

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

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
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
Thesis: “Patriot Games: Patriotism, National Identity, and the American Rodeo”
- B.A. **New York University**, New York, New York
Journalism, Women’s Studies

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

- 2025 “Women’s Work in the Dystopian West: The ‘Colonies’ in Hulu’s *A Handmaid’s
Tale*,” *Journal of American Studies*, Cambridge University Press, *forthcoming*.
- 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*, No. 1 (May 2022): 87–101.
- 2013 “Safeguarding Its Past, Securing Its Future: Preservation and Performance in Tombstone, Arizona,” *Journal of Arizona History* 54 No. 2: 175–200.

Book Reviews

- 2025 *American Burial Ground: A New History of the Overland Trail*. By Sarah Keyes. *American Historical Review*, forthcoming
- 2024 *American Dude Ranch: A Touch of the Cowboy and the Thrill of the West*. By Lynn Downey. *Journal of Arizona History*, spring 2024
- 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

In Preparation

“Alien Encounters: Race, Memory, and UFO Tourism in Roswell, New Mexico”

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

- 2024 “Alien Encounters: Race, Memory, and UFO Tourism in Roswell, New Mexico,”
Critical Mystery Studies: An Interdisciplinary Symposium, University of New
Mexico, November 19
- 2023 “Home. Family. Future: Authenticity, the Frontier Myth, and *Dawn of the Planet of the
Apes*,” Bilkent University Humanities Seminar Series, March 22
- 2022 “Searching for Wyatt Earp in Anatolia: The American West in the Turkish
Imagination,” Arizona Historical Society Ask the Author Series, October 8
- 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, May 9

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, November 1–4

Papers Presented

- 2025 "Seeking the 'Imponderable Bloom': Wilderness and the Sublime in 'The Machine Stops' and *Silo*," International American Studies Association World Conference on "Visual Americas: Image, Text, Performance," Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey, May 14–16
- 2023 "Rejuvenation and Redemption: The Feminized West and the Colonies in Hulu's *The Handmaid's Tale*," Western History Association, Los Angeles, California, October 25–28
- 2022 "Women's Work in the Dystopian West: The Colonies in Hulu's *The Handmaid's Tale*," European Association of American Studies, Madrid, Spain, April 6–8
- 2021 "Beyond the American West: The West in the Turkish Imagination," Western History Association, Portland, Oregon, October 20–24
- 2020 "Alien Encounters: Race, Memory, and UFO Tourism in Roswell, New Mexico," Western History Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 13–17
- 2019 "Imagining Tombstone: Hollywood, Historicity, and the Construction of a Usable Past," American Studies Association of Turkey, Çanakkale, Turkey, May 15–17
- 2014 "Global Round-Up: Circulation and Consumption of the Mythic West Around the World," Western History Association, Newport Beach, California, October 15–18
- 2012 "Hollywood, History, and Hyperreality in Tombstone, Arizona," National Popular Culture and American Culture Associations, Boston, Massachusetts, April 11–14
- 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, April 20–23
- 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, October 16–19
- 2005 "Patriot Games: Performing Gender and Sexuality in the American Rodeo," Northeast Popular Culture Association, Fairfield, Connecticut, October 28–29

TEACHING

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 & 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

Instersect: 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

Designer and Administrator, American Culture and Literature website
Faculty Advisor, student-run American Culture Society
Thesis committee member

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

1999–2006 Freelance writer, editor, marketing consultant

TEACHING AREAS

American studies
Cultural studies
American West/Southwest
Film and society
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
Science Fiction Research Association
European Association of American Studies