

PAUL A. FORMISANO

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Department of English
University of South Dakota
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor and Director of Writing, University of South Dakota, Apr. 2018-Present
Assistant Professor and Director of Writing, University of South Dakota, Jul. 2012-Mar. 2018
Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of New Mexico, Aug. 2006-May 2012
Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Nevada, Reno, Aug. 2003-May 2005

EDUCATION

PhD in English, University of New Mexico, May 2012

Dissertation: A River of Voices: Confluences and Cross-Currents in the Discourse of the Colorado River

Committee: Dr. Gary Harrison, Director; Dr. Vera Norwood; Dr. Michelle Kells; Dr. Tom Lynch

MA in English, University of Nevada, Reno, May 2005

Subject Focus: Literature and the Environment

BA in Humanities, Brigham Young University, Dec. 2002

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental Humanities, Western American Literature, 20th and 21st-Century Environmental Literature and Rhetoric, Watershed Studies, Bioregionalism, Ecotheology, Experiential Learning

PUBLICATIONS

Current Book Projects

Tributary Voices: Literary and Rhetorical Explorations of the Colorado River. University of Nevada Press pre-publication contract. Submitted Dec. 15, 2020 for review.

Impounded Waters: An Anthology of Dam Literature with Ashley Reis.

Forthcoming Publications/Works in Progress

“First in Time, First in Right: Native Self-Determination in the Colorado River Basin.” *Review of American Studies* (RIAS) special issue on “Rivers of the America.” Accepted with Revisions.

“The Geography of Hope in an Age of Uncertainty.” To be included in collection from 2019 Wallace Stegner Symposium, edited by Mark Fiege and Susan Kollin. Revised and Submitted Jan. 2020.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“‘It had all become a natural condition’: California’s Garden Movement, Land Eugenics, and Naturalization in Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s *Herland*.” *Western American Literature*, vol. 51, no. 1, Spring 2016, pp. 71-100. doi: 10.1353/wal.2016.0027.

“Navigating Unsettled Waters: Old West Meets New West in Women’s Colorado River Boating Narratives.” *Iperstoria*, issue 7, Spring 2016. <http://www.iperstoria.it/joomla/>.

“The Paradox of Desert Writing: Bridging Epistemological and Discursive Gaps in Craig Childs’ *The Secret Knowledge of Water*.” *Landscapes: The Journal of the International Centre for Landscape and Language*, vol. 7, no. 1, 2016. <http://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes/vol7/iss1/>.

“Presley’s Pauses: Unearthing Force in California’s Land and Water Regimes and Frank Norris’s *The Octopus*.” *Journal of Ecocriticism*, vol. 7, no. 1, 2015. <http://ojs.unbc.ca/index.php/joe/issue/view/94>.

Book Chapters/Entries

- Holly Richard and Paul Formisano. "‘It was the river’: Indigenous Anti-Dam Literature of the Great American Desert." *Reading Aridity in Western American Literature*, edited by Jada Ach and Gary Reger, Lexington P, 2020, pp. 141-68.
- "Shifting Tides: A Literary Exploration of the Colorado River Delta." *Make Waves: Water in Contemporary Literature and Film*, edited by Paula Anca Farca, U of Nevada P, 2019, pp. 155-72.
- "The Jungle." *Resource Guide to American Literature: Realism and Regionalism, 1865-1914*, edited by Tom Quirk and Gary Scharnhorst, InfoBase Publishing, 2010, pp. 166-68.

Co-authored Articles

- Jarchow, Meghann E., Paul Formisano, Shane Nordyke, and Matthew Sayre. "Measuring Longitudinal Student Performance on Student Learning Outcomes in Sustainability Education," *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*, vol. 19, issue 3, Dec. 2017, pp. 547-565. doi: 10.1108/ijsh-11-2016-0200.
- Co-Authored with Gary F. Scharnhorst. "A Recovered Oscar Wilde Letter." *The Wildean*, vol. 32, Jan. 2008, pp. 6-7.

Book Reviews

- The End of Eden: Agrarian Spaces and the Rise of the California Social Novel* by Terry Beers. *American Literature Realism*, vol. 52, no. 2, 2020, pp. 171-173. www.jstor.org/stable/10.5406/amerlitreal.52.2.017.
- The Cambridge Companion to Literature and the Environment*. Edited by Louise Westling. *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, vol. 22, no. 3, 2015, pp. 685-87. doi: 10.1093/isle/ISV063.
- Home Waters: A Year of Recompenses on the Provo River* by George B. Handley. *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, vol. 19, no. 1, 2012, pp. 209-10. doi: 10.1093/isle/isr114.

HONORS and AWARDS

Awarded

- Faculty Sabbatical, University of South Dakota, Jan.-May 2020
- Visiting Fellow, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Jan.-Apr. 2020 (\$10,000)
- Thielbar-Burgess Award for Library Acquisitions, University of South Dakota, Feb. 19, 2019 (\$700)
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute Scholar, "Hoover Dam and the Shaping of the American West," July 8-20, 2018 (\$2100)
- John Topham and Susan Redd Butler Award, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Apr. 25, 2016 (\$800)
- Student-Athlete Faculty Appreciation, USD, Oct. 12, 2013
- New Mexico Folklore Scholar in English for 2011, UNM (\$750)

Nominated

- Belbas-Larson Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of South Dakota, Feb. 2018
- Charles Davis Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Presentation, Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Convention, Feb. 2011
- Core Writing Program's Outstanding Peer Mentor, 2009-2010
- Core Writing Program's Outstanding Teaching Assistant, 2009-2010
- UNM Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, 2009-2010

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Awarded

- Center for Teaching and Learning Pedagogy Grant, USD, Feb. 7, 2019 (\$566)

College of Arts & Sciences Travel Grant, USD, Fall 2012 (\$322), Fall 2013 (\$600), Fall 2014 (\$800), Fall 2015-2017 (\$900), 2018 (\$475), 2019 (\$500)

Department of English Travel Grant, USD, 2012-2016, 2018: 8 grants of \$400 each; 2017 (\$1000), 2019 (\$1400)

National Science Foundation: "Sustainable Rivers: Integrating Earth Science and Sustainability Across the Curriculum." Grant Role: Supporting. 2015-2016 (\$1500)

South Dakota Humanities Council Discussion Grant, Feb. 2013, 2015 (\$1000)

College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Transformation Grant, USD, Apr. 22, 2014 (\$1000)

Not Awarded/Declined

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, submitted April 5, 2019 (\$50,000)

Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society Fellowship, submitted Jan. 29, 2019 (Teaching Replacement/Stipend for nine months)

University of Utah Tanner Humanities Center Visiting Faculty Fellowship, Dec. 3, 2018 (\$60,000); not awarded for lack of funding

Center for Teaching and Learning Mobile Computing Grant, USD, Spring 2013, (\$3100), declined

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations at the University of South Dakota

"Dry Literature: Reading Aridity in the American Southwest," Biology 442-542: River Studies, Oct. 17, 2017

"Haunted by Waters: Recovering the Literature of the Lost along America's Dammed Rivers," Humanities Research Forum, Oct. 11, 2017

"What Does Literature Offer to Our Understanding of Southwest Water Issues?," Biology 442-542: River Studies, Oct. 22, 2015

"Aldo Leopold and the Green Lagoons," Sustainability 292, Sept. 28, 2012

National/International Conference Presentations

"Solidarity and Self-Determination: Indigenous Waters in the Anthropocene," Western Literature Association, Estes Park, CO, Sept. 19, 2019

"Reclaiming Reclamation: Stewarding Western Water Resources in the 21st Century," Mormon Scholars in the Humanities, Cedar City, UT, May 17, 2019

"Exploring Wallace Stegner's 'Geography of Hope' in an Age of Uncertainty," Wallace Stegner Symposium, Bozeman, MT, May 9, 2019

"The 'Slumbering Monstro of the Southwest': Indian Water Rights in Percival Everett's *Watershed* and Paolo Bacigalupi's *The Water Knife*," Western Literature Association, St. Louis, MO, Oct. 25, 2018

"Humanists at the Headgates: Reimagining Western Water Management in the 21st Century," National Consortium of Environmental Rhetoric and Writing Affiliate Panel, Rhetoric Society of America, Minneapolis, MN, May 31, 2018

"Defending *Nuestro Rio*: The Latino/a Voice in the Battle Over Western Rivers," Rhetoric Society of America, Minneapolis, MN, May 31, 2018

"Dammed Indians: Reclamation and Displacement in the Novels of Elizabeth Cook-Lynn, Linda Hogan, and Leslie Marmon Silko," Western Literature Association, Minneapolis, MN, Oct. 27, 2017

"Recovering Voices of Resistance: Literature, Archives, and the Legacy of Dams," Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Detroit, MI, June 22, 2017

"Navajo Dam and the San Juan River: A Study of Conflict and Endurance," Under Western Skies, Calgary, AB, Canada, Sept. 27, 2016

"Charting Unsettled Waters: Old West Meets New West in Women's Colorado River Rafting Narratives," Western Literature Association, Reno, NV, Oct. 17, 2015

"Voices from the Deep: Literature of the Lost, Environmental Justice, and Navajo Dam," Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Moscow, ID, June 25, 2015

- “Sons of Ditches: Changing Water Regimes in Frank Norris’s *The Octopus*,” Western Literature Association Conference, Victoria, BC, Canada, Nov. 7, 2014
- “Imperial Dreams: California Agriculture and *The Winning of Barbara Worth*,” Western Literature Association, Berkeley, CA, Oct. 12, 2013
- “Watershed Rhetorics: Resistance and Restoration in the Colorado River Basin,” Rhetoric Society of America, Philadelphia, PA, May 25, 2012
- “Lessons from the Literary Deserts,” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Bloomington, IN, June 22, 2011
- “A River of Voices: Confluences and Cross-Currents in the Literature of the Colorado River,” Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, Albuquerque, NM, Oct. 14, 2010
- “‘Things as Precious as God’s Water’ in Mary Hallock Foote’s ‘Maverick,’” Western Literature Association, Boulder, CO, Oct. 2, 2008
- “The Nature of William Carlos Williams’ Imagination: Place, Contact, and Identity in *In the American Grain*,” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Spartanburg, SC, Jun. 13, 2007
- “The Power of Myth: Environmental Justice, Ecocriticism, and the Future of Black Mesa,” Western Literature Association, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 21, 2005

Regional Conference Presentations

- “The (Im)Possibilities of Restoration in the Colorado River Delta.” John R. Milton Conference, University of South Dakota, Oct. 29, 2016
- “Toward a New Western Rhetoric: Seeking Sustainability through Divergent Discourse,” Brigham Young University Environmental Ethics Initiative Conference, Provo, UT, Nov. 9, 2012
- “Thinking Like a Watershed: Rhetoric, Community, and El Rio Colorado,” Writing the World Symposium, University of New Mexico, Apr. 19, 2012
- “Assessment,” New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention (NMHEAR), Albuquerque, NM, Feb. 26, 2010
- “Dickens’ Troubled Waters: River Narratives and National Identities in *Our Mutual Friend*,” Southwest Symposium Graduate Conference, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, Feb. 23, 2007
- “Reading Glen Canyon Dam and Its Literature” Student World Water Forum, University of Nevada, Reno, Nov. 18, 2004

Campus Research Presentations

- “Notes from *Tributary Voices*,” English Department Colloquium Series on Literature, Nov. 23, 2020
- “Postwestern Considerations in Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Ceremony*,” English Department Colloquium Series on Literature, Sept. 24, 2018
- “*Frankenstein* in the Ecocritical Tradition,” *Frankenstein 200!*, Feb. 27, 2018
- “The Place of Place in Literature,” English Department Colloquium Series on Literature, Nov. 27, 2017
- “Getting Back to Nature: Environmental Connections” Flash Lecture, English Fair, Apr. 28, 2017
- “‘Out Where the World is in the Making’: The Legacy of the Frontier in Western American Literature,” English Department Colloquium Series on Literature, Nov. 28, 2016
- “Roots, Waves, and Branches: Environmental Criticism from Past to Present,” English Department Colloquium Series on Literature, Nov. 2, 2015

Service Presentations at the University of South Dakota

- “Writing Grants,” Graduate Student Activities Committee, Department of English, Feb. 6, 2021
- “How to Write a Portfolio Introduction,” Writing Center Workshop, Nov. 15, 2017; Nov. 14, 2018; Nov. 20, 2019; Nov. 11, 2020
- “Writing Successful Essay Exams,” Writing Center Workshop, Feb. 22, 2017; Feb. 21, 2018
- “Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism,” Graduate Student Orientation, Jan. 9, 2015
- “Understanding Plagiarism,” Student Rights and Responsibilities Appeal Board, Nov. 20, 2014

- “Freshman English at USD,” South Dakota Department of Education Transition Services Liaison/Disability Services *Catch the Wave* Initiative, Mar. 26, 2013
- “Designing Effective Assignments,” Center for Teaching and Learning, Feb. 4, 2013
- “How to Write,” English Department Colloquium, Nov. 20, 2012

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Conferences Attended

- “2020 Water Course,” Hutchins Water Center at Colorado Mesa University, Feb. 11, 2020
- “Forging Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and Solidarity through Water Law,” University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Mar. 30, 2018
- “Academic Quality: Establishing Expectations and Measuring Success,” Brookings, SD, May 9, 2013
- “Complete College America,” Pierre, SD, Sept. 17-18, 2012

Workshops Organized at the University Of South Dakota

- New Graduate Teaching Orientation, Aug. 13-22, 2012; Aug. 12-21, 2013; Aug. 11-20, 2014; Aug. 10-19, 2015; Aug. 9-17, 2016; Aug. 7-16, 2017; Aug. 6-15, 2018; Aug. 12-20, 2019; Aug. 10-14, 2020

Workshops Attended

- Podcasting in the Classroom, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of South Dakota, Sept. 24, 2020
- Blogging in the Classroom, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of South Dakota, Sept. 7, 2020
- Allons! A Collaborative Walt Whitman Workshop, University of South Dakota, Mar. 30, 2019
- National Consortium of Environmental Rhetoric and Writing, Summit and Advisory Meeting, Taos, NM, July 13-16, 2017
- InTeGrate Workshop, “Sustainable Rivers: Integrating Earth Science and Sustainability Across the Curriculum,” Ponca, NE, May 12, 2015
- National Endowment for the Humanities Regional Grant Application Writing Workshop, Fargo, ND, Feb. 13, 2015

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

University of South Dakota, Department of English

- English 795: Teaching Practicum, Fall 2012-2020; Spring 2013-2019, (2021)
- English 792: Topics, “Environmental Literature,” Fall 2020
- English 791: Graduate Practicum (Independent Study), Fall 2019
- English 755: Western Regional Literature, “Literature of the Golden State,” Fall 2015
- English 489: Capstone, “Environmental Literature,” Fall 2017; “Wilderness in the American Tradition,” Spring 2019
- English 441/541: The West in American Literature, Spring 2014
- English 370: Critical Writing, “Sustainable Rivers,” Fall 2016
- English 242: American Literature Survey, (Spring 2021)
- English 210: Introduction to Literature, Spring 2013, 2015; Fall 2019
- English 201: Composition II, “Rhetoric and the Greening of America,” Fall 2014; “Sustainable Rivers,” Spring 2016
- English 101: Composition I, Fall 2012, 2013
- Honors 211: Interdisciplinary Civilization, “Food,” Spring 2017
- Honors 110: Honors English, “Environmental Justice Literature,” Fall 2018; “Water, Wilderness, and Waste,” Fall 2019

Independent Studies

- “American Nature Writing,” Spring 2013
- “Ecocriticism,” Spring 2013

OTHER TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Graduate Student Committees

PhD

Exam/Dissertation Chair

Lindsay Stephens, Apr. 2016-Present

Cynthia Ostrom, Nov. 2013-May 2018 (Withdrew)

Exam/Dissertation Committee

Nicole Biever, Mar. 2013-Present

Jeremiah Davis, Aug. 2020-Present

Daniel Jones, Aug. 2014-Present

Ann Kolbrek, Dec. 2015-Present

Wes Yeary, Apr. 2017-Present

Raul Moreno, Apr. 2014-May 2020

Holly Richard, Nov. 2013-Aug. 2019

Cheyenne Marco, Apr. 2016-Apr. 2018

Beth Boyens, May 2014-Nov. 2014

Rickie Ann Legleitner, May 2014-July 2014

MA

Exam/Thesis Chair

Niki Ciulla, Apr. 2014-Dec. 2014, Title: "Competing Nationalisms and Violent Contest in the Nineteenth-Century California Novel: John Rollin Ridge's *Joaquín Murieta* and María Amparo Ruiz de Burton's *The Squatter and the Don*"

Exam/Thesis Committee

Sonia Perea-Morales (Fine Arts), Aug. 2019-Present

Jeremy Faijman (History), Apr. 2015-Sept. 2020

Kaitlin Pearson (Vocal Music Performance), Oct. 2018-Mar. 2019

Marlise Ahuna (Vocal Music Performance), Nov. 2017-Mar. 2018

Allison Syman, Mar. 2018-April 2018

Peter Pierson (Environmental Studies), Prescott College, May 2013-May 2017

Kristyn Ward (History), Nov. 2014-Aug. 2015

Wes Yeary, Sept. 2014-Aug. 2015

Teresa Baumbach, May 2014-May 2015

Rose-Marie Williams, Nov. 2013-June 2014

Undergraduate Student Committees

Honors Thesis Committee

Karina Ramirez (Nursing), Nov. 2017-May 2019

Hope Justesen (English), May 2017-April 2018

Deanna Bradshaw (English), Nov. 2016-Dec. 2017

Undergraduate Mentoring Projects

Matt Miller, UDiscover Grant Project Secondary Mentor, Feb. 2017, Title: "Treading Water: Life in Waubay and Flood Era"

Undergraduate Student Advising

Currently advise three undergraduate English majors

SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Department of Anthropology and Sociology

Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee, Fall 2018

Department of English

Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee, Fall 2020

Chair, Lower Division Writing Committee, Fall 2012-Present

Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Fall 2018- Fall 2019

Member, MA Exams post-1900 Committee, Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Member, Experiential Learning Committee, Fall 2016- Spring 2019

Member, Department Secretary Search Committee, May 2019

Organizer, English 210 *Beloved* Common Read Initiative, Fall 2018-March 22, 2019

Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee, Fall 2018

Member, Online Composition Instructor Search Committee, Summer 2017

Faculty Mentor, Friends of the Big Sioux River student intern, Jan.-May 2016

Member, Visiting Assistant Professor 20th Century British Literature Search Committee, Summer 2015

Member, Graduate Studies Committee, Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Member, ESL/TESOL Search Committee, Spring 2014

Member, University Center English Instructor Search Committee, Spring 2013

Member, Business Writing Committee, Fall 2012-Spring 2013

Faculty Advisor, Admissions Open House, Sept. 8 and 29, 2012

Department of Sustainability and Environment

Member, Sustainability and Environment Department Graduate Committee, Mar. 29, 2018-Present

College of Arts and Sciences

Vice-Chair, Humanities Division, College Advisory Committee, Sept. 2020-Present

Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee, Fall 2018

Vice-Chair, Humanities Division, College Advisory Committee, Sept. 2014-Sept. 2016

University

Member, Honors Curriculum Review Committee, Nov. 20, 2018-Present

Member, Board of Regents English Discipline Council, Oct. 26, 2012-Present

Member, Sustainability Studies Advisory Committee, July 31, 2012-Present

Member, Honors Common Read Committee, Nov. 1, 2018-Apr. 2019

Faculty Volunteer, President's Late Night Breakfast, Dec. 4, 2017; Dec. 3, 2018

Moderator, IdeaFest Panel, Apr. 5, 2018

Faculty Advisor, USD Bike Share Program, Oct. 23, 2016-Nov. 2017

Member, University Scholarship Committee, Oct. 23-Dec. 11, 2015

Member, Honors 211 Redesign Committee, Oct. 31, 2014-Aug. 2015

Program Organizer, Earth Day 2015 Keynote Address (Craig Childs), Nov. 12, 2014-May 20, 2015

Upper-Division Writing Representative, Institutional Graduation Requirement Assessment Committee, May 3, 2013-Feb. 18, 2014

CAAP Alternative Reading Assessment Evaluator, Aug. 5, 2013; Oct. 1, 2013; Jan. 3, 2014; Feb. 12, 2014; May 16, 2014; June 9, 2014

Program Organizer, Danielle Sosin campus visit, Nov. 26, 2012-Apr. 16, 2013

Faculty Advisor, Honors Reading Program, Sept. 3, 2012

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Chair, National Consortium of Environmental Rhetoric and Writing Big Sky/Western Region, Oct. 10, 2017-Present

Advisory Board Member, National Consortium of Environmental Rhetoric and Writing, Oct. 20, 2016-
Present

Article Reviewer, *The Trumpeter*, Jan. 2021

Promotion and Tenure Reviewer, University of Minnesota Crookston, Oct. 2020

Promotion and Tenure Reviewer, University of New Mexico—Gallup, Oct. 2018

Book Reviewer, Neil A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship (BYU), Oct. 2018

Article Reviewer, *Mississippi Quarterly*, July, 2018

Article Reviewer, *Western American Literature*, Feb. and Nov. 2015

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment

LDS Earth Stewardship

Modern Language Association

National Consortium of Environmental Rhetoric and Writing

Rhetoric Society of America

Western Literature Association