

Curriculum Vitae

KRISTA COMER

Professor of English
Center for the Study of Women, Gender, & Sexuality
Director, Institute for Women Surfers

Rice University
Houston, Texas
kcomer@rice.edu

Education

Brown University, American Studies, Ph.D. (1996)
Brown University, American Studies, M.A. (1990)
Wellesley College, Women's Studies, B.A. Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude (1988)

Academic & Research Appointments || Selected Prizes & Awards

Rice Professor of English, Emerita (2025)
Treasurer, Western Literature Association (2024-)
Advisor, Mystic Seaport Museum, "Surfing's Global Legacies," NEH Grant (2023)
Wylder Award, Lifetime Contributions to Western Literature Association (2022)
Don D. Walker Prize for Year's Best Essay, Western Literature Association (2022)
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Rice University, English Department (2019-22)
Stanford University Affiliated Scholar, Bill Lane Center for the American West (2017-19)
Professor of English, Rice University (2017)
Founding Director, Institute for Women Surfers (2014-)
Magister of Baker College (2004-2010) & Brown College (2013-2018), Rice University
Associate Director, Center for Study of Women, Gender, Sexuality, Rice University (2012-16)
Thomas J. Lyon Book Award for Year's Best Book, Western Literature Association (2011)
Monterey Tec University, México, Visiting Scholar in Humanities/Social Sciences (2009)
Associate Professor of English, Rice University (2007)
President, Western Literature Association (2003)
Assistant Professor of English, Rice University (2001)
Don D. Walker Prize for Year's Best Essay, Western Literature Association (1999)
Lecturer, English Department, Rice University (1997)

Publications

Published Books & Journal Special Issues (Editor)

2024 *Living West as Feminists: Conversations about the Where of Us*, U of Nebraska Press

From travels over some 13,000 miles to places chosen by participants and chronicled on the blog [Feminist Wests](#) comes a remarkable series of dialogues focusing on questions about the where of us—the places that we love or belong, or don't belong, and who we are as feminists in them.

2018 Editor, with Susan Bernardin. *Western American Literature: On the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Western Literature Association (Spring) 53:1*.

2013 Editor, *Western American Literature: Young Scholars (Spring & Summer) 48.1&2*.

2010 *Surfer Girls in the New World Order*. Durham: Duke University Press.
Winner: Thomas J. Lyon Book Award. Western Literature Association.

1999 *Landscapes of the New West: Gender & Geography in Contemporary Women's Writing*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

In-Progress Book

Feminist Surf Life in the Age of Climate Change

Feminist Surf Life tracks recent surges in surf activism coming from heightened awareness about the climate emergency and its implication for surfing and for all of life. Forwarding a complex set of relations and knowledges produced via the international public humanities project, the Institute for Women Surfers (IWS), *Feminist Surf Life* tells an unlikely story of how more than one-hundred women from all kinds of coastal geographies ultimately came into contact with one another and changed themselves, one another, and their waterworlds for the better.

Ongoing Community Engaged Research

The Institute for Women Surfers (IWS), Selected

Institute Website. www.instituteforwomensurfers.org. (2014 -)

Institute California on [YouTube](#) (2015)

Institute Oceania on Vimeo. <https://vimeo.com/327762115> (2018)

Institute Ballina, NSW (Gold Coast, AUS). "[Reading Power](#)" Waterpeople Podcast (2024)

A grassroots educational initiative in the Public Humanities co-founded in 2014 and advised by a Steering Committee. IWS brings together activist women surfers and their allies to create spaces of peer teaching, learning, and mutual aid. IWS conducts in-person trainings and engages in public-oriented research as well as publicizes issues and events via social media. It hosts a website featuring projects in filmmaking, art, photography, and hip hop, as well as features the work of non-profits, feminist business owners, environmentalists, scientists, elected officials, and scholars.

Trainings to date: (3) California, (2) Europe, (1) Oceania. “Institute International” 2021 was cancelled due to COVID. In 2024 and 2025, IWS lent support and leadership to the Surfers4Climate “Water Woman Campout” events in Ballina, NSW, Australia.

Articles and Book Chapters

Forthcoming

2025 “Afterword: Surfeminism for the Now.” Special Issue on US Surf Culture for the *European Journal of American Culture*. Ed. Katie Hunt.

Published

2025 “Being Good Relatives: A Story of Indigenous and Settler Surfeminist Collaboration and Land Acknowledgments.” with Dina Gilio-Whitaker. *Waves of Hope, Waves of Belonging: Indigeneity, Gender, and Race in the Surfing Line Up*, eds. Lydia Heberling, David Kemper, Jess Ponting. University of Washington Press, 231-252.

2025 “Countering Authoritarianism: Surfeminist Knowledges from the Institute for Women Surfers.” *Waves of Hope, Waves of Belonging: Indigeneity, Gender, and Race in the Surfing Line Up*, eds. Lydia Heberling, David Kemper, Jess Ponting. University of Washington Press, 93-114.

2022 “Afterword: Precarity, Pedagogy, & the Public.” “*Emerging Scholars*.” Special Issue of *Western American Literature*, eds. Surabhi Balachander & Jillian Moore (57:2, Summer 2022) 193-199.

2022 “Standpoint, Situated Knowledge, Feminist Wests.” *Gender and the American West*, ed. Susan Bernardin, Routledge, 114-124. DOI: 10.4324/9781351174282-11

2021 “Staying with the White Trouble of Recent Feminist Westerns.” *Western American Literature* (56:2, Summer 2021) 101-124.

Winner. Don D. Walker Prize for Year’s Best Essay. Western Literature Association.

- 2020 "West." *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*, third edition. Ed. Bruce Burgett and Glenn Hendler. New York: New York University Press.
<https://keywords.nyupress.org/american-cultural-studies/essay/west/>
 New essay for third edition.
- 2019 "What Leisure?! Surfeminism in an Era of Trump." Comment. *Palgrave Communications*. April 30. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-019-0250-9>
- 2018 "Introduction: Pasts, Presents, Futures." With Susan Bernardin. Eds. Krista Comer and Susan Bernardin. *On the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Western Literature Association*, special issue, *Western American Literature* (Spring) 53:1, xi-xix.
- 2018 "Toward a Feminist Turn." Eds. Krista Comer and Susan Bernardin. *On the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Western Literature Association*, special issue of *Western American Literature* (Spring) 53:1, 11-18.
- 2018 "Houston as a Water Space." Institute for Women Surfers, Gulf Coast Chapter. May 2018. <http://www.instituteforwomensurfers.org/institute-gulfcoast/>
- 2017 "Beaches as Spaces of Democracy: Center Hosts Women Surfers Conference." Stanford University, The Bill Lane Center for the American West. . . . & *the West Blog*. December 15.
<https://west.stanford.edu/news/beaches-spaces-democracy-center-hosts-women-surfers-conference>
- 2017 Afterword. "Accountabilities: Authority, Feminism, West." Eds. Sigrid Anderson Cordell and Carrie Johnston. *Studies in the Novel. Special Issue: Gender and the Cultural Preoccupations of the American West* (Fall 49:3) 419-424.
- 2017 "Surfeminism, Critical Regionalism, Public Scholarship." Ed. Dexter Zavzala Hough-Snee and Alex Eastman. *The Critical Surf Studies Reader*. Duke University Press, 235-262.
- 2016 "Thinking Otherwise Across Global Wests: Issues of Mobility and Feminist Critical Regionalism." Ed. Aaron Nyerges and Golnar Nabizadeh. PopWest. *Occasion: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities* (10) 1-18.
arcade.stanford.edu/occasion/thinking-otherwise-across-global-wests-issues-mobility
 Accessed 13 December 2016.
- 2016 "'We're Blacksurfing:': Activist History & Liberation Politics in *White Wash*." *Journal of American Ethnic History* (Winter 35:2) 68-78.

- 2015 "The Problem of the Critical in Global Wests." Ed. Susan Kollin. *A History of Western American Literature*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 205-221.
- 2015 "Place and Worlding: Feminist States of Critical Regionalism." Eds. Ángel Chaparro Sainz and Amaia Ibarra Bigalondo. *Transcontinental Reflections on the American West: Words, Images, Sounds beyond Borders*. Valencia, Spain: Portal Editions SL, 153-71.
- 2014 "West." *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*, second edition. Ed. Bruce Burgett and Glenn Hendler. New York: New York University Press.
<http://keywords.nyupress.org/american-cultural-studies/essay/west/>
New essay for second edition.
- 2013 "Assessing the Postwestern." Ed. Krista Comer. *Western American Literature: Young Scholars* 48.1&2 (Spring & Summer) 3-15.
- 2011 "New West, Urban and Suburban Spaces, Postwest." Ed. Nicolas Witschi. *Literatures of the American West*. New York: Routledge, 244-60.
Outstanding Academic Title of 2011, Choice.
- 2011 "Exceptionalisms, Other Wests, Critical Regionalism." *American Literary History* 23(1): 159-173.
- 2007 "West." *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*. Ed. Bruce Burgett and Glenn Hendler. New York: New York University Press, 238-42.
- 2007 "Everyday Regionalisms in Contemporary Critical Practice." Ed. Susan Kollin. *Postwestern Cultures: Literature, Theory, Space*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 30-58.
- 2004 "Wanting to be Lisa: Generational Rifts, Girl Power, and the Globalisation of Surf Culture." Ed. Neil Campbell. *American Youth Cultures*. New York: Routledge, 237-65.
- 2003 "Taking Feminism and Regionalism Toward the Third Wave." Ed. Charles Crow. *A Companion to the Regional Literatures of America*. New York: Blackwell Publishing, 111-128.
- 2003 "Western Literature at Century's End: Sketches in Generation X, Los Angeles, and the Post-Civil Rights Novel." *Pacific Historical Review* (72:3) 405-15.
- 1999 "Revising Western Criticism through Wanda Coleman." *Western American Literature* 33:4 (Winter) 357-83.

Winner. Don D. Walker Prize for Year's Best Essay. Western Literature Association.

- 1997 "Sidestepping Environmental Justice: 'Natural' Landscapes and the Wilderness Plot." *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies* 18:2, 73-101.

Reprinted from: Ed. Sherrie Inness & Diana Royers, *Breaking Boundaries: New Perspectives on Regional Fiction*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press. 216-236.

- 1997 "Literature, Gender Studies, and the New Western History." *Arizona Quarterly* 53:2 (Summer) 99-134.

Honorable mentions for Year's Best Essay by:

Western Literature Association

Western Historical Association.

MLA & Council of Editors and Learned Journals "Annual Best Special Issue."

Reprinted in Forrest Robinson, ed., *The New Western History: The Territory Ahead*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1997, 99-134.

- 1997 "Feminism, Women Writers, and the New Western Regionalism: Revising Critical Paradigms." Compiled by Western Literature Association. *Updating the Literary West*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 17-34.

Review Essays, Reviews, Interviews, Encyclopedia/Dictionary Entries

- 2011 *The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of Los Angeles*, Ed. Kevin R. McNamara. *Pacific Historical Review* (80:4) 666-667.

- 2010 *Imagining the African American West*, by Blake Allmendinger, and *Wrangling Women: Humor and Gender in the American West*, by Kristin McAndrews. *American Literature* (82:1) 202-04.

- 2005 "Distinguished Achievement Award to Saldívar Family." *Western American Literature* 40:3 (Fall) 342-44.

- 2003 "Don't You Think We Need a Love Story Here? An Interview with Sandra Cisneros." with José F. Aranda, Jr. *Imprint News* (Spring) 2-4.

- 2001 "Surfergirls." *Girlhood in America: An Encyclopedia*. Denver: ABC-CLIO Publishers, 627-31.

- 2001 "Joan Didion." *The Literary Dictionary*, on line encyclopedic resource (www.litencyc.com).

- 1999 "Lost (and Found) in Disneyland: WLA and Cultural Studies." *Western American Literature* 32:2 (Summer) 177-81.
- 1998 Biographical essays: Lorna Dee Cervantes, Sandra Cisneros, Américo Paredes, Cherríe Moraga, Luis Valdez. Ed. Mary Ellen Brown and Bruce Rosenburg *Encyclopedia of Folklore and Literature 1*. Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO Press. 106-7, 422-3, 491-2, 685-6.
- 1997 "Joan Didion's California." *Updating the Literary West*. Compiled by Western Literature Association. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 346-51.
- 1997 *Trickster in the Land of Dreams*, by Zeese Papanikolas. *Western Historical Quarterly* 28:2 (Spring) 243-4.
- 1994 *Nepantla: Essays from Land in the Middle*, by Pat Mora. *Western American Literature* 29:2 (Summer) 187-8.
- 1993 *Cantora: A Novel*, by Sylvia Lopez-Medina. *Western American Literature* 28:2 (Summer) 189-90.
- 2001 "Surfergirls." *Girlhood in America: An Encyclopedia*. Denver: ABC-CLIO Publishers, 627-31.
- 2001 "Joan Didion." *The Literary Dictionary*, on line encyclopedic resource (www.litencyc.com).

Prizes & Awards, Grants & Fellowships

Prizes and Awards

- 2022 Delbert & Edith Wylder Award. Exceptional Contributions to the Western Literature Association.
- 2022 Don D. Walker Prize for Annual Best Essay in Western American Literary and Cultural Studies. Sponsored by the Western Literature Association. "Staying with the White Trouble of Recent Feminist Westerns." *Western American Literature* (56:2, Summer 2021) 101-124.
- 2011 Thomas J. Lyon Book Award in Western American Literary and Cultural Studies. Sponsored by the Western Literature Association. *Surfer Girls in the New World Order*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press.

- 1999 Don D. Walker Prize for Annual Best Essay in Western American Literary and Cultural Studies. Sponsored by the Western Literature Association. "Revising Western Criticism Through Wanda Coleman." *Western American Literature* 33:4 (Winter) 357-83.
- 1998 Finalist. Don D. Walker Prize for Annual Best Essay in Western American Literary and Cultural Studies. Sponsored by the Western Literature Association. "Literature, Gender Studies, and the New Western History." *Arizona Quarterly: A Journal of American Literature, Culture, and Theory* 53:2 (Summer) 99-134.
- 1998 Finalist. Annual Best Essay. Sponsored by Western History Association. "Literature, Gender Studies, and the New Western History." *Arizona Quarterly: A Journal of American Literature, Culture, and Theory* 53:2 (Summer) 99-134.
- 1997 Contributor, "Annual Best Special Issue." Awarded by MLA and Council of Editors of Learned Journals to "The New Western History: An Assessment," Ed. Forrest Robinson. *Arizona Quarterly: A Journal of American Literature, Culture, and Theory* 53:2 (Summer). "Literature, Gender Studies, and the New Western History," 99-134.
- 1988 Mary Lyons Prize for Writing, Wellesley College, Cash Award.
- 1986 Joanna Mankiewicz Prize for Writing. Wellesley College, Cash Award.
- 1986 Mary Lyons Prize for Writing, Wellesley College, Cash Award.

Grants and Fellowships

- 2022 Grant for "Houston – Out on the Town." Support for Public-Facing Teaching and [Literary Houston](#) Website Development. Rice University. Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning (CERCL).
- 2020 Grant for "Climates of Violence, Feminist Accountabilities," Remote Symposium. Focus: bridging coalitional relations between the fields of African American Studies, Indigenous Studies, Latinx feminisms, and Feminist Critical Regionalism. Rice University Humanities Research Center. Symposium Date March 26, 2021.
- 2019 Grant for "[Literary Houston](#)." New Course Development for Public-Facing Teaching and Website to Showcase Undergraduate Writing. Rice University. Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning (CERCL).

- 2019 Grant for “Gender Climate Survey.” A Collaborative Project of the Institute for Women Surfers at Rice University & the Coastography Lab at California State University Channel Islands. Rice Humanities Research Center. Faculty Innovative Research Fund.
- 2018 Grant for “Launch: Oceanic Surfeminisms.” A Project of the Institute for Women Surfers (Oceania). Dean of Humanities, Rice University.
- 2018 Grant for “Launch: European Surfeminisms.” A Project of the Institute for Women Surfers Europe (Wales). Faculty Research Support, Rice University Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality. Feminist Public Humanities.
- 2017 Grant for “Access to Beaches as Spaces of Democracy,” A Project of the Institute for Women Surfers. Humanities Research Center, Rice University. Public Humanities Initiative. Research Project Development.
- 2016 Grant for Institute for Women Surfers III. Mosle Family Research Grant, Rice University.
- 2015 Grant for Institute for Women Surfers II. Rice University Humanities Research Center.
- 2014 Grant for Pilot: Summer Institute for Women Surfers. Research Innovation Fund, Rice University Humanities Research Center.
- 1993 Horton Hollowell Dissertation Research Fellowship. Wellesley College. Cash Award.
- 1989 Fanny Bullock Workman Graduate Fellowship. Wellesley College. Cash Award.

Invited Lectures & Conference Presentations

- 2025 Invited Workshop Leader. “Eco-feminism & Surf Elders: An Exploration.” Collaboration with the Water Women’s Campout, sponsored by Surfers4Climate, Ballina, NSW, Australia. May 30-June 1. Featuring: Dianne Tucker, Danny Clayton, Tilly Hiscock.
- 2025 Conference Panel, “The Where of Us as Critics.” American Literature Association, Boston, MA, May 21.
- 2025 Conference Paper. “White Fragility as a Social Contagion.” MELUS (Multiethnic Literature of the US) panel “On Brown Fragility,” Cal State Los Angeles, April 3.

- 2025 Invited Classroom Speaker. "Reports." *Living West as Feminists: Conversations about the Where of Us*, State University of Utah, Logan, organized Sophia Martinez Abbud, February 20.
- 2025 Invited Speaker. "Place Consciousness." *Living West as Feminists* for Friends of Fondren, Rice University, January 29.
- 2024 Guest Lecture. "Surfeminism." Indigenous Studies Department, UCLA, "Surfs Up!: Race, Gender, and Empire in the Lineup" (class visit) with Kirsten Dorsey organizer. Oct 29.
- 2024 Plenary Chair and Panelist. "The Where of Here is Now," Reflections on *Living West as Feminists: Conversations about the Where of Us*," Western Literature Association, Tucson, Arizona. October 3.
- 2024 Invited Workshop Leader. "Surfeminism for Intergenerational Climate Action." Collaboration with the Water Women's Campout, sponsored by Surfers4Climate, Ballina, NSW, Australia. July 14-16. Also featuring Dr. Rebecca Olive.
- 2023 Conference Paper. "Reading 'White Stories as Such' in Marilynne Robinson." Western Literature Association, Fort Hall, Idaho. Shoshone Bannock Reservation. October 12.
- 2022 Chair and Panel Organizer. Reflections on "Feminist Rest Areas" from *Living West as Feminists*. Western Literature Association, Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 22.
- 2022 Invited Panelist. Feminist Standpoint in *Gender & American West*. Western Literature Association, Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 22.
- 2022 Demi-Plenary Invited Panelist. "Editing in a Moment of Crisis." Western Literature Association, Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 21.
- 2022 Roundtable Chair and Organizer. Contributors to *Living West as Feminists*. Western Literature Association, Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 20.
- 2022 Invited Lecture with Zainab Abdali. Center of the American West, The Summer Institute in Applied History. "Reflections on Applied History from *Living West as Feminists* and Other Projects." University of Colorado, Boulder (ZOOM), July 12.
- 2022 Faculty Colloquium, with Zainab Abdali. Reports from the *Living West as Feminists Project*. Rice University, March 25.
- 2021 Invited Panelist. "Living West as Feminists." Feminist Regionalisms Now. Society for the Study of American Women Writers. Baltimore, MD. November 5.

- 2020 Invited Participant. Feminist Research Seminar, "Climates of Violence, Politics of Change." Rice University Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality.
- 2019 Invited Participant. Feminist Research Seminar, "Climates of Violence, Politics of Change." Rice University Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality.
- 2019 Panel Organizer and Panelist. "Feminist Westerns Engaging Authoritarianism & Climate Injustice." Western Literature Association, Estes Park, Colorado. September 19.
- 2019 Panel Chair and Organizer. "Feminist Critical Regionalism: A Semi-Structured Conversation," Western Literature Association, Estes Park, Colorado. September 20.
- 2019 Invited Participant. "Surfeminism Responds to Authoritarianism & Climate Injustice." Texas Ecocritical Network (TEN). Works in Progress. UT Austin. May 17.
- 2019 Keynote. "Surfeminist Responses to Global Right Climate and Gender Violence." Bird's Surf Shed. Sponsored by San Diego State University Center for Surf Research Conference: Impact Zones and Liminal Spaces: History and Culture of Surfing. April 26. Lecture on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/333552112>
- 2019 Invited Panelist. "Women and Surfing: What's Next?" Screening of Films by Elizabeth Pepin Silva, The Australian National Surf Museum, Torquay, Australia. February 9.
- 2019 Invited Presentation. "Building Feminist Alliances in Oceania." Opening Workshop "Visualizing Social Change," for Institute for Women Surfers Oceania. Monash University Peninsula Campus, Frankston, Victoria, Australia, February 2.
- 2018 Organizer, "Conversations in the Feminist Public Humanities," American Studies Association, Atlanta, November 10.
- 2018 Conference Paper. "After Postfeminism: Feminist Westerns, Critical Regionalism, and the Category of 'White Women.'" Western Literature Association. St. Louis. October, 26.
- 2018 Invited Public Lecture. "Surfing Beyond California's Beach Babe Clichés." Historic Cottage at San Clemente Beach Campground." San Onofre Parks Foundation. September 19.
- 2018 Conference Paper. "Surfeminism in the Era of Trump." Leisure Studies Association. University

- of Bath. Bath, England. July 10.
- 2018 Invited Presentation. "Building Feminist Alliances in Europe," for Opening Workshop, "Collaborating Across Geographies." Institute for Women Surfers Europe (Wales), July 7.
- 2018 Invited Public Lecture. "Culture Change & Surfeminism." Surfing Beyond the Clichés: New Water Cultures." Cardiff University School of Geography & Public Planning (Yr Ysgol Daearyddiaeth a Chynllunio), Wales, UK. July 5.
- 2018 Invited Public Lecture. "Feminism & Critical Surf Studies." Annenberg Beach House, Pacific Coast Highway, Santa Monica, California. Panel about "Critical Surf Studies" in honor of Nick Gabaldon Weekend. Sponsored (among others) by Black Surfers Collective, Heal the Bay, and the Santa Monica Conservancy. June 3.
- 2018 Faculty Colloquium. "Feminism Between Publics." Rice University, English Department. Houston, Texas. April 12.
- 2018 Feminist Research Group. "Parochialism, Homing, Placing." Rice University, Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality. Houston, Texas. April 5.
- 2018 Seminar Respondent. "Material Environmentalisms for Feminist Critical Regionalism." C19: The Society for Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Albuquerque, New Mexico. March 22.
- 2018 Invited Speaker. "Women's Access and Questions of Value at Mavericks." Global Wave Conference, a project of Save the Waves Coalition. Santa Cruz, California. March 6.
- 2018 Invited Speaker with members of the Institute for Women Surfers. "Equity and Coastal Access: Overcoming the Intangible Barriers to California's Coast." 13th Annual Green California Summit, sponsored by the California League of Conservation Voters. Sacramento, California. February 28.
- 2018 Invited Lecture. "Between Publics: Environments, Feminisms, Wests." Stanford University, Bill Lane Center for the American West. Palo Alto, California. February 16.
- 2017 Invited Lecture. "The Battle for Mavericks & Other Western Showdowns." Stanford University, Bill Lane Center for the American West. November 17.
- 2017 Conference Paper. "Experience, Situated Knowledge, Feminist Wests." Organizer and Chair of Panel "Owning Up to Our Feminist Thinking. A Workshop in Theory and Practice." Western Literature Association. Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. October 27.

- 2017 Invited Panelist. "Public Humanities for Graduate Students." Western Literature Association, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. October 27.
- 2017 Invited Training for Teachers of AP Geography. "Gender, Women, Geography." Rice University AP Summer Academy, Glasscock School of Continuing Studies. Houston. June 28.
- 2016 Invited Plenary Panelist. "Bioregionalism & Settler Colonialism: Feminist Visions." Western Literature Association. Big Sky, Montana. September 22.
- 2016 Invited Graduate Workshop. "Prioritizing Environmentalism in Surfeminism: What's at Stake? Public Humanities Initiative & Environmental Leadership." University of Oregon, Eugene. May 18.
- 2016 Invited Symposium Speaker. "States of Surfeminism." Surfing Social International Conference. Sponsored by University of Waikato. Raglan, Aotearoa New Zealand. February 10.
- 2016 Invited Presentation. "Surfeminism, Critical Regionalism, Public Scholarship." Rice University Anthropology Department. Houston. January 21.
- 2015 Invited Keynote. "Thinking Otherwise Across Global Wests: Issues of Mobility & Feminist Critical Regionalism." American Literary Studies Symposium: Critical Regionalism. University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. October 20.
- 2015 Respondent. "Resistance, Resilience, Refusal: Urban Geographies." Western Literature Association. Reno. October 16.
- 2015 Invited Plenary Speaker. "Toward a Feminist Turn: On the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary." Western Literature Association. Reno. October 15.
- 2015 Invited Public Lecture. "Third Wave Feminism." Texas Democrat Women. Houston. August 24.
- 2015 Respondent. "Imagining Race and Gender." Rice University Center for the Study of Women, Gender, & Sexuality, Graduate Symposium. Houston. April 17.
- 2014 Invited Panelist. "Graduate Student Professionalization: Critical Trends." Western Literature Association. Victoria, Vancouver Islands, British Columbia. November 5.

- 2014 Conference Paper. "Survivance, Critical Regionalism, Feminist Storytelling in the Present." Western Literature Association. Victoria, Vancouver Islands, British Columbia, Canada. November 5.
- 2014 Invited Keynote. "Place as Site of World-Making: Feminist States of Critical Regionalism." III International Conference on the American Literary West. University of the Basque Country, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain. October 10.
- 2014 Invited Keynote. "Global Wests, Feminist Critical Regionalisms, Thinking Otherwise." Pop West: An International Symposium. University of Western Australia, Perth. July 25.
- 2014 Invited Keynote. "What's 'Critical' About Critical Regionalism?" Bavarian International Summer Academy. American Studies in a Transatlantic Perspective: Critical Regionalism in Politics and Culture. Texas State University, San Marcos. June 1.
- 2014 Respondent. "Commemorating and Containing the Native." Native American and Indigenous Study Association. Austin. May 30.
- 2014 Conference Paper. "We're 'Blacksurfing': Public History and Questions of Gender & Sexuality in White Wash." Organization of American Historians. Atlanta. April 11.
- 2013 Conference Paper. "The States of Feminist Critical Regionalism." Western Literature Association. Berkeley. October 11.
- 2013 Invited Public Lecture. "Philosophies of Storytelling." Brown Girl Surf Event Commemorating International Day of the Girl. Patagonia, San Francisco. October 8. See: <http://www.browngirlsurf.com/surfing-possibility.html>
- 2013 Invited Lecture. "More than Race: Gender, Class, and Place." Having the Talk: Teaching Race in the Undergraduate Classroom, sponsored by the Program for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, Culture, at Rice University, Houston. April 6. See YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWjnUaVULqc>
- 2012 Conference Paper. "Decolonizing US Western Studies." Western Literature Association. Lubbock, Texas. November 9.
- 2012 Invited Plenary Speaker. "Emerging Field Issues from Younger Scholars: Report from the Guest Editor." Western Literature Association. Lubbock, Texas. November 9.
- 2012 Invited Highlighted Session Speaker. "Theorizing a Feminist Critical Regionalism." Society for the Study of American Women Writers, Denver. October 13.

- 2012 Invited Public Talk. "Why Contribute?" Launch of Fundraising Campaign for "Living in Possibility," BrownGirlSurf.com. "Rally" – A Public Space for Social Entrepreneurship, San Francisco. October 12.
- 2012 Conference Paper. "Engaged Research Questions for Public Humanities: Brown Girl Surf and the Changing LA Brand." Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association. University of San Diego, California. August 10.
- 2012 Invited Symposium Speaker. "Surfing and the Significance of the Frontier in American Culture After the Cold War." An International Symposium on The Significance of the Frontier in an Age of Transnational History. The Huntington/USC Institute on California and the West, The Huntington Library. San Marino, California. February 25.
- 2011 Conference Paper. "Bordercrossings between US West and Latin American Studies." Western Literature Association. Missoula, Montana. October 7.
- 2011 Invited Plenary Speaker. "What's a Critical Region? Decoloniality and the American West, or Reporting from Collaborative Projects between US West Studies and Latin American Studies." Western Literature Association. Missoula, Montana. October 6.
- 2011 Conference Paper. "Surf Girl Localisms and Global Imaginations." Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. University of Indiana, Bloomington. June 23.
- 2011 Conference Paper. "Novels as Advertisements & 'Girl Localisms' Across California and Mexico." Modern Language Association. Los Angeles. January 6.
- 2010 Conference Paper. "Local/Global Surf Subcultures, Neoliberal Girlhood, 'The War on Terror.'" American Studies Association. San Antonio, Texas. November 20.
- 2010 Invited Lecture. "West & Postwest: Surfing Subcultures, Gender, Critical Regionalism." University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. November 12.
- 2010 Invited Plenary Speaker. "Critical Regionalism, Gender, Western Literary and Cultural Studies." Western Literature Association. Yavapai-Prescott Tribal Lands (Prescott, Arizona). October 21.
- 2010 Invited Literary Reading. "Surfing & Globalization." LitQuake: a San Francisco Literary Festival, Park Chalet. October 4. YouTube: <http://vimeo.com/15645795>
- 2010 Invited Lecture. "California Surf Shops and the Transfer of Girl Localist Knowledge." San

Francisco State University. October 5.

- 2010 Respondent. "Altermodern Aesthetics & the Expediencies of Culture." Panel: "Identities, Mediated Citizenship: Race, Popular Media, and Cities from the 1970s to the Present." Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association. Santa Clara University, California. August 13.
- 2009 Invited Lecture. "Intergenerational Transfer of Feminist Knowledges in California Surf Shops." Tercera Jornada Internacional. Monterrey Technological Institute. Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, México. October 8.
- 2009 Conference Paper. "After the Cowboy: Postwestern Masculinity, Suburbia, McCarthy's Border Trilogy." Western Literature Association. Spearfish, South Dakota. October 2.
- 2009 Invited Keynote. "Surfing the New World Order." Líder Académico of Humanities and Social Sciences: Lecture Series on Gender, Space, Politics. Monterrey Technological Institute, Monterrey, México, September 6-12.
- 2008 Invited Presentation. "Girl Power in Mexico? Ethnographies of Surfistas (Surfer Girls) in Sayulita." Segunda Jornada Internacional. Monterrey Technological Institute Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, México. October 7.
- 2008 Conference Paper. "Architectures of Abandonment: The Nation State in Ruins." Western Literature Association. Boulder, Colorado. October 3.
- 2006 Conference Paper. "Feeling Western, Feeling White: Racial/Spatial Structures of Feeling." Western Literature Association. Boise, Idaho. October 26.
- 2006 Invited Lecture. "Surfing, Critical Regionalism, American Studies." University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. April 10.
- 2005 Conference Paper. "Committing to the Wave: Surfing, Community, Critique." American Studies Association. Washington, D.C. November 4.
- 2005 Conference Paper. "Malibu and Its Others in Endless Summer (1966): Taking Local Youth Cultures Global." Western Literature Association. Los Angeles. October 21.
- 2005 Invited Plenary Speaker. "History, Fiction and the Literary West." Western Literature Association. Los Angeles. October 20.
- 2004 Invited Past President's Keynote. "Everyday Regionalisms in Contemporary Critical

- Practice." Western Literature Association. Big Sky, Montana. September 30.
- 2004 Conference Paper. "The Figure of the Surfer in Narratives of the New World Order." American Literature Association. San Francisco. May 27.
- 2003 "An Evening with Sandra Cisneros." Presentation of Distinguished Achievement Award on behalf of the Western Literature Association. Westin Galleria Ballroom, Houston. October 30.
- 2003 Invited Plenary Speaker. "The Status of Western Studies Inside and Out." Western Literature Association, Houston. October 30.
- 2002 Conference Paper. "Tourism on Vacation: Girls and the Mexican Surfing Surfari." American Studies Association. Houston. November 15.
- 2002 Conference Paper. "Western Literature at Century's End: Conceptualizing the Post ethnic Novel." Western Literature Association. Tucson. October 11.
- 2002 Invited Plenary Respondent. For Annette Kolodny's "Indians, American Prehistory, and the Myths of National Origin." Western Literature Association. Tucson. October 10.
- 2002 Invited Plenary Respondent. "WLA Open Forum on Regionalism and Transnationalism," Western Literature Association. Tucson. October 11.
- 2002 Invited Lecture. "Ecotourism, Girls and the Mexican Surfing Surfari." Department of Environmental Philosophy and Women's Studies. University of North Texas.
- 2001 Moderator. "Popular Culture and Girl Power." A New Girl Order: Young Women and the Future of Feminism Conference. Kings College, London, November 14.
- 2001 Conference Paper. "Postmodernism and the West: Reflections on a Post-1989 Field Imaginary." Western American Literature. Omaha, Nebraska, October 18.
- 2000 Conference Paper. "Competing for the Cultural Memory of Surfing." Australian Cultural Studies Association. University of Queensland, Brisbane. December 3.
- 2000 Conference Paper. "Reading the Gidget Novels: 1950s Female Desire and the West." Western Literature Association. Norman, Oklahoma. October 26.

- 2000 Conference Paper. "Bohemianism, Feminism, and 1950s Surfergirls." American Studies Association. Detroit, Michigan. October 12.
- 2000 Invited Lecture. "Surfing on the Edge of History: Grrrl Power and the New World Order." Drury University, Springfield, Missouri. April 5.
- 2000 Symposium Paper. "Making Sense of Surf Culture." Rice University Graduate Student Symposium "Analysis Now." Houston. March 25.
- 1999 Panel Chair. "Becoming a Western Writer." American Studies Association. Montreal. October 29.
- 1999 Conference Paper. "Women's History and the California Counterculture: Surfergirls, A Case Study." Western Literature Association. Sacramento, California. October 15.
- 1999 Conference Paper. "Living Downstream: Eco-surfers and the Fight for Clean Waves." Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Kalamazoo, July.
- 1999 Conference Paper. "Historical and Geographical Imaginations of the New Female Regionalism." The Berkshires Conference of Women's History. Rochester, New York. June 5.
- 1999 Invited Public Lecture. "Women Outlaws and the New Female Regionalism, OR Who in This World Will Believe Us?" Western Literature Day at Boulder Public Library. March 6.
- 1998 Invited Presentation. "In Search of More than an Endless Summer: Surf Cultures of the Early 1970s." American Literature Association Symposium on Literature and the Environment. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. December 4.
- 1998 Paper. "Wanda Coleman, 'Blackness,' and the Western Imagination." Midwestern Modern Language Association. St. Louis. November 5.
- 1998 Paper. "Reflections on the Origins of the New Female Regionalism: Thinking about Judith Freeman." Western Literature Association. Banff, Alberta, Canada. October 15.
- 1998 Conference Paper. "Geographical Imaginations of the New Female Regionalism." American Literature Association. San Diego. June 28.
- 1996 Conference Paper. "Literary Sources for Gender Studies in the New Western History." Joint meeting of Western Literature Association and Western History Association. Kansas City. October 4.

- 1995 Conference Paper. "Beyond Sacred Landscapes: New Approaches to Reading Nature." Western Literature Association. Vancouver, British Columbia. October 13.
- 1993 Conference Paper. "Western Narrative: A Humanist Imperative? Joan Didion and the Category of 'Western.'" Western Literature Association. Wichita, Kansas. October 7.

Podcasts, Radio Interviews, Television Appearances

- 2025 Radio Interview "Benevolent Patriarchy in Beach Boys" with Stefan Niederwieser, The Österreichischer Rundfunk, Austrian National Public Radio. Top 100 Songs, "[Surfin' USA](#)" – Beach Boys (1963). April 17.
- 2024 Podcast. "[Reading Power](#)." The Waterpeople Podcast with Lauren Hill, December 22.
- 2023 Podcast. "[After Surfer Girls in the New World Order](#)." The Surfing Historian with Dr. Jason Olds. December 15.
- 2010 YouTube. [Krista Comer & the Culture of Surfing](#). Duke University Press. December 2010.
- 2013 YouTube. "Philosophies of Storytelling." BrownGirlSurf Event Commemorating International Day of the Girl. San Francisco. October 8.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKr3q_ZbSBw
- 2013 Radio Interview with Producer West Terry. All Action Sports Radio (AASR). "Roxy Petition & Stephanie Gilmore." San Diego. September 19.
<http://www.allactionsportsradio.com/show-archives/all-action-sports-radio-9-22-13>
- 2013 Blog Post. "Road to Roxy: Petition Delivery." corischumacher.com. Sept 13, 2013.
<http://www.corischumacher.com/2013/09/13/roxy-petition-delivery>
- 2013 YouTube. "Roxy Trailer Petition Delivery: Next Steps." September 13.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVrPI7nIZvE>
- 2012 Blog Post. "Ninja, Surfer, Rapper, Environmental Educator: Another Day at the Beach with Mira Manickham." July. (link no longer available)
- 2010 YouTube. "Surfing & Globalization," LitQuake: San Francisco Literary Festival, Park Chalet, October 4.
<http://vimeo.com/15645795>

- 2010 YouTube. "Krista Comer & the Culture of Surfing." Sponsored by Duke University Press for Surfer Girls in the New World Order.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ax04ICMHgv0>
- 2010 Feature news story. KTRK-TV (Channel 13 News) "Generation X Turns 40," With Reporter Adela Uchida. May 19.
<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/video?id=7452697>

Teaching

Dissertation Supervision

- Chaney Hill. "What is Forgotten Can Change," Second Reader, Defended Rice University. April 2025.
- Paul Burch. "American Narratives of Movement & Dwelling (1883-1977). Co-Director. Defended Rice University May 2024.
- Kelly McKisson. "Feminist Biopolitics of Environment." Co-Director. Defended Rice University May 2023.
- Annie Culver. "Feminist Suburban Ecologies." Director, Rice University, Defended May 2022.
- Mallory Pladus. "Place & Worlding in WWII Veteran Homecoming Narratives." Co-Director, Defended 2020.
- Christina Regelski Gomez. "'Strangers in a Strange Land: Voluntary Exile in the Civil War South.'" History, Rice University, Committee Member. Defended April 8, 2019.
- Julie Williams. "Embodying the West: A Literary and Cultural History of Environment, Body, and Belief." English Department, University of New Mexico. Committee Member. 2016.
- Casper Bendixsen, "Pastoralist Ethics and a Spirit of Traditionalism: Livestock, Land, and Kin in the US West." Anthropology Department, Rice University. Committee Member, May 2014.
- John Escobedo. "Mestizaje in Literatures of Dominican Republic, Chicano/as, Puerto Rico." English Department, Rice University. Committee Member. June 2006.
- Gina Weaver. "Representations of Vietnamese Women in US Vietnam Memoir and Film."

English Department, Rice University. Committee Member. May 2006.

Michon Benson. "Masculinity in 19th Century Slave Narratives and Contemporary Hip Hop Culture." Department of English, Rice University. May 2006. Director.

Priscilla Ybarra. "Walden Pond in Aztlan?" Department of English, Rice University. Committee Member. May 2005.

Shannon Leonard. "Theorizing Mixed-Race Subjectivity in 20th Century Asian American Literature and History." Committee Member. May 2006.

Undergraduate Honors Theses

(after 2020 advised dozens with colleagues via required senior seminar)

Thomas Chen. "Diasporic Literature & the Coloniality of Power." English, Rice University. 2016. Director.

Ben Ong. "Colonial and Gender Politics in Environmental Documentaries." Study of Women, Gender & Sexuality, Rice University. 2013. Director.

Josh Cory. "Knowledge and Community in the Transgender Foundation of America." Study of Women, Gender & Sexuality, Rice University. 2013. Director.

Joshua Redwine. "Americanizing Gay Identities: The Metropolitan/Renegade Binary Contemporary Cinema." Study of Women, Gender & Sexuality, Rice University. 2013. Reader.

Lena Silva. "Contact Improvisation Dance & Feminist Performance Art." Study of Women, Gender & Sexuality, Rice University. 2013. Reader.

Karen Spitzfaden. "Young People, Christianity, and the Need for Feminist Outreach." Study of Women, Gender, & Sexuality, Rice University. 2008. Director.

Courtney Camp. "New Ways of Looking: Visual Culture in Third Wave Feminism," Department of English, Rice University. 2007. Director.

Graduate Courses

Critical Regionalisms (Rice University)

Theory, Methods, Objects of Study (Rice University)

Contemporary Literature & Culture (Rice University)

History & Memory in Literatures of 1968 (Rice University)
Matters of Space: Indian Country, the US/Mexico Borderlands, Los Angeles (Rice University)
Gender, Space, Politics (Monterrey Tec, México)

Directed Readings (Graduate)

Asian American Literature
US West and Its Others
Feminist Critical Regionalism & Cormac McCarthy
Critical Regionalism & Empire

Undergraduate Courses

Houston Out on the Town
Senior Seminar & Research Workshop: Blending Critical/Creative Writing
Literatures of Environmental Justice (English capstone)
Literatures of Peace in the US Postwar Period
Feminist Engaged Research: SWGS Seminar & Practicum (SWGS capstone)
Introduction to Study of Women, Gender, Sexuality
Critical Reading and Writing (Genre, Poetics)
Practices in Literary Study (Theory, Interpretation)
Survey of American Literature
American Literature After 1950
Asian American Literature & Culture
Environment and Literature
The American West and Its Others
Generation X in Literature and Culture
Youth Studies
Feminist Theory: Third Wave Feminist Cultures

Directed Readings (Undergraduate)

Queer Gen X
Asian American Literature
Diasporic Literatures & the Coloniality of Power
Third Wave Feminist Literature and Culture
Feminist Critical Regionalism & US/Mexico Border Literatures

Referee for Journals & Presses

Journals

Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society

Journal of Sport & Social Issues
Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies
American Quarterly
Arizona Quarterly: A Journal of American Literature, Culture, and Theory
Western American Literature
Twentieth Century Literature
Pacific Historical Review
American Literature
American Literary History
The Harbinger: International Journal of Language and Literature
American Journal of Philology
Gender, Place and Culture
ISLE: Interdisciplinary Study of Literature and Environment

University Presses

Routledge; Duke University Press; University of Nebraska Press; Continuum; University of Arizona Press; University of California Press; Peter Lang.

Rice University Service

College Magister. Brown College (2013-2018)
Magisters' Committee. Chair (2015)
College Magister. Baker College (2004-2010)
College Magister (Inaugural). Duncan College (2009-2010)
Examinations and Standing Committee Member (2005-2007)
Mellon Program. Faculty Sponsor and Mentor (2001-7)
Faculty Associate. Wiess College (1997-2003)

Special University Projects as Baker College Magister

Younger Women's Feminism, Speaker Series. Jennifer Baumgartner and Amy Richards; Liz Funk; Carly Kocurek (2009-10)

"Girl Talk." Initiative for generational understanding between older and younger feminists. (2005-10)

"Port Talks." Speaker Series. (2004-10)
Prof. David Gutiérrez, UCSD; Clifford Dasco, M.D., Abramson Family Center; Houston journalist Art Rascon; Rice University President David Leebron; Rice Dean of Humanities Gary Wihl; Rice University Campus Minister Kurt Ritz; Screenwriter

Suzanne O'Malley; Biologist Mary Ellen Lane; Houston County Judge Ed Emmett.

English Department, Rice University

Director of Undergraduate Studies (2020 - 2023)
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Member (2011-2019)
Junior Faculty Mentor (2016-2018)
Director of Undergraduate Studies (2008-2010)
Graduate Committee (2001-2; 04-5)

Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality, Rice University

Postdoctoral Fellow Mentor (2012-14, 2018-2020)
Member, Steering Committee (2003-)
Associate Director, Director of Undergraduate Studies (2012-2016)
Chair, Postdoctoral Fellowship Hiring Committee (2014)
Postdoctoral Fellowship Hiring Committee Member (2012, 2014)

Américas Research Center, Rice University

Chair, Local/Global West Research Cluster (2007-2011)
Member, Committee for Latin American Studies Major (2014)
Convener, US West/Américas International Seminar (2011)
Member, Center Charter Steering Committee (2007)

Professional Service

Western Literature Association

Elected Treasurer (2023-)
Elected Executive Committee (2018-2021)
Chair, Thomas J. Lyon Book Award Committee (2019)
Editorial Board, Western American Literature (1999-)
Program Committee, Western Literature Association Conference, Reno (2014-15)
Chair, Don D. Walker Award for Best Essay in Western American Literary and Cultural Studies (2006-11)
Committee Member, Don D. Walker Award for Best Essay in Western American Literary and Cultural Studies (2003-6)
President, Western Literature Association (2003)
President Elect, Western Literature Association (2002)

Vice President, Western Literature Association (2001)

American Studies Association

Rourke Prize Committee for Best Essay in American Quarterly (2010-12)

Professional Organizations

American Studies Association

Western Literature Association

Western History Association

Coalition of Western Women Historians

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association

Organization of American Historians

Pacific Coast Branch—American Historical Association

Pen Center West

Modern Language Association

Australian Cultural Studies Association

National Women's Studies Association

Society for the Study of American Women Writers