

KARA L. McCORMACK, Ph.D.
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Department of American Culture and Literature
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2018–present **Bilkent University**, Ankara, Turkey
Assistant Professor, American Culture and Literature
- 2013–2016 **Stanford University**, Stanford, California
Postdoctoral Fellow, Thinking Matters Program

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. **University of New Mexico**, Albuquerque, New Mexico
American Studies, 2013
Dissertation: “Imagining ‘the Town too Tough to Die’: Tourism, Preservation,
and History in Tombstone, Arizona”
Graduated with distinction
- M.A. **University of Massachusetts Boston**, Boston, Massachusetts
American Studies, 2004
Thesis: “Patriot Games: Patriotism, National Identity, and the American Rodeo”
- B.A. **New York University**, New York, New York
Journalism, Women’s Studies, 1989

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

- 2016 *Imagining Tombstone: The Town Too Tough to Die*, University Press of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Book Chapter

- 2019 “Historians’ Gunfight,” *A Wyatt Earp Anthology: Long May His Story Be Told*. Roy B.
Young, Gary L. Roberts, and Casey Tefertiller, eds. University of North Texas
Press, Denton, Texas.

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2022 “Searching for Wyatt Earp in Anatolia: The American West in the Turkish
Imagination,” *Journal of Arizona History*, forthcoming

- 2013 “Safeguarding Its Past, Securing Its Future: Preservation and Performance in Tombstone, Arizona,” *Journal of Arizona History* 54 No. 2: 175–200.

Book Reviews

- 2018 *The Healing Power of the Santuario de Chimayó: America’s Miraculous Church*, Brett Hendrickson. H-New Mexico, June 2018.
- 2017 *Branding the American West: Paintings and Films, 1900–1950*, Marian Wardle and Sarah E. Boehme, eds. *New Mexico Historical Review* 92 No. 3: 348–350.
- 2016 *American Mythmaker: Walter Noble Burns and the Legends of Billy the Kid, Wyatt Earp, and Joaquín Murrieta*, by Mark J. Dworkin. *New Mexico Historical Review* 91 No. 1: 101–102.
- 2006 *Cowboys as Cold Warriors: The Western and U.S. History*, by Stanley Corkin. *The Journal of Popular Culture* 39, No. 2: 333–335.

Web-Based Publications

- 2016 “Call of the Wild: HBO’s *Westworld* Serves Up Violence and Redemption,” Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University
- 2015 “Engaging Freshmen and Sophomores in the Humanities: Creative Ideas that Work,” *Stanford Teaching Commons*, Stanford University
- 2014 “How to Assign and Grade a Multimedia Project,” *Stanford Teaching Commons*, Stanford University

Work in Progress

“Home. Family. Future: Authenticity and Utopia in Matt Reeves’ *Planet of the Apes*,” Journal-length article to be submitted to the *Journal of the Italian Association on Science Fiction and the Fantastic*

“Women’s Work in the Dystopian West: The Colonies in Hulu’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*,” Journal-length article to be submitted to the *Journal of Popular Culture*

“Alien Encounters: Memory, Race, and UFO Tourism in Roswell, New Mexico,” Book-length project to be submitted to the University of New Mexico Press

AWARDS, RESEARCH GRANTS, AND HONORS

- 2018 Scholar in Residence Fellowship Award, Center for Regional Studies, University of New Mexico (\$15,000)
- 2012 Research Grant, Department of American Studies, University of New Mexico

- 2011 Research Grant, Graduate Professional Student Association,
University of New Mexico
- 2005 Book Award for academic excellence and outstanding final project, UMass Boston

PUBLIC HISTORY

- 2017 Executive Director, Curator, By the People: The People's Museum of Brockton
Gallery at Enso Flats, Brockton, Massachusetts

ACADEMIC EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2008–2013 Associate Editor, *New Mexico Historical Review*, University of New Mexico

GUEST LECTURES AND INVITED TALKS

- 2021 “The Sci-Fi West,” MEF Üniversitesi Department of English Language Teaching,
Lit Café Special Guest Series, January 3
- 2018 “Alien Encounters: Race and UFO Tourism in Roswell, New Mexico,” Center for
Regional Studies Visiting Scholar Lecture Series, University of New Mexico, May 8
- 2017 “‘Equal Parts Deadwood and Disney’: Tourism, Authenticity, and Popular Culture
in Tombstone, Arizona,” University of Massachusetts, Boston, March 27
- 2016 “‘Equal Parts Deadwood and Disney’: Tourism, Authenticity, and Popular Culture
in Tombstone, Arizona,” Merkle Family Foundation Distinguished Lecture Series
of the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West,
University of Oklahoma, November 17

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2019 Ends and Aftermaths in the Popular Imagination
Paper: “Surviving Armageddon: Frontier Nostalgia, Salvation, and the Search for
Authenticity in the Post-Apocalyptic Western,” Bilkent University, 9 May
- 2017 Dystopian West: Contamination, Survival, and Redemption
Paper: “Apocalypse, Frontier Nostalgia, and Salvation in *The Book of Eli* and
The Road,” Western History Association, San Diego, California, 1–4 November

Papers Presented

- 2021 “Beyond the American West: The West in the Turkish Imagination,” Western
History Association, Portland, Oregon, 20-24 October

- 2020 “Alien Encounters: Race, Memory, and UFO Tourism in Roswell, New Mexico,” Western History Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 13–17 October
- 2019 “Imagining Tombstone: Hollywood, Historicity, and the Construction of a Usable Past,” American Studies Association of Turkey, Çanakkale, Turkey, 15–17 May
- 2014 “Global Round-Up: Circulation and Consumption of the Mythic West Around the World,” Western History Association, Newport Beach, California, 15–18 October
- 2012 “Hollywood, History, and Hyperreality in Tombstone, Arizona,” National Popular Culture and American Culture Associations, Boston, Massachusetts, 11–14 April
- 2011 “Ensuring Its Future by Celebrating Its Past: Historicity and Preservation at Tombstone’s Courthouse Museum,” National Popular Culture and American Culture Associations, San Antonio, Texas, 20–23 April
- 2009 “On to Florida!: Tourism and the Urban Working Class,” National Popular Culture and American Culture Associations, New Orleans, Louisiana, 8–11 April
- 2008 “The Eastern Bloc Meets the Mythic West: East Germany, Hollywood, and the Western,” American Studies Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 16–19 October
- 2005 “Patriot Games: Performing Gender and Sexuality in the American Rodeo,” Northeast Popular Culture Association, Fairfield, Connecticut, 28–29 October

TEACHING

Bilkent University, Assistant Professor

Science Fiction in American Culture (spring 2021)
 Imagining the American West (spring 2020, fall 2020, fall 2021)
 Introduction to American Studies II (spring 2019, spring 2020, spring 2021)
 Introduction to American Studies I (fall 2018, fall 2019, fall 2020)

University of New Mexico, Visiting Assistant Professor

Introduction to Southwest Studies (spring 2018)

Tufts University, Visiting Lecturer

The Human Project: Science Fiction Film, Society, and Identity (fall 2017)

Stanford University, Lecturer in the Humanities

Dystopian California: Imagining the Golden State in Disaster and Science Fiction Film (spring 2016)
Race and American Memory (fall 2015, fall 2016)
Reading the Body: Medicine, Culture, and the Self (spring 2015, spring 2016)
Technological Visions of Utopia (fall 2013, fall 2014)
Media and Message (spring 2014)

University of New Mexico, Instructor of Record

Science Fiction in American Culture (spring 2012, summer 2012, fall 2012, spring 2013)
Urban Legends (fall 2010, spring 2010, fall 2011, spring 2011)
Introduction to Southwest Studies (fall 2009)
Introduction to Popular Culture (fall 2007, spring 2008, spring 2009)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION/MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS

Intersect: The Stanford Journal of Science, Technology, and Society, 2018–present
Western Historical Quarterly, Western History Association, 2017–present
Journal of American Studies, British Association of American Studies, 2017–present
University of Oklahoma Press, 2017–present
University Press of Kansas, 2016–present

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Bilkent University

Advisor, student-run American Culture Society
Thesis committee member, 2020
Advisor, Senior Research Projects, 2019, 2020
Coordinator, Job Search Committee, 2018, 2019
Co-coordinator, American Culture and Literature website redesign, 2019
Panelist, Graduate School Orientation and Information Session, 2018, 2019

Stanford University

Co-planner, All-Fellows Orientation, Thinking Matters, 2016
Course Coordinator, Race and American Memory, Thinking Matters, 2016, 2015
Course Evaluator, Small Group Feedback Sessions, 2016
Course Coordinator, Technological Visions of Utopia, Thinking Matters, 2014
Multimedia Rubric Development, Thinking Matters, 2014
Technology Coordinator, Technological Visions of Utopia, Thinking Matters, 2013

OTHER EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

1999–2006 Freelance writer, editor, marketing consultant

TEACHING AREAS

American studies
U.S. history
Cultural studies
American West/Southwest
Film and society
Cultural Memory
Public History
Tourism/Heritage studies
Science fiction/Disaster
Utopian/Dystopian studies

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Studies Association
American History Association
Western History Association
Society for Cinema and Media Studies
Popular Culture/American Culture Association
Association of Critical Heritage Studies
Science Fiction Research Association