

**KARA L. McCORMACK, Ph.D.**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Bilkent University**  
**Department of American Culture and Literature**

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

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

**EDUCATION**

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- 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**

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**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                “Introduction: Imagining Arizona,” *Journal of Arizona History* 63 No. 3: 257–262.
- 2022                “Searching for Wyatt Earp in Anatolia: The American West in the Turkish  
Imagination,” *Journal of Arizona History* 63 No. 3: 281–310.

2022 “Home. Family. Future: Authenticity, the Frontier Myth, and *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*,” *ContactZone: Journal of the Italian Association for the Study of Science Fiction and Fantasy*, spring 2022

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 Publication

2016 “Call of the Wild: HBO’s *Westworld* Serves Up Violence and Redemption,” Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University

### Work in Progress

“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,” Journal-length article to be submitted to the *New Mexico Historical Review*

### AWARDS, RESEARCH GRANTS, AND HONORS

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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**

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

## **ACADEMIC EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE**

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

## **GUEST LECTURES AND INVITED TALKS**

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- 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**

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### **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**

- 2022 “Women’s Work in the Dystopian West: The Colonies in Hulu’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*,” European Association of American Studies, Madrid, Spain, 6–8 April
- 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**

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### **Bilkent University, Assistant Professor, fall 2018-present**

Imagining the American West  
 Science Fiction in American Culture  
 Introduction to American Studies I  
 Introduction to American Studies II

### **University of New Mexico, Visiting Assistant Professor, spring 2018**

Introduction to Southwest Studies

### **Tufts University, Visiting Lecturer, fall 2017**

The Human Project: Science Fiction Film, Society, and Identity

### **Stanford University, Lecturer in the Humanities, fall 2013-fall 2016**

Dystopian California: Imagining the Golden State in Disaster and Science Fiction Film  
 Race and American Memory

Reading the Body: Medicine, Culture, and the Self  
Technological Visions of Utopia  
Media and Message

**University of New Mexico, Instructor of Record, fall 2007-spring 2013**

Science Fiction in American Culture  
Urban Legends  
Introduction to Southwest Studies  
Introduction to Popular Culture

**SERVICE TO PROFESSION/MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS**

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*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**

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**Bilkent University**

Designer and Administrator, American Culture and Literature website  
Faculty Advisor, student-run American Culture Society  
Thesis committee member, Gozde Ozbudak, Communication and Design  
Advisor, Senior Research Projects  
Job Search Committee Member  
Quality Assurance Committee Member  
Presenter, Orientation and Information Session

**Stanford University**

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

**OTHER EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE**

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1999–2006      Freelance writer, editor, marketing consultant

**TEACHING AREAS**

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American studies  
Cultural studies

American West/Southwest  
Film and society  
Public History  
Tourism/Heritage studies  
Science fiction/Disaster  
Utopian/Dystopian studies

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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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  
European Association of American Studies