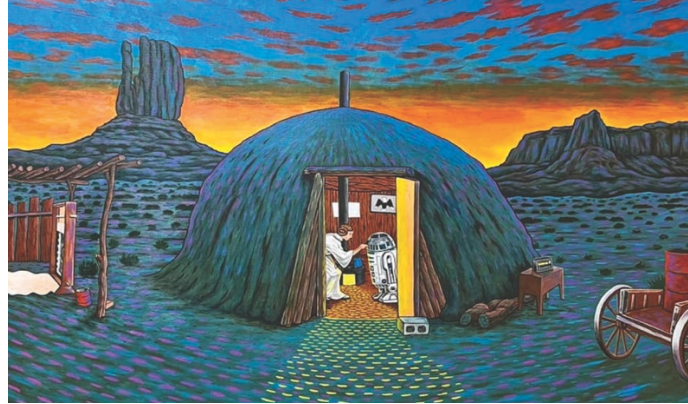


58th Annual Western Literature Association Conference
Speculative Territorializations of New Western Literatures
Tucson, Arizona, October 2–5, 2024



Hope in a Hogan ©Ryan Singer, 2022

The [Western Literature Association](#) is inviting participation in our 2024 annual conference. While this year's theme is focused on the speculative West and the re-inscription of territory, we also welcome proposals for individual papers, organized panels, workshops, posters, performances and other forms of academic engagement on all themes relative to the literary culture of the American West. The chosen site of Tucson, Arizona, is situated on the ancestral lands of the [Tohono O'odham Nation](#), who referred to the area as *Cuk Šon* in their language. Stressing the layering of territoriality that comes about through history and story, the history of Tucson also bears the strong imprint of Spanish and Mexican cultural influences deriving from its establishment as the [Presidio San Agustin del Tucson](#) during the colonial period, while also being the current-day home to the [Pascua Yaqui Tribe](#), amongst twenty other federally recognized tribes that call Arizona home. These contexts are also marked with the legacy of significant territorial conflict, of course, with the legacy of American colonialism especially prevalent as the contexts of the Mexican-American War, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Gadsden Purchase all starkly indicate. Given such complex and deeply embedded circuits of diverse cultural presence, life and cultural experience, we are also seeking presentations that speak to the complexities that have shaped the history, culture and literary traditions of this unique space, place and landscape. In addition to these broadly geographic and socio-historical themes, we encourage proposals exploring the following topics, themes and issues:

- Native and Indigenous literatures, including works emerging from the twenty-two [federally recognized tribes located in Arizona](#)
- the work of this year's Distinguished Achievement Award recipient, Frances Washburn, along with keynote speakers Gerald Vizenor, Stephen Graham Jones, Tom Holm and Ryan Singer, as well as that of long-time Tucson residents Leslie Marmon Silko and Ofelia Zepeda
- Memorials/commemorations on the life and work of Annette Kolodny, Cormac McCarthy and N. Scott Momaday
- Arizona writers, storytellers and texts by such figures as Edward Abbey, Sherwin Bitsui, Natalie Diaz (ASU), Rosemarie Dombrowski, William Eastlake, Jim Harrison, Joseph Wood Krutch, Felipe S. Molina, Alberto Ríos, Laura Tohe and others

- Literary contributions (broadly defined) of Latinx, African American, Asian American and other POC writers from the region and the West more broadly
- Ecocriticism, nature writing and environmental ethics, including topics related to national parks, public lands, reservations and natural resources of the West such as water, fossil fuels and minerals
- Musical and other forms of aural storytelling from, of and about Arizona and the American West
- Visual arts, including painting, photography and digital art—i.e., Ansel Adams, Miguel Camarena, Maynard Dixon, Thomas Moran, James Turrell, Edward Weston
- Critical engagements with the conceptions of the borderlands and *la frontera*

Please upload **abstracts** of 200-250 words, along with any other relevant information or supplementary materials, to: <https://www.conftool.pro/wla-conference-2024/>.

Deadline for proposals: June 5, 2024.

The Western Literature Association's 58th annual conference will meet at the [El Conquistador Hilton Resort](#), October 2–5, 2024 (Wednesday through Saturday).

For further information or specific questions, please consult the [WLA website](#) at <https://westernlit.org/wla-conference-2024/>.