Western Literature Association Conference 2018
October 24–27

Indigenous Hubs • Gateway Cities • Border States

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

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

In addition to the excellent sessions by WLA members, we are excited to call attention to our 2018 Distinguished Achievement Award winners. We were able to offer two awards this year, one in criticism
to noted borderlands and Mexican American studies scholar José E. Limón, and one in creative writing to Percival Everett. We will showcase “A Reading for the Mound Builders,” with writers Allison Hedge-Coke, LeAnne Howe, and Phillip Carroll Morgan, envisioned and coordinated by Chadwick Allen. On Saturday morning, we’ll have a presentation by Sara L. Schwebel, focused on her digital humanities project, created in collaboration with the National Park Service, on the children’s book Island of the Blue Dolphins, which serves as a resource for K–12 educators. We hope you will join us for the Past President’s Luncheon, where last year’s WLA Co-President Florence Amamoto will have a dialogue with East St. Louis Black Arts Movement poet Eugene B. Redmond. This year, we have also created time for Women’s Breakfast to discuss the way the #MeToo movement has changed our classrooms, our scholarship, and our lives.

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

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

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

Acknowledgments

We thank our sponsors for their generous support:

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

Access the program (with abstracts) on your smart device: download Conference4me from the iTunes App Store, the Google Play Store, or the Windows Phone Store.
You can create your own schedule and receive live updates to the program!
WLA attendees in St. Louis are guests on the homelands of Native nations. This region, at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, has been urban for thousands of years: Cahokia, directly across the river from today’s St. Louis, housed the largest pre-Columbian civilization north of Mexico and was long a hub for trade, communication, and transportation throughout Indigenous North America. Today it is well known for its impressive earthen mounds, which the Osage Nation, among other tribal groups, counts as an important ancestral site. Although St. Louis itself was once home to over 40 mounds, and it was nicknamed “Mound City” before it was the “Gateway to the West,” today only one mound within the city limits has escaped destruction: Sugarloaf Mound, which was purchased by the Osage Nation in 2009. The tribe hopes to preserve the mound and develop an interpretive center to teach St. Louisans about their city’s history from an Indigenous perspective. In addition to the Osage, the state of Missouri was home to Otoe, Missouria, Iowa, Illini, Chickasaw, and Quapaw peoples. Due to the violence of removal, many other tribes migrated through Missouri; these included the Cherokee, Kickapoo, Shawnee, Delaware, and the Sac and Fox. Today there are no federally recognized Native nations in Missouri, but the state has an estimated 80,000 American Indian residents; St. Louis was site for relocation beginning in 1955, and it continues to have an urban Indian community that numbers about 3,000 people from many different tribes.

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

## Hotel floor map

inside front cover

## Presidential welcome message

1

## WEDNESDAY OVERVIEW

5

Opening Plenary: Film Screening of *Whose Streets?*

5

## THURSDAY OVERVIEW

6

Women’s Breakfast and MeToo Dialogue

7

Thursday Sessions

7–18

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

9

Past President’s Luncheon: A Conversation—Florence Amamoto and Eugene B. Redmond

13

Plenary with Distinguished Achievement Award Honoree José E. Limón

14

Roundtable on Dark Tourism

16

Plenary with Distinguished Achievement Award Honoree Percival Everett

18

## FRIDAY OVERVIEW

20

Friday Sessions

21–34

Roundtable: Annotating *Ántonia* at 100

22

Grad Student Panel “Beyond Academia”

23

Graduate Student Luncheon with José E. Limón and Teresa McKenna

27

Readers Theatre: Life after the Mississippi

28

Roundtable: Why Indigenous Literatures Matter

28

Plenary: “A Reading for the Mound Builders”

34

Annual Awards Banquet & Musical Performance by Candice Ivory

36

2018 Award Recipients

37

## SATURDAY OVERVIEW

38

Saturday Sessions

39–42

Plenary: “*Island of the Blue Dolphins* as History and Literature of the West:

A Public Humanities Collaboration,” with Sara L. Schwebel

39

WLA/Charles Redd Center K–12 Educator Panel

40

Business Meeting

42

WLA Executive Council

43

WLA Conference Sites & Presidents 1966–2017

44

Index

46–47
WEDNESDAY OVERVIEW

1:00PM – 4:00PM
WLA Executive Council Meeting (Regency Room)
Chair: Nicolas S. Witschi

4:00PM – 7:00PM
Registration (Khorassan Lobby)

6:30PM – 9:00PM

OPENING PLENARY:

Film Screening and Discussion with St. Louis Activists
Nicole Hudson, Jonathan Pulphus, and Alisha Sonnier
Introduced and moderated by Emily Lutenski
Location: Chase Cinema #5

9:00PM – 10:00PM
Welcome Reception and Cash Bar (Zodiac Room)
THURSDAY OVERVIEW

7:30AM – 9:00AM
Women’s Breakfast and MeToo Dialogue (Empire Room)

7:45AM – 4:00PM
Registration (Khorassan Lobby)

8:00AM – 5:00PM
Book Exhibit (Khorassan West)

8:30AM – 10:30AM
Coffee Service (Khorassan West)

9:00AM – 10:15AM
Sessions T2 & Grad Student Panel “The Best Advice I Received in Grad School/ Gave to Grad Students” (Forsyth)

10:30AM – 11:45PM
Sessions T3

12:00PM – 1:30PM
Past President’s Luncheon (Empire Room)

1:30PM – 2:45PM
Plenary with DAA Honoree José E. Limón (Khorassan Main)

2:30PM – 3:30PM
Coffee Service (Khorassan West)

3:00PM – 4:15PM
Sessions T6 & Roundtable on Dark Tourism (Lindell B)

4:30PM – 5:45PM
Plenary with DAA Honoree Percival Everett (Khorassan Main)

5:45PM – 7:00PM
Reception and Cash Bar (Khorassan West)

7:30PM – WHENEVER
Grad Student Social (Dressel’s Public House)

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

Please also use this same hashtag for Instagram and help us document the conference! Follow western_literature!
Women’s Breakfast and MeToo Dialogue

Location: Empire Room
Moderator: Carolyn Dekker, Finlandia University

Breakfast at 7:30. Open to all participants from 8:30–9:00. Self-identified women and gender nonconforming people are invited to meet over continental breakfast in order to establish friendships, coalitions, and mentoring relationships. Breakfast will be followed by a moderated discussion about how the MeToo movement has shaped classrooms, research, and lives.

Coffee Service
Location: Khorassan West

Thursday 8:30AM–10:30AM

T2A: Indigenous Performance Networks

Location: Regency Room
Chair: Christine Bold, University of Guelph

Natives in Transit: Navigating the Cultural and Labor Politics of Hollywood in the Mid-20th Century
Kiara M. Vigil, Amherst College

Jacob Floyd, Oklahoma State University

“Chula the Fox Comes into His Own”: Edwin Carewe and His Publicists
Joanna Hearne, University of Missouri

Princess White Deer’s Blanket
Christine Bold, University of Guelph, Canada
Thursday
9:00AM–10:15AM

T2B: Virtual Wests

Location: Lindell A
Chair: Sara Humphreys, University of Victoria

The Video Game West – “Gateway” to History & Issues
  William Chadwick Beharriell, St. Clair College, Canada
Refuge in the Open: Examining the Forms of Violence and Anarchy in Blood Meridian, Westworld, and Red Dead Redemption
  Travis Garrett Zimpfer, University of Colorado-Boulder
Black Mirror’s “San Junipero,” Authenticity, and the Myth of the West
  Katie Michele Googe, University of Southern California

T2C: Writers of the Progressive Era

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

“The Railroad had prevailed”: The Force of the Railroad in Frank Norris’s The Octopus
  Emily J. Rau, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Jack London’s Klondike Frontier and the Time of Settler Colonial Biopolitics
  Ryan Wander, University of California, Davis
“A Little New Bit of World”: Space, Movement, and Unbounded Potential in Willa Cather’s “The Enchanted Bluff”
  Sarah Jane Kerwin, University of Michigan

T2D: Public Humanities and the Archives

Location: Lindell D
Chair: Alex Hunt, West Texas A&M University

Minding the Gaps and Blurring the Borders: Unheard Voices of the George Sessions Perry Archive
  Cory Lock, St. Edward’s University
Buffalo Borderlands, Academic Centers: Doing Western American Scholarship in Public
  Alex Hunt, West Texas A&M University
From Small Domestic Acts to International Stages: The Art and Intersectional Activism of Joan Lipkin and That Uppity Theatre Company
  Maria Beach, Independent Scholar
T2E: Placing St. Louis in U.S. Cultural Studies

Location: Lindell B
Chair: Amanda J. Zink, Idaho State University

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

How the Bosnians Became White: Constructions of Whiteness in St. Louis
Corinne Wohlford, Benjamin Moore, Fontbonne University

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

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

Location: Waterman
Chair: Christian Knoeller, Purdue University

What the River Knows
Ryan Robert Schnurr, Purdue University

Reading Time into Place with Literary Naturalists Paul Gruchow, Elizabeth Dodd, and William Stafford
Michelle Marie Campbell, Purdue University

Rethinking the Aims of Prairie Restoration: Paul Gruchow’s Vision of Environmental History
Christian Knoeller, Purdue University

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

Location: Forsyth
Chair: Jessica Colleen Perez Lopez, Michigan State University

Participants:
Evelyn Funda, Utah State University
Sylvan Goldberg, Colorado College
Ashley Elaine Reis, SUNY Potsdam
Sara L. Spurgeon, Texas Tech University
Thursday
9:00AM–10:15AM

T2H: Mexican American Women Writers

Location: Portland
Chair: Priscilla Solis Ybarra, University of North Texas

Adaptation in the Borderlands
  Tisha Marie Reichle, University of Southern California
  Recipient of the Louis Owens Award

The Crazy Woman: Faith Healing, Trauma, and Magical Realism in *So Far from God*
  Gretchen Collier, Northern Arizona University

Thursday
10:30AM–11:45AM

T3A: Regionality, Internationality, Musicality, and the Diabolical

Location: Regency Room
Chair: Brady Harrison, University of Montana

Me and the Devil Blues: Limón's *Dancing with the Devil*, American Blues, and Black Aesthetics
  James Benson Wirth, University of Washington

“The Sound of Cultures Colliding”: Roger Knox, the Pine Valley Cosmonauts, and Transglobal Aboriginal Country
  Brady Harrison, University of Montana

Composing and Composition in “Harlem Renaissance” Los Angeles
  Emily Lutenski, Saint Louis University

T3B: Borderlands of Genre

Location: Lindell A
Chair: Susan Kollin, Montana State University

The Blood-Dimmed Frontier: Western Horror and the Borderlands of Genre
  Jeffrey Chisum, University of Southern California

Did Charles Portis Read Todd Downing? Native American and Settler Crime Fiction across the US-Mexico Border
  Jenna Hunnef, College of William & Mary

The Native Gothic in the Poetry of John Rollin Ridge
  Amanda Brooke Monte Leone, University of Texas at Arlington
  Recipient of the Dorys Grover Award
T3C: Desert as Dump

Location: Lindell C
Chair: Laurie Ricou, University of British Columbia

Human Beings as Desert Trash
  Gary Reger, Trinity College

All That Remains: The Half-Life of Desert Waste
  Jada Ach, University of South Carolina

The Storied Desert: Creating Value in Discarded Objects
  Jennifer Ann Dawes, Henderson State University

T3D: Comparative Contexts for Percival Everett’s Fiction

Location: Lindell D
Chair: Kerry Fine, Arizona State University

Cinematic Enactment in Percival Everett’s God’s Country
  Paul T Eaton, University of Maine-Orono

“[O]ne is lost to understand what this ... has to do with the [black] experience”: How and Why Percival Everett and André Alexis Reframed Greek Myths in Their Fiction
  Derek C. Maus, State University of New York at Potsdam

The “Slumbering Monstro of the Southwest”: Indian Water Rights in Percival Everett’s Watershed and Paolo Bacigalupi’s The Water Knife
  Paul Formisano, University of South Dakota

T3E: Indigenous Poetics

Location: Lindell B
Chair: Linda Helstern, North Dakota State University

Pollinators, Polli-Nation, and the Poetry of Carter Revard
  Linda Helstern, North Dakota State University

Indigenous Hubs and the Ecopoetics of Tommy Pico and Michael Wasson
  Kyle Bladow, Northland College
T3F: Transmotion, Transgression: Epistemologies across Borders

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

Unthinking Epistemic Borders with Black Elk’s “Great Vision”
Samuel Fletcher Stoeltje, Rice University

Robert Pirsig, the “Wizard of Bozeman”: Lost Borders, Divine Madness, and the Vision Quest
Peter Brock Olson, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse

“A crisis of spirit”: Alcoholism and Victimry in N. Scott Momaday’s House Made of Dawn and James Welch’s The Death of Jim Loney
Caitlin Simmons, University of Iowa

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

Location: Forsyth
Chair: Christine Bold, University of Guelph

The Sketch as a Global Form: Rethinking Resistance and Stereotypes in Sui Sin Far’s Fictional Sketches
Monique McDade, University of Nevada, Reno

How Bill Pickett Became Western: Racialization, Animalization, Performance
Susan Nance, University of Guelph, Canada

“For they were there!”: Dell Comic’s Lobo and the Black Cowboy in American Comic Books
Mike Lemon, Texas Tech University

T3H: Western Temporalities

Location: Portland
Chair: Robert William Thacker, St. Lawrence University

Cather, Indigeneity, and Temporality
William R. Handley, University of Southern California

“Red Blood and Delicate Joys”: Syncopated Time and Ecological Form in Mary Austin’s The Land of Little Rain
Meagan Rose Meylor, University of Southern California

Recipient of the Dorys Grover Award

The Old Iron Days: Conservative Temporality and the Western Imagination in the Writing of Theodore Roosevelt and His Circle
Stephen Mexal, California State University, Fullerton

Pilgrim on the Plains
Susan N. Maher, University of Minnesota Duluth
PAST PRESIDENT’S LUNCHEON
A Conversation:
Florence Amamoto and Eugene B. Redmond

Location: Empire Room

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

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

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

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

Photo by Christian Gooden for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.
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PLENARY: “The Streets of Laredo”

With Distinguished Achievement Award Honoree JOSÉ E. LIMÓN

Introduction by Long Le-Khac

Location: Khorassan Main

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

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

In my career, I have also focused my inter-disciplinary interests on ethnic Mexicans in Texas—the cradle of the American West. Yet this song has nothing to say about this community save implicitly in the simple naming of “Laredo” (Texas) in the title and first two lines. In what is otherwise a completely Anglophone and Anglo American/Irish cultural composition, this naming seems odd considering that, historically, Laredo has been demographically Spanish/national Mexican and ethnic Mexican in at least the 95th percentile to the present day. It is also located at an extreme border of the American West and was never really part of the “cattle kingdom.” My remarks will also explore the seeming disjunction between its appearance in the song and this identity as a very Hispanic/Mexican border place. In doing so, I will address the debate between the “old” and the “new” Western history and their concomitant literatures.
T6A: Cowgirls and Western Girlhood
Location: Regency Room
Chair: Rebecca M. Lush, California State University San Marcos

Spirit: Riding Free and the Frontiers of Western Girlhood: Nostalgia, Academics, and Motherhood
Meredith Harvey, George Williams College of Aurora University

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

“You Can’t Hold Places Still”: Environmental ‘Trouble,’ Literature, and Activism in US Western Women’s Writing
Elizabeth J Wright, Penn State University

T6B: Post-Western Frontiers
Location: Lindell A
Chair: Stefano Rosso, University of Bergamo, Italy

The Mad West: Reconceptualizing the Beat Generation’s Left Coast
Robert Bruce Bennett, Montana State University

“Ramblin’”: Ken Kesey, Ornette Coleman, and Post-Western Jazz Frontiers
Rob Wallace, Northern Arizona University

“Always about America”? Transnationalism and the Nation in Asian Post-Westerns
Johannes Fehrle, Independent Scholar, Germany

Mr. West’s Cowboy, Lemonade Joe, and Val Kilmer’s Dead Man: The Continuing Presence of the U.S. West in the Eastern European Cinematic Imaginary
Marek Paryz, University of Warsaw, Poland

T6C: Percival Everett’s Western Fiction
Location: Lindell C
Chair: Joshua Smith, Biola University

Percival Everett’s Western Revenant
Kerry Fine, Arizona State University

“Reading the Slash” in Percival Everett’s American Desert
Joe Weixlmann, Saint Louis University

If Wishes Were Wellness: The West after Vietnam in Percival Everett and Doug Peacock
Carolyn Dekker, Finlandia University
T6D: Negotiating Borderlands in the Early American West

Location: Lindell D
Chair: Amy T. Hamilton, Northern Michigan University

The Gothic and the Containment of the Northwest Indian War
  David Lawrimore, Idaho State University
“To Summon and Vanish an Antique America”
  Derek Kane O’Leary, UC Berkeley
Reliance and Alliance: Rethinking Native American Engagement in the Spanish Colonial West
  Keri Holt, Utah State University
Charles Brockden Brown’s Caving Texts and Landscapes
  Daniel Diez Couch, United States Air Force Academy

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

Location: Lindell B
Chair: Jennifer Ann Dawes, Henderson State University

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

Participants
  Maria Cecilia Azar, California State University, Los Angeles
  Judson Barber, University of Texas at Austin
  Jennifer Ann Dawes, Henderson State University
  Gary Reger, Trinity College

T6F: Rethinking the Anthropocene

Location: Waterman
Chair: Jenny Kerber, Wilfrid Laurier University

The Ongoing Coloniality of Environmentalism and the Concept of the Anthropocene
  Priscilla Solis Ybarra, University of North Texas
May Swenson and the Place of the Human
  Paul Crumbley, Utah State University
“The freedom of birds” and the “measure of blood”: Biopolitics and Cormac McCarthy’s West
  Susan Kollin, Montana State University
T6G: Creative Writing: Poetry of Places, Bodies, Streets

Location: Forsyth
Chair: Conrad Shumaker, University of Central Arkansas

The West Side of Town
  Candace Lee Black, Minnesota State University Mankato
Body Turn to Rain: New and Selected Poems
  Richard Robbins, Minnesota State University
The Ballet of the Streets and Other Poems
  Anna Schmidt, Maryville University
Border Identity: Navigating a Netherworld between the “Near West” States of Iowa and South Dakota
  Penni Elizabeth Pearson, Northern State University

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

Location: Portland
Chair: Cory Lock, St. Edward’s University

Searching for Home, Finding Spirit with José Limón
  Christina Garcia Lopez, University of San Francisco
Connection through Respeto: Legacies Continue
  Kamala Platt, School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies (SHARCS), New College, ASU Online
Exploring the Texan-Midwestern Link with José Limón
  Olga Lydia Herrera, University of St. Thomas

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

Location: Khorassan Main

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

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

Thursday
4:30PM–5:45PM

Reception and Cash Bar
Location: Khorassan West

Thursday
5:45PM–7:00PM

Graduate Student Social Gathering
DRESSEL’S PUBLIC HOUSE
419 N. EUCLID AVE.

The graduate student social will be on the second floor.
West of Harlem
African American Writers and the Borderlands
Emily Lutenski
344 pages, 28 illustrations, Cloth $39.95

Torn from Their Bindings
A Story of Art, Science, and the Pillaging of American University Libraries
Travis McDade
248 pages, 10 photographs, Cloth $24.95

The American Elsewhere
Adventure and Manliness in the Age of Expansion
Jimmy L. Bryan Jr.
408 pages, 30 photographs, Cloth $39.95

The Last Wild Places of Kansas
Journeys into Hidden Landscapes
George Frazier
232 pages, 10 photographs, 1 map, Paper $19.95

Osage Women and Empire
Gender and Power
Tai Edwards
230 pages, 10 photographs, 4 maps, Cloth $45.00, Paper $24.95

Headlights on the Prairie
Essays on Home
Robert Rebein
184 pages, Paper $19.95

Rhythms of Change in Rocky Mountain National Park
Ellen Wohl
240 pages, 15 color photographs, 34 black and white photographs, Cloth $27.95

The Cherokee Kid
Will Rogers, Tribal Identity, and the Making of an American Icon
Amy M. Ware
328 pages, 27 illustrations, Cloth $39.95

No Place Like Home
Lessons in Activism from LGBT Kansas
C.J. Janovy
308 pages, 14 photographs, Cloth $29.95

Abolitionists, Doctors, Ranchers, and Writers
A Family Journey through American History
Lynne Marie Getz
368 pages, 15 photographs, 1 map, 1 figure, Cloth $49.95, Paper $27.95

Dodge City and the Birth of the Wild West
Robert R. Dykstra and Jo Ann Manfra
248 pages, 28 illustrations, Cloth $45.00, Paper $22.95

American Serengeti
The Last Big Animals of the Great Plains
Dan Flores
222 pages, 20 photographs, 5 maps, Cloth $29.95, Paper $19.95

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FRIDAY OVERVIEW

7:30AM – 9:00AM
    Presidents’ Breakfast (Presidents only) (Ogie Boardroom)

7:45AM – 4:00PM
    Registration (Khorassan Lobby)

8:00AM – 5:00PM
    Book Exhibit (Khorassan West)

8:30AM – 10:30AM
    Coffee Service (Khorassan West)

9:00AM – 10:15AM
    Sessions F1 & Roundtable: Annotating Ántonia at 100 (Lindell C) &
    Grad Student Panel “Beyond Academia” (Forsyth)

10:30AM – 11:45AM
    Sessions F2

12:00PM – 1:30PM
    Graduate Student Luncheon with José E. Limón and Teresa McKenna (Empire Room)
    & Readers Theatre: Life after the Mississippi—A Parody and Critique in 1.5 Acts,
    with a little music for good measure (Regency Room)

1:30PM – 2:45PM
    Sessions F3 & Roundtable: Why Indigenous Literatures Matter (Regency Room)

2:30PM – 3:30PM
    Coffee Service (Khorassan West)

3:00PM – 4:15PM
    Sessions F4

4:30PM – 5:45PM
    Plenary: “A Reading for the Mound Builders” (Khorassan Main)

6:00PM – 7:00PM
    Reception and Cash Bar (Khorassan West)

7:00PM – 11:00PM
    WLA Banquet
    Followed by a Musical Performance Featuring Candice Ivory (Starlight Room)
F1A: Living a Feminist Life in the West: Reading, Writing, Teaching

Location: Regency Room  
Chair: Amanda Ross Gradisek, Walsh University

“We come here, we work, we die”: The Logic of Misogyny in the Faux-Feminist West(ern)
   Randi Tanglen, Austin College
Intersecting Missions: Feminism, Catholicism, and Tracks
   Amanda Gradisek, Walsh University
Colonialism and Gendered Violence in the Grassy, Bloody West
   Amy T. Hamilton, Northern Michigan University

F1B: African American Representation and Presence in the Weird Western

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

The Legend of Bass Reeves and Black Lawmen in SyFy’s Wynonna Earp
   Rebecca M. Lush, California State University San Marcos
Over-determined and Under-thought: The Heroic Function of Blackness in Stephen King’s Dark Tower
   Jacob Burg, Brandeis University
Captives, Slaves, and Racial Subversion in William Sanders’ Alt History Western, Journey to Fusang
   Sara L. Spurgeon, Texas Tech University
Uncle Tom’s Cabin Showdown: Stowe, Tarantino, and the Minstrelsy of the Weird West
   Joshua Smith, Biola University
F1C: Annotating Ántonia at 100

Location: Lindell C
Moderator: Daryl W Palmer, Regis University

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

Cultural Perspective on the Mushrooms from “Some Deep Bohemian Forest”
   Evelyn Funda, Utah State University
Blind Boone
   Tracy Sanford Tucker, Willa Cather Foundation
W. T. Benda’s Drawing of Lena Lingard
   Melissa J. Homestead, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Homesteading Nebraska
   Robert Thomas Marcell, Homestead National Monument of America
New Approaches to Shared Authority and Annotation
   Cassandra Tucker, Independent Scholar
The Two Introductions and The Professor’s House
   Robert William Thacker, St. Lawrence University

F1D: Settler Transit and the Transnational West

Location: Lindell D
Chair: Brady Harrison, University of Montana

This Stretch of the River: Affective Mappings Responding to Settler De/Re-territorializing
   Laura M De Vos, University of Washington
Make Settler Fantasy Strange Again: Unsettling Normative White Masculinity in Robert E. Howard’s Weird West
   Travis Franks, Arizona State University
   Recipient of the J. Golden Taylor Award
Explorer Narratives, Whitefella Dreamings, and the Settler-Colonial Imaginary
   Tom Lynch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Extractivism, Indigenization, and Resistance in the Westerns of Ivan Sen and Taylor Sheridan
   Alex Trimble Young, Arizona State University
F1E: Indigenous Women Writers and Tribal Knowledges

Location: Lindell B
Chair: Susan Bernardin, Oregon State University

“In harmony with the desert”: Syncretic Modernism in Polingaysi Qoyawayma’s No Turning Back
   Amanda J. Zink, Idaho State University

Why a New Edition of Mourning Dove’s Cogewea Matters
   Sara Humphreys, University of Victoria, Canada

“We Are Here Thousands of Years”: Tribal Subjectivities and the White Possessive in
   Leslie Marmon Silko’s Almanac of the Dead
   Andrew Hamilton, University of Minnesota

F1F: Contextualizing Western Masculinities

Location: Waterman
Chair: Peter Bayers, Fairfield University

Frog Stories: The Trouble to Come
   Chris Dolle, University of Iowa

“He was no longer a white man”: The Fragility of White Settler Masculinity in John Joseph Matthews’s Sundown
   William Conable, University of Oregon

Decolonizing Lakota Male Masculinities in Ella Deloria’s Waterlily
   Peter Bayers, Fairfield University

F1G: Grad Student Panel “Beyond Academia”

Location: Forsyth
Chair: Rachel Heise Bolten, Stanford University

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

Participants

Eliza Sanders, Advancement Officer for Corporate and Foundation Relations at the University of Missouri-St. Louis
Jody Sowell, Curator of Exhibitions and Research, Missouri History Museum
F1H: Creative Writing: Western Places in Poetry and Prose

Location: Portland  
Chair: Joshua Dolezal, Central College

The Road to Billings  
Joshua Dolezal, Central College

Pheasant Tail Nymph  
Jillian Moore Bennion, Duquesne University

Poems from West to South  
Conrad Shumaker, University of Central Arkansas

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

Location: Regency Room  
Chair: Bernadette V Russo, Texas Tech University

Wendigo and Survivance in “The Fast Red Road”  
Bernadette V Russo, Texas Tech University  
Recipient of the Louis Owens Award

Subverting the “REDline”: Stephen Graham Jones’s Blackfeet Borderlands  
Nadhim Grewal, Goldsmiths University of London, United Kingdom

Monsters on the Border: Place in Mongrels  
Erin N. Bistline, Texas A&M University

He’s the One Who Fights the Monsters for Us: Confrontations with Monstrosity, Horror, and Evil in the Works of Stephen Graham Jones  
Billy J. Stratton, University of Denver
F2B: Popular Westerns

Location: Lindell A
Chair: Stefano Rosso, University of Bergamo, Italy

Willa Cather and Edith Lewis Playing Cowboy in the Southwest
   Melissa J. Homestead, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Ec-centric Westerns: From Emilio Salgari to Tex Willer and Beyond
   Stefano Rosso, University of Bergamo, Italy
   Michael Charles Brickey, St. Louis University

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

Location: Lindell C
Chair: Audrey Goodman, Georgia State University

“Nobody ever tell itwhat white man do to Indian. That’s reason I tell it. That’s history. That’s truth. I seen it myself.” T’tc~tsa
   Jean Pfaelzer, University of Delaware
Post-Marital Agency, Collaborative Authorship, and Mobile Couplehood in Twice Sold, Twice Ransomed
   Martha Pitts, Fairleigh Dickinson University
Housekeeping, and the Uneven Politics of Women’s Mobility
   Mallory Pladus, Rice University

F2D: Chicanx Literatures

Location: Lindell D
Chair: José F. Aranda, Rice University

What Is a Border?
   Sharon Ann Reynolds, Palomar College
Racial Identity and Surveillance: An Exploration of Sovereignty through Richard Vasquez’s Chicano: A Novel
   Jessica Colleen Perez Lopez, Michigan State University
What They Are Drawing On: Love and Rockets, Chicano Comics, and Feminist ‘Zines
   Victoria Herrera Cannon, Saint Louis University
F2E: The Geologic West (A panel organized by the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment)

**Location:** Lindell B  
**Chair:** Daniel Clausen, University of Nebraska

- Burroughs and Muir at the Grand Canon: Nature Writing and the Shapes of Ecotourism  
  Eric Morel, University of Washington
- Unsettling Dreams: Investigating Environmental Crisis in Earthquake Fiction from the Pacific Northwest  
  Hannah Rose Smay, University of Utah, Environmental Humanities
- Precarious West: *Butcher’s Crossing* and the Anthropocene’s Unexceptionality  
  Sylvan Goldberg, Colorado College
  Cory Glen Willard, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

F2F: The Nuclear West

**Location:** Waterman  
**Chair:** Matt Burkhart, Case Western Reserve University

- The “Cold War West” in Don DeLillo’s *Underworld*  
  Vincent Gerard Casaregola, Saint Louis University
- Telling Stories of the Nuclear Midwest: Waste Sites, Environmental Justice, and Activism  
  Kyoko Matsunaga, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, Japan
- Toxic Travelogues: Crossblood Pilgrims, Radioactive Ruins, and the “Nuclear” Family in the Postindian West  
  Joshua Tyler Anderson, Ohio State University

F2G: Western Futurities: Speculative, Decolonial, Utopian

**Location:** Forsyth  
**Chair:** Maria O’Connell, Wayland Baptist University

- Speculative Migration: The “Plausible Desirable Futures” of Mohsin Hamid’s *Exit West*  
  Trent McDonald, Washington University in St. Louis
- Beware *La India!* Indigenous and Feminist Disruption in the Speculative World of Jaime Hernandez’s *Love and Rockets Series*  
  Amelia Flood, St. Louis University
F2H: California Writers I

Location: Portland  
Chair: Florence Amamoto, Gustavus Adolphus College

Creeping Women and Vicious Wallpaper: Moral Rhetoric in Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s “The Yellow Wall-paper”  
Chaney Elizabeth Hill, Boise State University  
“I never became a communist until I went to Russia”: One of the Many Lives of Kansas-Oklahoma-Colorado-California Writer Sanora Babb (1907–2005)  
Christie Smith, Colorado Mountain College  
Maternal Thinking in An Owl on Every Post  
Katherine Emily Witt, US Air Force Academy

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Graduate Student Luncheon with José Aranda

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

José Limón is one of our Distinguished Achievement Award recipients this year (see p. 14). Teresa McKenna is a foundational scholar in Chicana feminist studies and Associate Professor Emerita at the University of Southern California. Both have graciously agreed to join the Grad Student Luncheon for informal conversation.
Readers Theatre: Life after the Mississippi—A Parody and Critique in 1.5 Acts, with a little music for good measure

Location: Regency Room
Co-written, directed, and produced by David Fenimore, Rebecca Lush, and Alan Weltzien.
Cast members recruited from the WLA membership.

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

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

Location: Regency Room
Chair: Kirby Lynn Brown, University of Oregon


Participants:

James H. Cox, University of Texas at Austin
Daniel Heath Justice, University of British Columbia, Canada
Sheela Jane Menon, Dickinson College
Dustin Tahmahkera, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Lisa Tatonetti, Kansas State University
Candessa Tehee, Northeastern State University
F3B: The Broken Heart of the West: Missouri Then as Now
Location: Lindell A
Chair: Emily Lutenski, St. Louis University
Cowboy Cops and Black Lives Matter: Ebb Tides and the Great White West[ern]
   Debbie Olson, Missouri Valley College
Regarding the Rage of Others: Three Billboards toward Ebbing Misery
   Lars Larson, University of Portland

F3C: Environmental Science, Rhetorics, and Visualities
   (Feminist Critical Regionalism 2)
Location: Lindell C
Chair: Krista Comer, Rice University
“Nowhere Is It Placid”: Turbulent Discourse in the Feminist West
   Rachel Linnea Brown, University of Kansas
“The Personal Is Geological”: Anthropocene Feminism and the Personal Memoir in
   Terese Marie Mailhot’s Heart Berries
   Annie Culver, Rice University
Entangled Locations: Feminist Ways of Seeing Contemporary Wests
   Audrey Goodman, Georgia State University

F3D: Hydropolitics, Unruly Rivers, and Ghostly Oceans
Location: Lindell D
Chair: Sylvan Goldberg, Colorado College
“Water wanted all things equal”: Hydropolitics in Linda Hogan’s Solar Storms
   Lubna Alzaroo, University of Washington
Faulkner’s Unruly Rivers and Undue Burdens
   Jeannette Schollaert, University of Maryland
Bringing the Atlantic West: O Pioneers! and the Ghost of Maritime Literature
   Matthew Kastrup Hitchman, University of Washington
F3E: Western Hubs, Gateways, and Borders

Location: Lindell B
Chair: Tim Steckline, Black Hills State University

Broken Spokes: Cultural and Commercial Transit in the Indigenous Hub of Gallup, NM
Carolyn Marie Kuchera, University of New Mexico-Gallup

Gates without Walls, Walls without Gates: Open Borders as Western Marronage
Tim Steckline, Black Hills State University

Challenges to Borders in Gretel Ehrlich’s Work
Jill Hampton, University of South Carolina-Aiken

Spanish Missions, Textbooks, and Archives: California’s Indigenous Hubs
Lydia Marie Heberling, University of Washington, Seattle

Recipient of the Louis Owens Award

F3F: Travel, Tourism, and Public Land Use

Location: Waterman
Chair: Jennifer Ladino, University of Idaho

Public Lands as Settler Commons
April Anson, University of Oregon

“The God-given right to play”: Leisure as a Contested Practice and the African American West
Shelly Jarenski, University of Michigan Dearborn

Equity in the Outdoors: Decolonizing Western Lands at the Crag, along the Trail, and on the Slopes
Ashley Elaine Reis, SUNY Potsdam

Books as Well as Men Are Fallible: Facts, Credibility, and Western Boosterism in the Early Nineteenth Century
J. T. Jamieson, University of California, Berkeley

F3H: California Writers II

Location: Portland
Chair: Richard Hutson, University of California, Berkeley

Canaan in California: The Typological Impulse in Religious Discourse of the Gold Rush
Lawrence William Coates, Bowling Green State University

Crossing Cynical Borders: Wright Morris’s Love among the Cannibals
John Samson, Texas Tech University

“The Split Level Life”: Ross Macdonald’s The Chill (1963)
Richard E. Hutson, University of California, Berkeley
F4A: Feminist Westerns and the “Strange Stuff” of the Femicide
(Feminist Critical Regionalism 3)

Location: Regency Room
Chair: José F. Aranda, Rice University

Women Gunfighters in *Westworld*: West, Affect, Power
Victoria Elizabeth Lamont, University of Waterloo, Canada

Lipstick Traces: The “Strange Stuff” of Dreamland and the Problem of the Allegorical
Stephen Tatum, University of Utah

After Postfeminism: Feminist Westerns & California Bodies in *Twentieth Century Women*
Krista Comer, Rice University

F4B: Indigenous ReMappings of the Mississippi River

Location: Lindell A
Chair: Kelly Wisecup, Northwestern University

Indigenous ReMappings of the Mississippi River
Kelly Wisecup, Northwestern University

Writing the River: Ioway Map-Making and the Literature of Indian Diplomacy
Frank Peter Kelderman, University of Louisville

Mississippi Palimpsests: Joy Harjo’s “New Orleans” and Heid E. Erdrich’s “Pre-Occupied”
Sara Cerne, Northwestern University

Indigenous Origins, Separation, and Return on the Mississippi
Angela Calcaterra, University of North Texas
Friday
3:00PM–4:15PM

F4C: Western Pedagogies

Location: Lindell C
Chair: Alex Hunt, West Texas A&M University
Politics of Location and Belonging: Pedagogical Strategies for the Diverse Classroom
   Gwendolyn Christy Edward, University of Missouri—Columbia
On Using Fan Fiction to Teach My Ántonia
   Todd Richardson, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Welcome to the West, Adam Smith!
   Kary Doyle Smout, Washington and Lee University
Teaching from the Border: The Dime Novels of the Texas Collection
   Tara C. Foley, Baylor University

F4D: Futurisms

Location: Lindell D
Chair: Sara L. Spurgeon, Texas Tech University
Social Activism and Indigenous Futurism through Native Slipstream and Time in Ledfeather
   Alise Marie Wisniewski, University of Denver
Indigenous Futurisms in Comic Form: Past, Presence, and Future in “Ue-Pucase”
   Julia M Fleming, University of Denver
The Posthuman Woman of Color and Survivance in Octavia Butler’s Afro-Futurism
   Maria O’Connell, Wayland Baptist University
The Devolution of English and the Killing of Written Text in Jack London’s The Scarlet Plague (1913)
   Hisayuki Hikage, Reitaku University, Japan

F4E: African American Westerners

Location: Lindell B
Chair: Kalenda Eaton, Arcadia University
Black Montana: Self-Representation and Representation in the Strange Story of Taylor Gordon
   Oliver Alan Weltzien, University of Montana Western
Buffalo Soldiers in the Borderlands West: Shelton Johnson’s Gloryland
   Jennifer Ladino, University of Idaho
Juanita Harrison and Black Internationalism: A Literary and Cultural Biography
   Cathryn Halverson, Minot State University
F4F: Creative Writing: Nonfiction

Location: Waterman
Chair: Joshua Dolezal, Central College

Salal and Street Signs: Voyages of Discovery, Reflections on Place
  Anne L. Kaufman, Milton Academy
Postcards from an American Love Story
  Max Frazier, Bennington College
An Unquiet Retreat
  Nicholas Henson, Citrus College

F4G: Representations of (Still)Birth in Western Literatures

Location: Forsyth
Chair: Katherine Emily Witt, US Air Force Academy

“That Violent and Promiscuous Birth”: Captivity and Creation in Mary Hallock Foote’s Arid West
  Quinn Grover, BYU-Idaho
“Heathenish Customs”: Birth and Loss in Susan Shelby Magoffin’s Diary
  Erin Murrah-Mandril, University of Texas at Arlington

F4H: Western Work

Location: Portland
Chair: Drucilla Wall, University of Missouri-Saint Louis

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

**Presenters:**

Chadwick Allen, University of Washington  
Allison Adelle Hedge Coke, University of California Riverside  
LeAnne Howe, University of Georgia  
Phillip Carroll Morgan, Chickasaw Nation
NEW

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

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**DISCOVER THE GREAT PLAINS**

Also available:

*Great Plains Indians*  
by David Wishart

*Great Plains Bison*  
by Dan O’Brien
Friday
6:00PM–7:00PM
Reception and Cash Bar
Location: Khorassan West

Friday
7:00PM–11:00PM
WLA Awards Banquet
Followed by a Musical Performance by Candice Ivory
Location: Starlight Room

The “Queen of Avant Soul,” Candice Ivory, will perform at the WLA awards banquet. Today she’s a St. Louisan, but Ms. Ivory has roots in Memphis, Tennessee, and is immersed in the jazz, blues, gospel, and soul traditions of both places. Her performance will start after the award presentation, around 9:00, and is open to all attendees.
2018 WLA Award Recipients

**DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**
For an influential scholar or creative writer in western American literature
- Percival Everett and José E. Limón

**DELBERT & EDITH WYLDER AWARD**
For outstanding service to the association
- Tom Lynch (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

**THOMAS J. LYON BOOK AWARD**
For most outstanding book published in 2017 in western American literary and cultural studies
- Richard Etulain
  for *Ernest Haycox and the Western* (University of Oklahoma Press)

**DON D. WALKER PRIZE**
For best essay published in western American literary studies in 2017
- Jessica Hurley (University of Chicago)
  for “Impossible Futures: Fictions of Risk in the Longue Durée,” *American Literature* 89.4

**FREDERICK MANFRED AWARD**
For the best creative writing submission to the conference
- Sidney Thompson (Texas Christian University)
  for “Thataway,” an excerpt from *Bazz: Narrative of the Life of Bass Reeves* (a novel in progress)

**WLA/CHARLES REDD CENTER K-12 TEACHING AWARD**
- Nathan Parker (Holland Hall School, Tulsa, OK)
  for “Susan Glaspell’s ‘A Jury of Her Peers’/Trifles: Everyone’s Favorite High-Plains Playwright”

**J. GOLDEN TAYLOR AWARD**
For best essay presented at the conference by a graduate student
- Travis Franks (Arizona State University)
  for “Make Settler Fantasy Strange Again: Unsettling Normative White Masculinity in Robert E. Howard’s Weird West”

**DORYS GROVER AWARDS**
For outstanding papers presented at the conference by graduate students who contribute to our critical understandings of region, place, and space in western American literatures
- Meagan Meylor (University of Southern California)
  for “Red Blood and Delicate Joys’: Syncopated Time and Ecological Form in Mary Austin’s *The Land of Little Rain*”
- Amanda Monteleone (University of Texas at Arlington)
  for “The Native Gothic in the Poetry of John Rollin Ridge”

**LOUIS OWENS AWARDS**
For graduate student presenters contributing most to cultural diversity in the association
- Lydia Heberling (University of Washington-Seattle), presenting “Spanish Missions, Textbooks, and Archives: California’s Indigenous Hubs”
- Tisha Reichle (University of Southern California), presenting “Adaptation in the Borderlands”
- Bernadette Russo (Texas Tech), presenting “Wendigo and Survivance in ‘The Fast Red Road’”
SUNDAY OVERVIEW

8:00AM – 12:00PM
Book Exhibit (Khorassan West)

8:00AM – 9:15AM
• Plenary: “Island of the Blue Dolphins as History and Literature of the West: A Public Humanities Collaboration,” with Sara L. Schwebel (Khorassan Main)
• The Stephen Graham Jones Society Organizational Meeting (Regency Room)

8:30AM – 10:30AM
Coffee Service (Khorassan West)

9:30AM – 10:45AM
Sessions S2 & WLA/Charles Redd Center K–12 Educator Panel (Regency Room)

11:00AM – 12:15PM
WLA Business Meeting (Khorassan Main)

12:30PM – 5:00PM
Excursion: Cahokia Mounds

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CSAW Center for the Study of the American West

Research Support Program

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

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

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

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Spring 2019 Grant Applications

DUE BY APRIL 1, 2019

• Awards up to $2,000/grant depending on the researcher’s topic and need.

• Provides access to the West Texas A&M University special collections and Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum archives.

• Promotes and develops interdisciplinary scholarship, education, and public outreach in relation to the American West.

• Assists with non-monetary support for the recipient’s visit to Canyon, Texas.

• Helps find venues for research publication, also including the Panhandle-Plains Historical Review.
PLENARY: “Island of the Blue Dolphins as History and Literature of the West: A Public Humanities Collaboration”
With Sara L. Schwebel
Location: Khorassan Main

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

The Stephen Graham Jones Society Organizational Meeting
Location: Regency Room
Chairs: Bernadette V Russo, Texas Tech University, and Billy J. Stratton, University of Denver

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

Coffee Service
Location: Khorassan West
S2A: WLA/Charles Redd Center K-12 Educator Panel
Location: Regency Room
Chair: Randi Tanglen, Austin College

Susan Glaspell’s “A Jury of Her Peers”/Trifles: Everyone's Favorite High-Plains Playwright
Nathan Lyle Parker, Holland Hall School, Tulsa, OK
Recipient of the WLA/Charles Redd Center K–12 Teaching Award

S2B: Film and Television
Location: Lindell A
Chair: Jeffrey Chisum, University of Southern California

The Reel Borderlands: The Migrant Child in Rebecca Cammisa’s Which Way Home
Guadalupe Escobar, University of Nevada, Reno
Lies My TV Told Me: “Laughing Back” to Media Stereotypes in US Ethnic Literature
Anne Mai Yee Jansen, University of North Carolina at Asheville
The Pioneer Woman Versus Modernism: Post-1930s Ambivalence toward an American Nationalist Myth
Patricia Oman, Hastings College

S2C: Creative Writing: Fiction
Location: Lindell C
Chair: Jillian Moore Bennion, Duquesne University

“Thataway,” an excerpt from the novel Bazz: Narrative of the Life of Bass Reeves
Sidney Thompson, Texas Christian University
Recipient of the Frederick Manfred Award

Badlands
William Jensen, Center for the Study of the Southwest

Short Story: Set It on Fire
Lori Baker Martin, Pittsburg State University

Archives, Fiction, & History: Writing Westerns
Thomas Fox Averill, Washburn University
S2D: Confluences of History and Region

Location: Lindell D
Chair: Carol M. Barnett, Centenary University

Unwilling and Unsung: Heroines of the Westward Migration
Carol M. Barnett, Centenary University

Mari Sandoz’ Crazy Horse and Its Bioregional Historiography
Yeojin Kim, The Incheon Academy of Science and Arts, Republic of South Korea

Migrants to Settlers: Figuring 19th-Century Narratives of Norwegians in Texas
Solveig Sigurdardottir, Rice University

S2E: Reading and Writing Survivance

Location: Lindell B
Chair: Jenna Hunnef, College of William & Mary

“They Always Need an Exception”: Native Personhood, Erasure, and Forgiveness in
Louise Erdrich’s The Plague of Doves
Kassie Jo Baron, University of Iowa

“The coming of the border white man”: Cosmopolitics in Charles Eastman’s The Soul of the Indian
Kristen Brown, University of South Carolina

Notes toward the Liberation of Black Hawk’s Colonized Identity
Donovan Gwinner, Aurora University

Becoming a Better Species: Indigenous Apocalpyse and Ecological Epistemology in Robopocalpyse
Luke Morgan, Texas Tech University

S2F: Western Illustration and Photography

Location: Waterman
Chair: Mike Lemon, Texas Tech University

The Southeast West: The Lone Ranger and Japanese American Incarceration on the Mississippi Delta
Mika Kennedy, University of Michigan

Photo-Text as Poem: Wright Morris Does Wittgenstein
Michael Brown, Creighton University

Hard World for Little Things
Rachel Heise Bolten, Stanford University

“Revised and Enlarged”: Illustrations as Borderlands in John Wesley Powell’s Canyons of the Colorado
Elizabeth Mathias, US Air Force
Saturday
9:30AM–10:45AM

S2G: Climate Writing

Location: Forsyth
Chair: Matt Burkhart, Case Western Reserve University

Climates of Violence, Spirits of Resistance: Climate Fiction by Chang-rae Lee and Louise Erdrich
   Michael Gorman, Hiroshima City University, Japan
Re-reading the Poetry of Northern Infrastructure in a Changing Climate
   Jenny Kerber, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada
The Desert[ing] of the Real? Anthropocene Pageantry in TC Boyle’s The Terranauts
   Matt Burkhart, Case Western Reserve University

Saturday
11:00AM–12:15PM

WLA Business Meeting

Location: Khorassan Main
Presiding: Nicolas S. Witschi, WLA Executive Secretary

See Executive Council Member nominating procedures on next page.

Saturday
12:30PM–5:00PM

Excursion to Cahokia Mounds

Meet in the Khorassan Lobby.

BADGE RECYCLING PROGRAM
You will notice boxes marked “Badge Recycling.” When you leave the conference, please drop your conference badge into one of these boxes or hand it to an “official.” Thanks for saving the environment!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Term</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emily Lutenski</td>
<td>Co-President</td>
<td>St. Louis University</td>
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<td>Michael K. Johnson</td>
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<td>SueEllen Campbell</td>
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<td>Alex Hunt</td>
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<td>Rebecca Lush</td>
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<td>Florence Amamoto</td>
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<td>Nicolas Witschi</td>
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<td>Nancy Cook</td>
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<td>Tom Lynch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Hamilton</td>
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<td>Brady Harrison</td>
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<td>Lisa Tatonetti</td>
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<td>Amanda Zink</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Bolten</td>
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<td>Matt Burkhart</td>
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<td>William V. Lombardi</td>
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<td>Maria O’Connell</td>
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<td>Ashley Reis</td>
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<td>Kyoko Matsunaga</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Kobe City University of Foreign Studies</td>
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<td>Joshua Smith</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Biola University</td>
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</table>

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>President/s</th>
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<td>Salt Lake City, Utah</td>
<td>C. L. Sonnichsen</td>
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<td>Albuquerque, New Mexico</td>
<td>Delbert E. Wylder</td>
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<td>Colorado Springs, Colorado</td>
<td>Jim L. Fife</td>
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<td>1975</td>
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<td>Maynard Fox</td>
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<td>Arthur R. Huseboe</td>
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<td>1999</td>
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<td>2003</td>
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<td>Susan Kollin</td>
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<td>2005</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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The WLA Conference 2020 will be co-hosted by Rebecca Lush and Kerry Fine on October 21–24 and will take place in the beautiful coastal area of the Hilton San Diego Del Mar, located just one mile from the beach and in close proximity to the Cedros Avenue Design District and Solana Beach.

The theme will be Graphic Wests.

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

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

Exhibits

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ach, Jada</td>
<td>T3C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen, Chadwick</td>
<td>p.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alzaroo, Lubna</td>
<td>F3D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amamoto, Florence</td>
<td>F2H, p.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Joshua Tyler</td>
<td>F2F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Nathan</td>
<td>F4H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anson, April</td>
<td>F3F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aranda, José F.</td>
<td>F2D, F4A, p.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Averill, Thomas Fox</td>
<td>S2C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azar, Maria Cecilia</td>
<td>T6E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker Martin, Lori</td>
<td>S2C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barber, Judson</td>
<td>T6E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnett, Carol M.</td>
<td>S2D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baron, Kassie Jo</td>
<td>S2E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayers, Peter</td>
<td>F1F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach, Maria</td>
<td>T2D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beharriell, William</td>
<td>T2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennett, Robert Bruce</td>
<td>T6B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernardin, Susan</td>
<td>F1E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bistline, Erin N.</td>
<td>F2A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black, Candace Lee</td>
<td>T6G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bladow, Kyle</td>
<td>T3E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold, Christine</td>
<td>T2A, T3G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolten, Rachel</td>
<td>F1G, S2F, p.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bricky, Michael Charles</td>
<td>F2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooks, Ryan M.</td>
<td>F4H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, Kirby</td>
<td>F3A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, Kristen</td>
<td>S2E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, Michael</td>
<td>S2F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, Rachel Linnea</td>
<td>F3C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burg, Jacob</td>
<td>F1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burke, Flannery</td>
<td>S1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkhart, Matt</td>
<td>F2F, S2G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcaterra, Angela</td>
<td>F4B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell, Michelle Marie</td>
<td>T2F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannon, Victoria Herrera</td>
<td>F2D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casaregola, Vincent</td>
<td>F2F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceorra, Alisha</td>
<td>p.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerne, Sara</td>
<td>F4B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chisum, Jeffrey</td>
<td>T3B, S2B</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Collier, Gretchen</td>
<td>T2H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comer, Krista</td>
<td>F3C, F4A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conable, William</td>
<td>F1F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couch, Daniel Diez</td>
<td>T6D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox, James H.</td>
<td>F3A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crumbley, Paul</td>
<td>T6F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culver, Annie</td>
<td>F3C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dae, Jennifer Ann</td>
<td>T3C, T6E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Vos, Laura M</td>
<td>T3C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dekker, Carolyn</td>
<td>T6D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolezal, Joshua</td>
<td>p.7, T6C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dolle, Chris</td>
<td>F1H, F4F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorris, Kara</td>
<td>F1F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eaton, Kalenda</td>
<td>T6A</td>
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<td>Eaton, Paul T</td>
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<td>T3D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fehrle, Johannes</td>
<td>T4C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fenimore, David</td>
<td>T2E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine, Kerry</td>
<td>S2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleming, Julia M</td>
<td>p.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood, Amelia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floyd, Jacob</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foley, Tara C.</td>
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<td>Formisano, Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franks, Travis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frazier, Max</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funda, Evelyn</td>
<td>F4E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goldberg, Sylvan</td>
<td>T2G, F3D</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Gorman, Michael</td>
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<td>Gradisek, Amanda</td>
<td>F1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>T2E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grewal, Nadhia</td>
<td>F2A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grover, Quinn</td>
<td>F4G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guinier, Donovan</td>
<td>S2E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halverson, Cathryn</td>
<td>F4E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton, Amy T.</td>
<td>T6D, F1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton, Andrew</td>
<td>F1E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hampton, Jill</td>
<td>F3E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handley, William R.</td>
<td>T3H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison, Brady</td>
<td>T3A, F1D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey, Meredith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hearne, Joanna</td>
<td>T2A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heberling, Lydia Marie</td>
<td>F3E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hedge Coke, Allison</td>
<td>p.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helstern, Linda</td>
<td>T3E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henson, Nicholas</td>
<td>T4E</td>
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<td>Herbert, Jason Bryce</td>
<td>T4H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herrera, Olga Lydia</td>
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<td>Hikage, Hisayuki</td>
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<td>Homestead, Melissa J.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howe, LeAnne</td>
<td>p.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson, Nicole</td>
<td>p.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humphreys, Sara</td>
<td>T2B, F1E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunnef, Jenna</td>
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<td>Hutson, Richard E.</td>
<td>F3H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamieson, J.T.</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>S2F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>T2D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justice, Daniel Heath</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaufman, Anne L.</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knoeller, Christian</td>
<td>T2F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kollin, Susan</td>
<td>T3B, T6F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuchera, Carolyn Marie</td>
<td>T2G, F3D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladino, Jennifer</td>
<td>F4E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamont, Victoria</td>
<td>F3G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larson, Lars</td>
<td>F3B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrimore, David</td>
<td>T6D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemon, Mike</td>
<td>T3G, S2F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limón, José E.</td>
<td>p.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lock, Cory</td>
<td>T2D, T6H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lopez, Christina Garcia</td>
<td>T2G, T6H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lopez, Jessica Perez</td>
<td>F2D, p.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lush, Rebecca M.</td>
<td>T6D, F1B, p.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lutenski, Emily</td>
<td>p.5, T3A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynch, Tom</td>
<td>F1D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maher, Susan N.</td>
<td>T3H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcell, Robert Thomas</td>
<td>F1C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathias, Elizabeth</td>
<td>S2F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matsunaga, Kyoko</td>
<td>F2F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maus, Derek C.</td>
<td>T3D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDade, Monique</td>
<td>T3G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonald, Trent</td>
<td>F2G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menon, Sheela Jane</td>
<td>F3A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mekal, Stephen</td>
<td>T3H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meylor, Meagan Rose</td>
<td>T3H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monteleone, Amanda</td>
<td>T3B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore Bennion, Jillian</td>
<td>F1H, S2C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore, Benjamin</td>
<td>T2E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Morel, Eric  F2E  Reynolds, Sharon Ann  F2D  Tanglen, Randi  F1A, S2A
Morgan, Luke  S2E  Richardson, Todd  F4C  Tatonetti, Lisa  F3A
Morgan, Phillip Carroll  p.34  Ricou, Laurie  T3C  Tatum, Stephen  F4A
Murrah-Mandril, Erin  F4G  Robbins, Richard  T6G  Tehee, Candessa  F3A
Nance, Susan  T3G  Rosso, Stefano  T6B, F2B  Thacker, Bob  T3H, F1C
O’Connell, Maria  F2G, F4D  Russo, Bernadette V  F2A, p.39  Thompson, Sidney  S2C
O’Leary, Derek Kane  T6D  Samson, John  F3H  Tucker, Cassandra  F1C
Olson, Debbie  F3B  Sanders, Eliza  F1G  Tucker, Tracy Sanford  F1C
Olson, Peter Brock  T3F  Schmidt, Anna  T6G  Vigil, Kiara M.  T2A
Oman, Patricia  S2B  Schnurr, Ryan Robert  T2F  Wall, Drucilla  F4H
Palmer, Daryl W  F1C  Schollaert, Jeannette  F3D  Wallace, Rob  T6B
Parker, Nathan Lyle  S2A  Schwebel, Sara  p.39  Wander, Ryan  T2C
Paryz, Marek  T6B  Shumaker, Conrad  T6G, F1H  Weixlmann, Joe  T6C, p.18
Pearson, Penni Elizabeth  T6G  Sigurdardottir, Solveig  S2D  Weltzien, Alan  p.28, F4E
Pfaelzer, Jean  F2C  Simmons, Caitlin  T3F  Willard, Cory Glen  F2E
Pitts, Martha  F2C  Smay, Hannah Rose  F2E  Wirth, James Benson  T3A
Pladus, Mallory  F2C  Smith, Christie  F2H  Wisecup, Kelly  F4B
Platt, Kamala  T6H  Smith, Joshua  T6C, F1B  Wisniewski, Alise Marie  F4D
Price, Jenny  F1G  Smout, Kary Doyle  F4C  Witt, Katherine Emily  F2H, F4G
Pulphus, Jonathan  p.5  Sowell, Jody  F1G  Wohlford, Corinne  T2E
Rau, Emily J.  T2C  Spurgeon, Sara L.  T2G, F1B, F4D  Wright, Elizabeth J  T6A
Redmond, Eugene  p.13  Steckline, Tim  T3F  Ybarra, Priscilla Solis  T2H, T6F
Reger, Gary  T3C, T6E  Stoeltje, Samuel Fletcher  F3E  Young, Alex Trimple  F1D
Reichle, Tisha Marie  T2H  Stratton, Billy J.  F2A, p.39  Zimpfer, Travis Garrett  T2B
Reis, Ashley Elaine  T2G, F3F  Tahmahkera, Dustin  F3A  Zink, Amanda J.  T2E, F1E
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We welcome proposals on any aspect of the literatures (broadly conceived) of the North American West. We especially encourage panels, papers, and “structured conversations”* that explore the following topics as they apply to these literatures:

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

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

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