: BIOREGIONALISM AND SETTLER COLONIAL STUDIES

Location: Lake/Canyon
Session Chair: Cheryll Glotfelty, University of Nevada, Reno

Cheryll Glotfelty (University of Nevada, Reno), Peter Berg’s 1976 Declaration of Planetary Interdependence
Tom Lynch (University of Nebraska–Lincoln), Settler-Colonial Origins of Bioregionalism
William Vincent Lombardi (Missouri Valley College), Delano, Didion, and the “(Eco) Logic of Elimination”
Alex Trimble Young (Amherst College), Bioregionalism and Settler Indigenization in the U.S. West
Krista Comer (Rice University), Bioregionalism & Settler Colonial Studies: Feminist Interventions

T4B: CREATIVE WRITING: LOOKING BACK TO NEW BEGINNINGS

Location: Madison
Session Chair: Jennifer Lynn Thornburg, Montana State University & Vermont College

Denice Turner (Black Hills State University), Call Me Calamity
Jennifer Lynn Thornburg (Montana State University & Vermont College), Bureau: Unpacking a Life
Julia B. Corbett (University of Utah), Out of the Woods

T4C: THE PROFANE BODY: WESTERN MIGRANT EXPERIENCES

Location: Lamar
Session Chair: Christine Hill Smith, Colorado Mountain College

Christopher Conway (The University of Texas at Arlington), The Consolations of Primitivism: Sexual Violence in Mexico’s Western Comics
Crystine C. Miller (Arizona State University), The Profane Body: The Migrant Body as Mass Information in Alex Rivera’s Sleep Dealer and Karen Tei Yamashita’s Tropic of Orange
Arendt Oak Speser (University of Washington), Saving Our Work: What the Archive Can Teach Us about Labor, Immigration, and the Rise of New Party Nationalism

T4D: WESTERN PERSONHOOD IN THE LITERATURE OF JAMES WELCH AND LOUISE ERDRICH

Location: Gibbon
Session Chair: Lois Welch

Elizabeth Boyle (University of Washington), The Presence of Absence in James Welch’s The Death of Jim Loney
Patrizia Corina Zanella (University of Fribourg, Switzerland), De-Essentializing the Relationship between Humans and Nature in the Fiction of Louise Erdrich and James Welch
Caitlin Simmons (University of Iowa), “Something of a Non-Person”: Jim Loney’s Static Victimry in James Welch’s The Death of Jim Loney
Thomas Krause (University of Oklahoma), Home Is Where the Heartsong Is: X-Marks and Migration in James Welch’s The Heartsong of Charging Elk
T4E: On the Western Road to Insanity: Images and Symbols of Violence
Location: Jefferson
Session Chair: Kirby Brown, University of Oregon
Travis Blake Franks (Arizona State University), “Like a company of mounted clowns, death hilarious”: Evoking the Profane in the Great Comanche Raid
Ron McFarland (University of Idaho), Mapping Cormac McCarthy’s No Country for Old Men
Stefano Rosso (University of Bergamo, Italy), Metaphysics and Materiality of Violence in Cormac McCarthy’s The Counselor

T4F: Perverse and Profane: Race and Gender in the Weird Western
Location: Gallatin
Session Chair: Michael K. Johnson, University of Maine-Farmington
Michael K. Johnson (University of Maine-Farmington), Race, Gender, Time Travel, and the Weird, Weird West
Rebecca Marie Lush (California State University San Marcos), Die Revenant: The Perverse Pursuit of Justice in the Profane World of Wynonna Earp
Sara Louise Spurgeon (Texas Tech University), Indians and Aliens (and Terrorists): Perverse Histories of the Apocalypse in Native American SciFi
Kerry Fine (Texas Tech University), Shoring up the Walls: The Evolving Role of the Fort and the Reservation

3:30PM - 4:45PM

T5A: James Fenimore Cooper
Location: Obsidian
Session Chair: Kate Huber, University of Central Oklahoma
John Donahue (Concordia University, Canada), Last of the Breed: Louis l’Amour’s Cold War Western
Kate Huber (University of Central Oklahoma), Deus Ex Machina in the Garden: James Fenimore Cooper’s The Crater in the Anthropocene
Sylvan Goldberg (Stanford University), Natural Resources/Novel Genres: Cooper’s The Pioneers and the Resource Novel

T5B: Winter in the Blood: A Roundtable Discussion
Location: Lake/Canyon
Session Chair: Susan Bernardin, SUNY Oneonta
Joanna Hearne (University of Missouri), Experimentalism in Winter in the Blood
Dustin Tahmahkera (University of Texas at Austin), Indigenous Soundscapes in Winter in the Blood
**T5C: CREATIVE WRITING: THE DEGRADED WEST**

**Location:** Madison  
**Session Chair:** Mary Clearman Blew, University of Idaho

DJ Lee (Washington State University), Life after Life  
Mary Clearman Blew (University of Idaho), Ruby Dreams of Janis Joplin  
Peter Chilson (Washington State University), Sahara in the West  
Liz Stephens (UCLA), The Lost Coast: Los Angeles

**T5D: THE PROFANE WEST OF JOHN STEINBECK**

**Location:** Lamar  
**Session Chair:** David Rio, UPV/EHU, University of the Basque Country

Jessica Bremmer (Westridge School for Girls), Voicelessness and Representation in John Steinbeck’s The Forgotten Village  
David Rio (UPV/EHU, University of the Basque Country, Spain), Performing Of Mice and Men beyond the West: Del Arco’s De ratones y hombres  
Jada Ach (University of South Carolina), Tracking “Injurious Species”: Strays, Roadkill, and Highway Ecology in John Steinbeck’s The Grapes of Wrath  
Jessica Colleen Perez Lopez (United States Air Force Academy), Too Profane for the West: How Steinbeck was exiled East of Eden

**T5E: AXE HANDLES: LITERATURE AS EQUIPMENT FOR LIVING IN PLACE**

**Location:** Gallatin  
**Session Chair:** David William Gilcrest, University of Montana

David William Gilcrest (University of Montana), “How We Go On”: Entering the Anthropocene with Snyder and Burke  
David Thomas Sumner (Linfield College), A Book, a Place, and a River Guide, or “Heartbreaking Beauty Where There Are No Hearts to Break”  
Peter Ryan Blakemore (College of the Redwoods), Entering the World through the Classroom Door: Poetry, Cave Painting, and the Interdisciplinary Creation of Lived Space

**T5F: RANGING WESTS IN FILM: KLONDIKE ANNIE, PENNY OF TOP HILL TRAIL, AND LEMONADE JOE**

**Location:** Gibbon  
**Session Chair:** Landon Lutrick, University of Nevada, Reno

Sharon Ann Reynolds (Emerita, Palomar College), Blurring the Lines: The Intersection of the Sacred and the Profane in the 1930s Film Klondike Annie  
Patricia Oman (Hastings College), Belle K. Maniates and the Feminist Trail  
Cynthia J. Miller (Emerson College), Comedy, Capitalism, and Kolaloka: Adapting the American West in Lemonade Joe (1964)
T5G: Emerging Cli-Fi Criticism in the Profane West
Location: Jefferson
Session Chair: Susan Kollin, Montana State University
Susan Kollin (Montana State University), Cli-Fi and the “Wasted West”: Matter, Bodies, Texts
Dana Phillips (Towson University, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa), “Cool, Clear Water”: Environmental Conflict in Paolo Bacigalupi’s The Water Knife
Alex Hunt (West Texas A&M University), Cli-Fi Out West

T5H: Rejecting Dualities and Oversimplifications: Environmentalism, Religion, and Sovereignties
Location: Dunraven
Session Chair: Krista Comer, Rice University
Megan Barnes (Loyola Marymount University), Little House, Big Ecology: The Ecocentric Presence in Little House in the Big Woods
Anna Barattin (Georgia State University), The Weight of the Cross: Environment and Religion in Wait until Spring, Bandini
Stephen Mexal (California State University, Fullerton), “A Future That’s Just Like the Past”: Theodore Roosevelt’s Conservative Temporality and the Imagination of Environmentalism
Jenna Hunnef (University of Toronto, Canada), A Game of Sovereignties: Henry Starr’s Thrilling Events and Federal Encroachment in the Indian Territory

5:00PM - 6:15PM

T6A: New Reading Ways
Location: Madison
Session Chair: Lydia Marie Heberling, University of Washington
Lydia Marie Heberling (University of Washington), Reading the Future “Literary Past” of Indigenous L.A.: Aesthetic Representations of Indian Alley in the Works of N. Scott Momaday, Kent Mackenzie, and Steven Paul Judd
Steve Harrison (Idaho State University), “This Aint No Game”: Simon Pokagon’s Authentic Native American Protest
Morgan Day Frank (Stanford University), Frank Norris and the University of California
Tara C. Foley (Baylor University), Patient Confidentiality or Public Health Crisis? Tracking Syphilis Westward in Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s The Crux

T6B: ASLE Panel: EcoGothic and the American West
Location: Lake/Canyon
Session Chair: Jennifer Schell, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Jennifer Schell (University of Alaska Fairbanks), “Fiendish Fumaroles and Malevolent Mud Pots”: The EcoGothic Aspects of Owen Wister’s Yellowstone Stories
Tom J. Hillard (Boise State University), The Gothic of Ecocriticism and the American West: A Manifesto
Adena Rivera-Dundas (University of Texas at Austin), Still or Unreeling: The Posthuman City in The Crying of Lot 49
T6C: Visual Representation, Language, and Fortune in Cormac McCarthy

Location: Obsidian
Session Chair: Kalene Marie VanHuss, Loyola Marymount University

Sean Patrick Purio (United States Air Force Academy), Divine Diction and the Bear That Don’t Dance in McCarthy’s Blood Meridian

Shauna Mae Stephens (Montana State University), Coin Tosses and Consequences: Coming to Terms with Contradictions in the Theoretical West

Michael Olaf Olusen (University of Idaho), “Those Are Picturebook Horses”: Recovering the Horse in Cormac McCarthy’s All the Pretty Horses

Kalene Marie VanHuss (Loyola Marymount University), A Parasol of Rib Bones and a Necklace of Ears: Frontier Gothic Humor and Cormac McCarthy’s Blood Meridian


T6D: Women’s Bodies in the American West: Feminist Approaches to Western Women’s Writing

Location: Gallatin
Session Chair: Nancy S. Cook, University of Montana

Amanda Ross Gradisek (Walsh University), Morrison’s Paradise, Women’s Bodies, and the American West

Amy T. Hamilton (Northern Michigan University), Women on the Move in Louise Erdrich’s Early North Dakota Novels

Randi Tanglen (Austin College), “Hell on Women and Cattle”: Domestic Captivity and the Laugh of the Medusa in Nannie Alderson’s A Bride Goes West

T6E: The Native West: Unearthly Desire, History, Revenge

Location: Gibbon
Session Chair: Susan Bernardin, SUNY Oneonta

Kirby Brown (University of Oregon), Gender, Jurisdiction, & Justice, or The Profanity of Settler Sexual Violence in Ruth Muskrat Bronson’s The Serpent

Chadwick Allen (University of Washington), Serpent Mounds and Sewage Pipes: Smearing the White Walls of the White Museum

Lisa M. Tatonetti (Kansas State University), An Erotics of Responsibility: Butch Dykes in/on Indigenous Literature

T6F: Queer Montana, or the De-Marginalization of Thomas Savage

Location: Dunraven
Session Chair: O. Alan Weltzien, University of Montana Western

O. Alan Weltzien (University of Montana Western), Queer Montana; or, the De-Marginalization of Thomas Savage

David Peterson (University of Nebraska at Omaha), “The loss of it breaks your heart”: Reconsidering Homophobia in Thomas Savage’s The Power of the Dog

Ken Egan (Humanities Montana), Savage Nation: How a State Lost a Writer

Tim Steckline (Black Hills State University), Fondling the Gearshift and Grinding the Starter: The Car Fetish of Thomas Savage
T6G: CREATIVE WRITING: WRITING THE CONTEMPORARY WEST
Location: Jefferson
Moderator: Zack Bean, Montana State University
Featuring Rick Bass, Zack Bean, and Glen Chamberlain

8:00PM – 9:15 PM

CONFERENCE ADDRESS: FROM WOMAN WARRIOR TO BOOK OF PEACE, BY DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT MAXINE HONG KINGSTON
Location: Missouri Ballroom
Introduced by Waded Cruzado, President, Montana State University

Maxine Hong Kingston ©Michael Lionstar

Maxine Hong Kingston is Senior Lecturer for Creative Writing at the University of California, Berkeley. For her memoirs and fiction, The Fifth Book of Peace, The Woman Warrior, China Men, Tripmaster Monkey, I Love a Broad Margin to My Life, and Hawai‘i One Summer, she has earned numerous awards, among them the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction, the PEN West Award for Fiction, an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature, and a National Humanities Medal from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as the title of “Living Treasure of Hawai‘i.” In July 2014, she was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama.

FOLLOWING: RECEPTION WITH CASH BAR FOR MAXINE HONG KINGSTON (Lower Atrium)
Friday, 23/Sep/2016

7:00AM – 8:00AM
Presidents Breakfast (Shoshone Boardroom)—Presidents only, please.

7:45AM – 4:00 PM
Registration (Firehole Lounge)

8:00AM – 5:00 PM
Book Exhibit (Cheyenne)

8:00AM – 9:15AM
Session 1

9:00AM – 10:00AM
Light Continental Breakfast

9:00AM – 11:00AM
Coffee Service (both Lower Atrium)

9:30AM – 10:45AM
Session 2 & Roundtable: Active Recovery of Women’s Voices (Lake/Canyon) & Graduate Student Panel: Crafting a Teaching Statement (Jefferson) & Yellowstone Writing Project: Am. Indian Boarding Schools and Writing (Lamar) & Special Reading by Frances McCue (Gallatin)

11:00AM – 12:15PM
Session 3 & Special Reading by M.L. Smoker (Gallatin)

12:30PM – 1:30PM
Graduate Student Luncheon (Huntley Dining Room)

1:30PM – 2:45PM
Session 4 & Yellowstone Writing Project: Literature, Writing, and Learning Endangered Languages (Lamar)

3:00PM – 4:15PM
Plenary: We Swear to Get It right This Time: Reading and Misreading Western Archives (Missouri Ballroom)

4:30PM – 5:45PM
Session 6 & Special Performance by Earll Kingston (Madison)

6:45PM – 7:45PM
Cash Bar (Lower Atrium)

8:00PM – 11:00PM
Banquet and Cash Bar
Dance featuring Little Jane and the Pistol Whips (Missouri Ballroom)
F1A: Creative Writing: The Past in Fact and Fiction

Location: Madison
Session Chair: Lawrence Coates, Bowling Green State University

Conrad Shumaker (University of Central Arkansas), Stories from a Southwestern Youth
Lawrence Coates (Bowling Green State University), “Boom”—A Reading from Creative Work
William Jensen (Texas State University), Come All Ye Faithful
Sidney Thompson (Texas Christian University), Bass Reeves: A History • A Novel • A Crusade

F1B: Creative Writing: Place, Power and Survival: Readings in Fiction

Location: Lamar
Session Chair: Joshua Dolezal, Central College

Joshua Dolezal (Central College), An Evening with Ed Rockland
Daryl Farmer (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Inversion
Erin Flanagan (Wright State University), The Rule of Threes

F1C: Masculinity, Nationalism, and the Postmodern in the Profane West

Location: Jefferson
Session Chair: Patrick K. Dooley, St. Bonaventure University

Patrick K. Dooley (St. Bonaventure University), “One must travel to learn”: Mark Twain’s Gradual Appreciation of the Intelligence of Savages
Quentin Samuel Miller (Montana State University), Reality, Simulation, and the Post-Western Individual: Philip K. Dick’s A Scanner Darkly and the Case of Bob Arctor
Donovan R. Gwinner (Aurora University), “Stupid Fucking White Man”: Western Settler Praxis as Pathological Profanation in Life and Literature
Stephanie Palmer (Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom), A Dark Hour for Democracy: British and Canadian Readings of Helen Hunt Jackson’s Indian Reform
Adam Nizar Jabbur (Towson University), Elbow Room for the Imagination: Stegner’s Angle of Repose

F1D: Native American Women Speaking Back

Location: Gallatin
Session Chair: Christina Roberts, Seattle University

Eric Heyne (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Weaving New Stories with the Old: Ernestine Hayes’ Blonde Indian as a Tale of Mixed-Blood Survivance
Laurie Lowrance (University of New Mexico), Resistance to Containment and Conquest in Sarah Winnemucca’s Life among the Piutes and María Amparo Ruiz de Burton’s Who Would Have Thought It?
Lisa Jong (University of Michigan), Multigeneric Forms in Native Women’s Memoir
Laura Maria De Vos (University of Washington), Last Standing Woman: A Decolonial Entry Point into the Study of the American West
F1E: Asserting the Sacred
Location: Gibbon
Session Chair: Gary Reger, Trinity College
Nathan Paul Anderson (Marietta College), Giving Voice to the Undervalued: The Dialogical, Adaptation, and Transformation in Melissa Kwasny’s *Thistle and Pictograph*
John Crispin Davies (Emeritus, United Kingdom), The Sacred in the Profane: The Novels of Craig Lesley
Gary Reger (Trinity College), Sacred Desert, Profane Desert in the American Imaginary

F1F: Countering Dystopian Wests
Location: Dunraven
Session Chair: Aaron Cloyd, North Idaho College
Aaron Cloyd (North Idaho College), Thomas King’s Rewilding West
Shelley Louise McEuen (Idaho State University), Reimagining the Sacred: Moving beyond the “Cultivated Wild”
Margaret Eleanor Johnson (Idaho State University), A Challenge to Dystopia in *The Man Who Fell in Love with the Moon*

F1G: Music and Song
Location: Lake/Canyon
Session Chair: Dylan Garrett Pyles, Kansas State University
Ian Stuart Marshall (Penn State Altoona), Folk Rock on the Way to Earth Day: Tom Paxton’s *Whose Garden Was This?* as Nature Writing
Peter L. Bayers (Fairfield University), “Tell Diane Sawyer I am a Warrior”: Hip-Hop Artist Frank Waln and Lakota Masculinity
Mark Schlenz (Montana State University), Mama Tried: Outlaw Country and the Patriotic Profane
Dylan Garrett Pyles (Kansas State University), Listening to the Frontier: Johnny Cash’s “Bitter Tears” as a Collisional Soundscape

F1H: Pedagogy and Classroom Spaces
Location: Obsidian
Session Chair: Jillian Leigh Wenburg, Fort Lewis College
Jillian Leigh Wenburg (Fort Lewis College), “Writers and Artists the Maggots of Society”: Using Mari Sandoz in the Composition Classroom Literacy Autoethnography Assignment
Kary Doyle Smout (Washington and Lee University), I Heart James Welch!
AJ McCormick (West Texas A&M University), Kinesthetic Reading: Using Role-Play to Enhance the ELAR Classroom as Demonstrated with Willa Cather’s *My Ántonia*
Anastasia Wright Lin (University of North Georgia), Contested Geographies of the American West: Using Literary Cartography in the Classroom

9:00am-10:00am Light Continental Breakfast
9:00am-11:00am Coffee & Tea (both Lower Atrium)
9:30AM - 10:45AM

**F2A: Active Recovery of Women’s Voices of The West: Willa Cather, Eulalia Bourne, and Sanora Babb, a Roundtable**

Location: Lake/Canyon
Moderator: Susan Kollin, Montana State University
Speakers: Joanne Dearcopp, Tracy Tucker, and Nancy Cook

**F2B: The Postwestern City**

Location: Madison
Session Chair: Nathaniel Lewis, St. Michael's College
Paul Byron Wickelson (Independent Scholar), “You Have to Make the Money to Buy the Ticket”: Nightcrawler, Spectral Capital, and the Post-Western Metropolis
Nathaniel Lewis (St. Michael's College), Phantasmagoria Las Vegas
Lisa Locascio (Wesleyan University), Elegy for Western Time
Julie Williams (University of New Mexico), “Radiating Loveliness”: Atomic Tourism, Beauty Queens, and the Cold War West

**F2C: Graduate Student Discussion Panel: Crafting a Teaching Statement**

Location: Jefferson
Workshop led by Randi Tanglen, Austin College
Featuring Nicholas Bradley, University of Victoria, and William Lombardi, Missouri Valley College

**F2D: Yellowstone Writing Project: Winter Count: Blackfeet Language Stories**

Location: Lamar
Presented by Charles Kennedy, Peigan Institute

**F2E: The Omitted West**

Location: Gibbon
Session Chair: Victoria Lamont, University of Waterloo
Leslie Hammer (University of California, Santa Barbara), Writing to Save a Nation: Political Rhetoric and the New Hawaiian Autobiographical Self in the Memoir of Queen Lili‘uokalani
Victoria Lamont (University of Waterloo, Canada), Gender and the Western: A New Genealogy
Margie Judd (University of Montana), Recasting the Frontier Myth to Create a New Western Imaginary for the Twenty-First Century: Judith Freeman’s Red Water
Gioia Elisa Woods (Northern Arizona University), The Other Obscenity Trial: Sexuality, Profanity, and Free Speech in the West
F2F: Special Reading: “Where the House Was” by Frances McCue

Location: Gallatin
Introduction by Lois Welch

Frances McCue is a poet, essayist, and arts instigator. From 1996-2006, she was the founding director of Richard Hugo House in Seattle. She has published four books, including a book of essays about Richard Hugo and the Northwest Towns that inspired his poems: The Car That Brought You Here Still Runs. The book was a finalist for the Washington State Book Award. Frances has two books of poems, including The Bled, which won the Washington State Book Award. Her most recent book of prose, Mary Randlett Portraits, was released in 2014. Currently, she is working on Where the House Was, a documentary film about the demolition of the Richard Hugo House building in Seattle.

F2G: Transferring Performance and Performatives to the American West

Location: Dunraven
Session Chair: Gretchen E. Minton, Montana State University

Claire Evelyn Barwise (University of Washington), “The gap between the little given and the great promised”: Nabokov’s Lolita and the Impossible Dream of the West


Gretchen E. Minton (Montana State University), “Tongues in trees, books in the running brooks”: The Story of Shakespeare in Montana
F3A: Special Reading: A Reading and Reflection by M.L. Smoker

Location: Gallatin
Introduction by Ken Egan, Humanities Montana

M.L. Smoker belongs to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation in northeastern Montana. She holds an MFA from the University of Montana in Missoula, where she was the recipient of the Richard Hugo Fellowship. Smoker currently works for the Office of Public Instruction as the Director of Indian Education. In 2015, she was named the Indian Educator of the Year by the National Indian Education Association. Recently, she was appointed to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education by President Barack Obama. She has published one collection of poems, Another Attempt at Rescue (2005). She has also served as a writer and consultant on the PBS documentaries Before There Were Parks and Indian Relay (which earned her a regional Emmy award).

F3B: Paintings, Pictorialism, Photobooks, and Place

Location: Jefferson
Session Chair: Melody Graulich, Utah State University

Melody Graulich (Utah State University), The Northern Pacific Railroad and the Yellowstone Paintings of Abby Williams Hill
Rachel Sailor (University of Wyoming), Photographic Pictorialism as Regionalist Expression in the American West
Audrey Goodman (Georgia State University), Assembling California Photobooks
Rachel Heise Bolten (Stanford University), 1906 in the Archive

F3C: Creative Writing: The Writer’s Use of Longing

Location: Madison
Session Chair: Ann Lenore Putnam, University of Puget Sound

Ann Lenore Putnam (University of Puget Sound), Fire and Ice
Beverly Hays Conner (University of Puget Sound), Obsession
Beth Kalikoff (University of Washington), Longing & Belonging in University Teaching
Sarah Jane Sloane (Colorado State University), “Windows Speaking the Morning Glow”: A Phenomenology of Light in a New Mexico Kiva and a Colorado Abbey
F3 D: HYBRID NARRATIVES AND MULTI-RACIAL IDENTITIES
Location: Lamar
Session Chair: Karen Ramirez, University of Colorado, Boulder
Ekaterina Kupidonova (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Zitkala-Ša and Pauline Johnson: Among the First Women to Carry the Native Voices into the Mainstream
Frank Kelderman (University of Louisville), “The West May Never Recover”: Able Bodies and Racial Passing in M.M.B. Walsh’s Dolly Purdo
Michele Van Haecke (Arizona State University, University of Montana), Belly Writing: Food, Disgust, and Hybrid Identities in Louise Erdrich’s The Master Butchers Singing Club
Gail Small (Montana State University), Multi-Racial Love in the Early Reservation Era

F3 E: WOMEN’S WORK IN THE PROFANE WEST
Location: Gibbon
Session Chair: Matthew Young Heimburger, University of Utah
Anne Marie Johnson (Utah State University), The Language of Regulation in the 1911 Closure of Butte Montana’s Red Light District
Jillian Marie Moore Bennion (Utah State University), Women’s Work: Laboring in Search of Femininity, Intimacy, and Creativity
Matthew Young Heimburger (University of Utah), “Away from the Things of Man”: Blair Braverman, Cheryl Strayed, and the Feminist Turn to Wilderness Therapy

F3 F: MASCULINITY, FEMININITY, AND QUEERING THE WEST
Location: Lake/Canyon
Session Chair: Johannes Fehrle, Universität Mannheim
Kirsten Møllegaard (University of Hawai‘i at Hilo), Queering the Wilderness: Lumberjanes and the Folkloresque
Johannes Fehrle (Universität Mannheim, Germany), The Tire Iron of Homophobia: Doxic Beliefs and Habitual Limitations in Annie Proulx’s Brokeback Mountain
Linda Garber (Santa Clara University), Tomboys and Indians
Ryan Wander (University of California, Davis), “I rec’ on it is destined that I shall live single”: Deadwood Dick Dime Novels and the Rhythms of Outlaw Life

F3 G: THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL OF DISASSOCIATION: WAR AND VIOLENCE
Location: Dunraven
Session Chair: Joshua Dolezal, Central College
David Buchanan (United States Air Force Academy), Warrior Societies and Post-9/11 American War Culture
James Benson Wirth (University of Washington), Desituating the Masculinized West in Didion and Morrison
Megan J. Kahn (United States Air Force Academy), The Profane East as the New Wild, Wild West: American Soldier Women and Native Women in Sand Queen
F3 H: Place in Western Literature
Location: Obsidian
Session Chair: Quinn Grover, Brigham Young University-Idaho
Quinn Grover (Brigham Young University-Idaho), Perfect and Apart: Old and New Constructions of Place in A River Runs Through It
Ryan McWilliams (University of California, Berkeley), Leslie Fiedler’s Montana Face: A Reevaluation
David James Mucklow (Colorado State University), Dwelling Poetically in Montana’s Small Towns: Richard Hugo’s Poetry and Being an Outsider in Rural Place
Clifford Wallace Hudder (Lone Star College-Montgomery), “To look at the snow like a child, or a Texan”: Rick Bass, Houstonian

12:30pm - 1:30pm
GRADUATE STUDENT LUNCHEON
Location: Huntley Dining Room
Hosted by Sylvan Goldberg and Landon Lutrick
Featuring writers M.L. Smoker and Rick Bass

1:30pm - 2:45pm
F4A: Creative Writing: Place and People in Place
Location: Madison
Session Chair: Susan Naramore Maher, University of Minnesota Duluth
Susan Naramore Maher (University of Minnesota Duluth), Eastend
Don Scheese (Gustavus Adolphus College), The Dirty Kanza
Tagen Towsley Baker (Utah State University), A Feminist Political Ecology of Home: Idaho, Resilience, and Rural Women Rancher-Farmers
Candace Lee Black (Minnesota State University Mankato), Remembering Richard Hugo

F4B: Yellowstone Writing Project: Literature, Writing, and Learning Endangered Languages
Location: Lamar
Presented by Robert Hall, Aasaisstto Language Society
**F4C: Sustainability and Environmental Justice Activism**

**Location:** Gallatin  
**Session Chair:** Bonney MacDonald, West Texas A&M University

Brady Harrison (University of Montana), *Waging Heavy Consumerism: California’s Dreaming (and Burning)*, *Greendale* (in Multiple Formats), and the Failure of Hippie-Boomer Success

Bonney MacDonald (West Texas A&M University), *To Have and to Hold: Sustainability and the Language of Love* in Terry Tempest Williams, Pattiann Rogers, and Aldo Leopold

Alexander Cavanaugh (University of Oregon), *Cultural Memory, Environmental Justice Activism, and the Profanity of Slow Violence in Sánchez and Pita’s Lunar Braceros 2125–2148*

Luke Morgan (Texas Tech University), *Urban Farmers and Rural Values: The New Pastoral in Urban Sustainability Cultures*

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**F4D: Uncommon Contributions: Western Women’s Diaries and Personal Writing**

**Location:** Gibbon  
**Session Chair:** Cathryn Halverson, University of Copenhagen

Desiree Henderson (University of Texas Arlington), *Civility and Sociability in the Profane West: Three Nineteenth-Century Texas Women’s Diaries*

Jennifer J. Hill (Montana State University), *Butter and Eggs, Dollars and Cents*

Tiffany Aldrich MacBain (University of Puget Sound), *The Wild Work of Gender Play in the Journals of Abby Williams Hill*

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**F4E: It’s Not Just Entertainment: Western Television Series**

**Location:** Jefferson  
**Session Chair:** David Neal Cremean, Black Hills State University

Mika Kennedy (University of Michigan), *Strange Empires: Race, Indigeneity, and the Borderlands of Vigilante Justice*

David Neal Cremean (Black Hills State University), *Californication Nighmarin’: America’s Profane Gold Coast*

Erin Nicole Bistline (Texas Tech University), *Gender at the Border: The Women of Strange Empire*

Maria O’Connell (Wayland Baptist University), “This Life is Bad, it’s all Bad...”: Aunt Polly and her Grown-up Tom on the River in *Peaky Blinders*

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**F4F: Dystopia and Death in Western Literature and Film**

**Location:** Lake/Canyon  
**Session Chair:** Andrew Patrick Nelson, Montana State University

Daniel Lee Hanson (Montana State University), *The Post-West through a Gothic Lens*

Stephen Tatum (University of Utah), *The Look of/at Death: Bowden and Briggs; Urrea*

Jessica Hellmann (USAF Academy), “You Can Teach a Man to Fish”: The Profane Act of “Recreating” in *The Dog Stars*

Andrew Patrick Nelson (Montana State University), *Suffering and Death in the Prestige Western*
**F4G: RACIAL AND SPATIAL BORDERLANDS**

*Location: Dunraven*

*Session Chair: Emily Susan Lutenski, Saint Louis University*

Emily Susan Lutenski (Saint Louis University), California Dreaming: Racial Borderlands in Paul Beatty’s *The Sellout*

Megan B. Simpson (Penn State Altoona), C.S. Giscombe’s Profane Poetics: Mapping the “Negroid stain” in Northern British Columbia

Matt Herman (MSU Bozeman), McNickle’s Theory of Culture in *The Surrounded*

William Handley (University of Southern California), Re-photographic Juxtaposition and the Ruins of Westward Movement

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**F4H: WESTERN IMPERIALISM/ THE WEST AS EMPIRE**

*Location: Obsidian*

*Session Chair: Meredith Louise Harvey, George Williams College of Aurora University*

Meredith Louise Harvey (George Williams College of Aurora University), A Troubling Lack of Indigeneity: Whedon’s *Firefly* and *Serenity* on the “raggedy edge” of Postcolonial Critiques

Robert Lawrence Gunn (University of Texas at El Paso), American Horologics: Josiah Gregg’s Clockwork Minstrelsy and the Commerce of Empire

Heath Wing (North Dakota State University), American Frontiers and the Sovereign Profanity of Law

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**3:00PM - 4:15 PM**

**F5A: PLENARY: WE SWEAR TO GET IT RIGHT THIS TIME: READING AND MISREADING WESTERN ARCHIVES**

*Location: Missouri Ballroom*

*Session Chair: Cathryn Halverson, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

Melissa J. Homestead (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Stories We Tell about Archives: The Burning of Willa Cather’s Letters (or Not)

Victoria Lamont (University of Waterloo, Canada), Ethics, Politics, and Archival Recovery

Christine Bold (University of Guelph, Canada), Repatriating the Indigenous Popular

Cathryn Halverson (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), Reading and Misreading Western Archives

Stephanie Palmer (Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom), Indian Reform and the Transnational Archive
F6A: SPECIAL PERFORMANCE: EARLL KINGSTON
Deconstructing Major Powell: Stories from His Trip Down the Colorado River in His Own Words and in the Words of Others, Together with Some Digressions on One-Person Plays, and One Person’s Experiences on the Stage and on the River.*

Location: Madison
Introduction: David Fenimore, University of Nevada, Reno

Earll Kingston has more than forty years experience in theater. In Hawaii, he performed and directed for the Hawaii Performing Arts and numerous episodes of Hawaii 5-0 and Magnum P.I. In California he has acted for the Globe Theater in Hollywood and for the Berkeley Repertory Theatre. He is a member of California on Stage, a San Francisco-based group engaged in writing and performing stage and radio works on California history. He performed “Down the Great Unknown” at the Grand Canyon, summers 1990–1996.

*This performance is a contender for the Willa Pilla Award.

F6B: CREATIVE WRITING: STORY CATCHERS: WORKS INSPIRED BY A RURAL AND REMOTE WRITING RETREAT

Location: Lake/Canyon
Session Chair: Matthew Evertson, Chadron State College
Matthew Evertson (Chadron State College), Wild Catch: Stories from Soldier Creek
Thomas Deane Tucker (Chadron State College), The Pleistocene Sea
Steve Coughlin (Chadron State College), What the Hell? A Poet from the Northeast Moves to the Great Plains

F6C: NATIVE AMERICAN EMBODIMENT AND SONG

Location: Gallatin
Session Chair: Amy Gore, University of New Mexico
Ying-wen Yu (University of Arizona), All My Relations: A Multispecies Reading of Linda Hogan’s Sightings and People of the Whale
Jasmine Spencer (University of British Columbia, Canada), Wolverine’s Unspeakable Soundscape: A Story about a Song without a Song
Amy Gore (University of New Mexico), Pretty Shield’s Thumbprint: Body Politics in Paratextual Territory
F6D: Willa Cather: Embodiment and Voice  
**Location:** Lamar  
**Session Chair:** Charmion Gustke, Belmont University  
Jeanine Baker Varner (Abilene Christian University), From Alexander’s Bridge to the Great Plains Novels: The Development of Willa Cather’s Voice  
Daryl W. Palmer (Regis University), The Profane Hermit in the Victorian West: Making Sense of Crazy Ivar in Willa Cather’s O Pioneers!  
Jillian Weber (University of South Carolina), Sportswomen and Regionalism in Western American Literature  
Charmion Gustke (Belmont University), “Out West”: Broken Bodies in the Work of Willa Cather and Dorothea Lange

F6E: And the Oscar Goes to: Tracing History and Performativity in Western Fiction and Film  
**Location:** Jefferson  
**Session Chair:** Randi Eldevik, Oklahoma State University  
Randi Eldevik (Oklahoma State University), The Hugh Glass Saga, from Novel to Film: Manfred’s/Brando’s Lord Grizzly and Punke’s/Iñárritu’s The Revenant  
Gretchen Collier (Northern Arizona University), “This Damned Place”: Unmasking Dystopian Elements within Stephen King’s The Shining  
Joshua Damu Smith (Biola University), Racial Battle Lines and Through Lines: Nat Turner, Hollywood, and the Story Arc of Slave Revolt in Nate Parker’s Birth of a Nation

F6F: The Sacred and Profane West  
**Location:** Gibbon  
**Session Chair:** Jennifer K. Cox, Idaho State University  
Jennifer K. Cox (Idaho State University), The Sacred in the Profane: Steve Englehart’s Coyote  
Margaret Marie Payne (Freed-Hardeman University), “Luckily... the piano had wheels”: The Profane and Sacred in Larry McMurtry’s Lonesome Dove  
Maria Cichosz (Stanford University), Time Out of Joint: Profane Space, Postmodern Allegory, and the Underwater Heterotopia in Thomas Pynchon’s Inherent Vice

F6G: Magazines, Periodicals, and Unconventional Genres of Western Experience  
**Location:** Dunraven  
**Session Chair:** Elisa Warford, University of Southern California  
Elisa Warford (University of Southern California), Because “Conquered Rivers are Better Servants than Wild Clouds”: John Wesley Powell’s Public Argument for Science-Based Land Policy of the West  
Corinna Barrett (Idaho State University), Compliance and Critique: Japanese American Internment and the Literary Magazine Trek  
Kevin Masao Kimura (University of Chicago), The Dancing, Chanting Terrapin: Genre Fiction in the Early Sunset Magazine
F6H: EXPERIENCING WESTERN AESTHETICISM IN TOURISM AND EXPLORATION
Location: Obsidian
Session Chair: Heather Dundas, University of Southern California
Cathryn Halverson (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), Pasadena Lap Desk: Becoming Californian through Travel and Writing, Friendship and Patronage
Heather Dundas (University of Southern California), Michel Foucault’s Death Valley Trip: Friendship and Aesthetics in a Marginal Space
Jennifer Dawes Adkison (Henderson State University), Exploring the Range: Dark Tourism in the American West

6:45 PM - 7:45 PM
CASH BAR
Location: Lower Atrium

8:00PM - 11:00PM
ANNUAL BANQUET WITH CASH BAR
DANCE FEATURING LITTLE JANE AND THE PISTOL WHIPS
Location: Missouri Ballroom

All 2016 awards will be presented at the banquet.
2016 WLA AWARD RECIPIENTS

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

Delbert & Edith Wylder Award
For outstanding service to the association
Susan Naramore Maher

Thomas J. Lyon Book Award
For most outstanding book published this year in western American literary and cultural studies
Susan Kollin for Captivating Westerns

Susan J. Rosowski Award
For outstanding teaching & creative mentoring in western American literary studies
William R. Handley

Don D. Walker Prize
For best essay published in western American literary studies in 2015
Lori Harrison-Kahan and Karen E.H. Skinazi for “Miriam Michelson’s Yellow Journalism and the Multi-Ethnic West” (MELUS)

Frederick Manfred Award
For the best creative writing submission to the conference
Erin Flanagan for “The Rule of Threes”

J. Golden Taylor Award
For best essay presented at the conference by a graduate student
Jada Ach (University of South Carolina) for “Tracking ‘Injurious Species’: Strays, Roadkill, and Highway Ecology in John Steinbeck’s The Grapes of Wrath”

Dorys Grover Awards
Outstanding papers presented at the conference by graduate students who contribute to our critical understandings of region, place, and space in western American literatures
Michael Olausen (University of Idaho) for “‘Those Are Picturebook Horses’: Recovering the Horse in Cormac McCarthy’s All the Pretty Horses”
Amy Gore (University of New Mexico) for “Pretty Shield’s Thumbprint: Body Politics in Paratextual Territory”

Louis Owens Awards
For graduate student presenters contributing most to cultural diversity in the association
Mika Kennedy (University of Michigan)
Maria Mackas (Georgia State University)
Ho’esta Mo’e’hahne (University of Southern California)

WLA/Charles Redd Center K-12 Teaching Award
Hali Kirby (Gardiner Public Schools)
Saturday, 24/Sep/2016

8:00am – 12:00pm
Book Exhibit (Cheyenne)

8:00am – 9:15am
Session 1 & Yellowstone Writing Project: Winter Count: Blackfeet Language Stories (Lamar)

9:00am – 11:00am
Coffee & Tea (Lower Atrium)

9:30am – 10:45am
Session 2 & Readers Theater: Garrison Keillor’s The Lives of the cowboys (Madison) & K-12 Educator Panel (Lamar)

11:00am – 12:15pm
WLA Business Meeting (Amphitheater)
Yellowstone Writing Project Business Meeting (Lamar)

12:45pm – 8:00pm
Yellowstone Fieldtrip (Meet at the Bear in the Huntley Lodge Reception Area)
8:00AM - 9:15AM


Location: Lake/Canyon
Session Chair: LeAnne Howe, University of Georgia

LeAnne Howe (University of Georgia), Imagine There’s No Cowboys and Indians in the Great American West
Emry McAlear (Independent Scholar, United Kingdom), Townie: A Montana Boy*
Laura Jean Schneider (Vermont College of Fine Art), Damned If She Does

*This essay is a contender for the Willa Pilla Award.

S1B: CREATIVE WRITING: WESTERN POETICS

Location: Madison
Session Chair: Richard L Robbins, Minnesota State University Mankato

David James Mucklow (Colorado State University), Laramide Orogeny
Randy White (Blue Oak Press), Blood Transparencies
Richard L. Robbins (Minnesota State University Mankato), Secret Landscape: New Poems

S1C: SATIRE AND RESISTANCE

Location: Gibbon
Session Chair: Mark Busby, Texas State University

Tracey Daniels Lerberg (University of Texas at Arlington), The Parodic and the Profane: Race and (dis)Placement in Ishmael Reed’s Yellow Back Radio Broke Down and Percival Everett’s God’s Country and Grand Canyon
Mark Busby (Texas State University), SatireShot/Scattershot: Targets in Ben Fountain’s “Billy Lynn’s Long Half-time Walk”
Baerbel Schlimbach (Saarland University, Germany), The Sisters Brothers: Re-Negotiating Western Narratives
Johannes Josef Kohrs (John-F.-Kennedy Institute, FU Berlin, Germany), A Whole (P)Lot of Uneven Nothing - The Picaresque Exploitation of the West in Percival Everett’s Satiric Fiction

S1D: YELLOWSTONE WRITING PROJECT: AMERICAN INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS AND WRITING

Location: Lamar
Presented by Kimberly King, Meadowlark Elementary School, Bozeman School District
S1E: WESTERN PASTS AND THE FUTURE

Location: Dunraven
Session Chair: Lindsay R. Stephens, University of South Dakota

Lindsay R. Stephens (University of South Dakota), “In Scented Petroleum Dimness”: Petromodernity in Thomas Pynchon’s Vineland

Ho’esta Mo’e’hahne (University of Southern California), Settler Futurity and Colonial Nostalgia in the Wests of Philip K. Dick

Mary Katherine Campbell (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), Charles Ellis Johnson’s Mormon Harems

S1F: INDUSTRIOUS PROFANITIES: CLIMATE CHANGE, WATER, AND GLOBAL WESTWARD EXPANSION

Location: Jefferson
Session Chair: Matt Burkhart, Case Western Reserve University

Manuela Borzone (University of Massachusetts Amherst), “Steam engines can’t roll without water”: Sergio Leone’s Once Upon a Time in the West and the Struggle for Water in the 21st Century

Andrew Jay Meyer (The Northwest School, Seattle), Polar Circles: Svalbard as Another West

Ashley Elaine Reis (University of North Texas), “My Mind Drifted Off to Water”: Damming and Ecological Grief in Linda Hogan’s Solar Storms

Matt Burkhart (Case Western Reserve University), Anthropocenotaph: Biopolitics and the Memorialization of Water in Paulo Bacigalupi’s The Water Knife

S1G: QUIET VIOLENCE: CRIME FICTION/NOIR AUTHORS

Location: Obsidian
Session Chair: Jeffrey Chisum, University of Southern California

Steven L. Davis (Texas State University), James Crumley’s Profane Majesty: A Tour of the Crumley Papers

Lars Erik Larson (University of Portland), Quiet Violence in Willy Vlautin’s Novels

Jeffrey Chisum (University of Southern California), An Accursed Place: Tragedy, Fate, and the Place of Noir in the Literary West

S1H: “PILLAS” OF THE COMMUNITY: HUMOR IN WESTERN LANDSCAPES*

Location: Gallatin
Session Chair: Michael Branch, University of Nevada, Reno

John T. Price (University of Nebraska at Omaha), Peacock, Beware!

Michael Branch (University of Nevada, Reno), Raising Wild

O. Alan Weltzien (University of Montana Western), Being Prepared

*All essays in this session are contenders for the Willa Pilla Award.
9:00AM - 11:00AM COFFEE & TEA (LOWER ATRIUM)

9:30AM - 10:45AM

S2A: READERS THEATER: GARRISON KEILLOR’S THE LIVES OF THE COWBOYS
Location: Madison
Director: David Fenimore, University of Nevada, Reno

S2B: CHARLES REDD CENTER/WESTERN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION K-12 EDUCATOR PRIZE
Location: Lamar
Moderator: Randi Tanglen, Austin College
Featuring: Hali Catherine Kirby (Gardiner Public Schools), “Letters from Yellowstone”: Stories of Women Scientists in Yellowstone National Park

S2C: SOCIAL JUSTICE/EDUCATIONAL ACTIVISM
Location: Gallatin
Session Chair: Karen Ramirez, University of Colorado, Boulder
Julianne Newmark (University of New Mexico), Documentation of/and Political Agency: The Texts and Contexts of Gertrude and Raymond Bonnin’s Educational Activism
Melissa Slocum (Arizona State University), Literary Erasure: Missing Indigenous Presence in Literature Classrooms and a Case Study for James Welch and Daniel H. Wilson
Lisa Schade Eckert (Northern Michigan University), Pushing Boundaries with Native American Graphic Novels and Comics: Critical and Social Justice Literacy Pedagogies
Karen Ramirez (University of Colorado, Boulder), Deborah Miranda’s Bad Indians and the Practice of Dialogue

S2D: CREATIVE WRITING: INTERIOR, EXTERIOR, AND DIGITAL WORLDS
Location: Gibbon
Session Chair: Susan Naramore Maher, University of Minnesota Duluth
Jeffrey G. Howard (Idaho State University), Nest Full of Pinkies
Charlotte McGuinn Freeman (Independent Scholar), Garden in the Wild: An Exploration of the Sacred and Profane in an Increasingly Virtual West
Matthew Bauman (Black Hills State University), Public Enemy #1
S2 E: WHAT AND WHEN IS REDEMPTION?: VOICING THE SACRED AND PROFANE IN WESTERN LITERATURE

Location: Dunraven
Session Chair: Martha J. Kruse, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Paige Liesel Zentner (Heritage University), Westward Redemption
Amanda J. Zink (Idaho State University), Domestic Goddesses: The Sacred and the Profane in Western Literary Domesticity
Martha J. Kruse (University of Nebraska at Kearney), The Wind: Blowing from Profane to Blessed within the Space of a Generation
Tara Deborah Causey (University of North Georgia), Voicing Bad Women in the West: Mary Hallock Foote’s Rose Gilroy

S2 F: WESTERN GENRES IN FILM

Location: Obsidian
Session Chair: Landon Lutrick, University of Nevada, Reno
Connor Patrick Novotny (University of Wyoming), American Landscapes: Navigating Myths of Family and Relationship in Wim Wenders’ Paris, Texas
Clinton Mohs (University of Nevada, Reno), The “Industrial Western”: Rethinking Gender and Technology in the Silent Western
Landon Lutrick (University of Nevada, Reno), Genres and Regional Construction: The New Hollywood and Western Literature
Cody Rian Brown (University of Idaho), Love in Hell: Wild at Heart, the Profane, and the Real in Translation

S2 G: OUR NATIONAL PARKS: WILDERNESS, SACREDNESS, AND A NEW AGE OF COMMODIFICATION

Location: Jefferson
Session Chair: Thomas Patin, Northern Arizona University
Katharine Bubel (University of Victoria, Canada), Levertov’s Mountain Aura: Resacralizing the Profaned Rainier-Tacoma
Robert Pahre (University of Illinois), Interpreting Wilderness in the National Parks of the Western Plains
Ronald Milland (Independent Scholar), Wilderness, Domesticated: National Parks and the Profane Consumption of Nature
Thomas Patin (Northern Arizona University), Hiking with Two Dead Guys into the Profane
11:00AM - 12:15PM

WLA BUSINESS MEETING
Location: Amphitheater

11:00AM - 12:15PM

YELLOWSTONE WRITING PROJECT BUSINESS MEETING
Location: Lamar

12:45PM - 8:00PM

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK FIELD TRIP
Meet at the Bear in the Huntley Lodge reception area. Lunches will be available in the lobby area. (Gratuities for your driver and tour guide are optional but are not included in the cost of your ticket.)

WLA PARTNERSHIP WITH YELLOWSTONE WRITING PROJECT

Please welcome our newest members! This year, the WLA is partnering with the Yellowstone Writing Project to present Dialoguing across MT Teachers and Western Literature Scholars: Indian Education for All Crossover Events, a series of workshops and presentations by award-winning teachers aimed at preparing Montana teachers to present Native American literatures and cultures in the classroom. All YWP events are open to the WLA membership, and teachers attending the conference will be attending many of the regular WLA sessions as part of their continuing education credit. The Yellowstone Writing Project is directed by Kirk Branch and Allison Wynhoff Olsen (Montana State University).
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To nominate a WLA member for the Executive Council: Find out if your nominee is willing to serve. Write the name and affiliation of your candidate on the flipchart in the registration area. Council members must be WLA members and must attend the next three WLA meetings, including the Wednesday afternoon Executive Council meeting. All nominees are advised to attend the Saturday morning business meeting.
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And a HUGE thank you to Chervil, aka Miss C, C-Dog, Dog, Cherv, and The Chervinator.
THE WESTERN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION PAYS TRIBUTE TO KIARA KHARPERTIAN,

who passed away in July 2016, after a six-year battle with cancer. She earned her Ph.D. from Boston College. In her words, her dissertation “argues that class is a function of labor in particular urban and rural spaces in Western lit and reading those representations (of class, labor, and space) alongside relevant history unveils how each contributes to regional identity.” Kiara was a loving friend and a talented scholar. Too ill to attend last year’s conference in Reno, she was determined to make an appearance nonetheless and skyped in her presentation. “Fuck cancer!” she said and finished her dissertation during her treatment. Kiara brought us the very best of the academic life: intellectual generosity, persistence, dedication, and the warmth of friendships that arise from shared interests and endeavors. Our sympathy is with her beloved husband and family, and her very dear WLA friends, Ashley Reis and Josh Anderson. While we are deeply saddened to lose her, we are endlessly grateful we knew her.
Minnesota, the “Star of the North” and the eastern edge of “the West,” is border country. It is the land of Manabozho and Nokomis, Paul Bunyan and his Babe, of Longfellow’s Hiawatha and Minnehaha, of Keillor’s Lake Wobegone and the Coen brothers’ Fargo. Here one finds the headwaters of the Mississippi, the international Boundary Waters, and the celebrated Guthrie Theater. Held at the Marriott City Center in downtown Minneapolis, the conference will allow participants to take advantage of the Twin Cities’ exciting theater, music, and food scenes.

Our conference’s theme grew from the short story collection Sweet Land by Minnesota writer Will Weaver (made into a movie in 2005) and Minnesota’s long heritage of nature and regional writing. The state is also known for its mythic figures and master storytellers, and the Twin Cities are a thriving theater center with an increasingly diverse ethnic population. For this reason we will present the Distinguished Achievement Award, for the first time, to a playwright, Rick Shiomi, also a director and the founder/artistic director of Theater Mu, one of the top Asian American theaters in the country.

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

- Myth, storytelling and storytellers, broadly interpreted
- Nature writing and literature of place
- Plays, theater, performance
- Native American and other ethnic writers and writing
- Borders and border crossing
- Minnesota/Midwestern writers/literature
- Food writing

We are also open to sessions on teaching, workshops, and roundtable discussions. Submissions must include a 250-word abstract, name, affiliation, contact information, and A/V requests. Proposals for panels and roundtable discussions should include an abstract for each paper or presentation. Deadline: June 15, 2017. Please submit questions to Florence Amamoto at amamoto@gac.edu or Susan Maher at smaher@d.umn.edu.

For more information, see westernlit.org/wla-conference-2017.
“Ahem, kindly get to the grizzly end.”