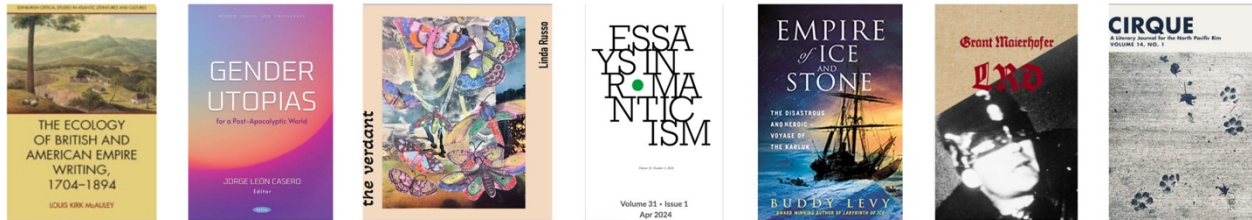


THE CURRENT

Our monthly newsletter, published online during the academic year, celebrates the latest publications, acceptances, projects, presentations, awards, accolades, teaching highlights, activities, and more of English faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2024

Publications, Exhibits, & Acceptances



Nishant Shahani co-edited a special journal issue for *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience* entitled “[Autoimmunities in the Wake of COVID-19.](#)” The issue mobilizes feminist, queer, disability, and critical race theory to consider the ruins, legacies, and creations of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to co-writing the [introduction](#), Nishant and his co-editor also [interviewed](#) AIDS studies scholar and activist Cindy Patton for the issue. The issue features contributions from Salar Mameni, Bishnupriya Ghosh, Rachel Lee, Alexandra Juhasz, Pato Hebert, and many others.

Grant Maierhofer's novel *Traumnovelle* was released by Spuyten Duyvil Press this month.

Lauren Westerfield's debut collection of experimental essays and autofictions, *Depth Control*, is now available for preorder from Unsolicited Press (publication date: April 15, 2025).

Conferences, Readings, Workshops, Performances, & Presentations

In late May 2024, **Buddy Levy** traveled to Los Angeles to appear as an invited professional on-camera expert for the hit television series *History's Greatest Mysteries*, hosted by

Laurence Fishburne for HISTORY channel. The episode (which will air this fall, date TBD) concerns the story of Percy Fawcett and the Lost City of Z, which was chronicled in the bestselling book by David Grann. Levy was a guest because of his knowledge, understanding and research of lost cities that accrued due to researching his own book, *River of Darkness: Francisco Orellana and the Deadly First Voyage Through the Amazon*.

In late July 2024, **Buddy Levy** was flown to Los Angeles to appear as an on-camera expert on the hit television series *The UnXplained*, hosted by William Shatner on HISTORY channel. The episode deals with secret societies in America. Levy was invited because of his experience researching the Bohemian Grove, a men's only exclusive club in Sonoma County, CA.

Jeff Jones was interviewed by [Cemetery Dance](#) about his forthcoming graphic story collection *Bloodshot World*.

Geoff Clegg will be presenting on the panel "So, You Are New to B-Comm? Lessons Learned in the Deep End" for the October 2024 Association for Business Communication in Tulsa, OK.

Geoff Clegg has been accepted to two panels for the 2025 Conference on College Composition and Communication in Baltimore, MD: "Presenting Oneself: Rhetoric, the Disabled Body, and Healthcare Students" and "A Different Kind of Love: AI, Affect, & Authenticity" (panel with Drs. Bonnie L. Kyburz and Brandy Dieterle).

Grant Maierhofer was selected as a University of Utah guest writer for the 50th anniversary of FC2 Press.

On August 11, 2024 the King County School District held the workshop "Collaborative Leadership Addressing School Safety." **Thabiti Lewis** was invited to speak. His presentation was titled: "Holistic Safety Approaches—Reconciliation and Hope for the Future."

Kirk McAuley's second book, *The Ecology of British and American Empire Writing, 1704 - 1894* (Edinburgh UP, 2024) was selected by ASLE for inclusion in the first episode of their 2024 - 2025 Spotlight series. Kirk participated in a conversation with four other authors / creators around the theme of Extraction on October 18 via Zoom. This episode will be co-hosted by Sharae Deckard, University College Dublin.

Wednesday, October 2, the Office of Research Working Group on Arts & Humanities held an Interdisciplinary Dialogue with a conversation centered on *Environmental Impacts*. Panelists **DJ Lee** (English), Michael Brady (Economics Sciences), Jeff Sanders (History), and **M.A. Miller** (Women's, Gender, Sexuality Studies) presenting on broad perspectives about the outcomes of human relationships with and interactions in our natural world. Ranging from historic, narrative, and economic angles, panelists shared their related work and scholarly production. The event was organized by **Ashley Boyd**.

Ashley Boyd and **Rachael Wolney** held a workshop called "Palouse Reads: A Community Literacy Project" on Wednesday, October 9, via Zoom. They shared their work creating and implementing a project in which local community members were invited to participate in collaborative reading and dialogue around social justice issues raised in young adult literature (YAL) such as mental health and food insecurity, and representatives from outreach organizations in the community were invited to share their connections to the books' foci.

The keynote for InQueery 2024 held virtually on Tuesday, October 15 was Sa'ed Atshan, associate professor and chair of Peace and Conflict Studies at Swarthmore College. Dr. Atshan is the author of *Queer Palestine and the Empire of Critique* and *The Moral Triangle: Germans, Israelis, Palestinians*. InQueery is sponsored by WGSS, Director **Pamela Thoma**.

In late August 2024, **Buddy Levy** was an invited guest on the Lex Fridman podcast. Fridman's longform podcast—the conversations are between 1-4 hours—has a listenership of between 3-10 million per episode. Some of Fridman's previous guests are Noam Chomsky, Andrew Huberman, Sam Harris, Benjamin Netanyahu, Matthew McConaughey, and Oliver Stone. Levy's conversation with Fridman—about the Amazon Basin, Conquistadors, human survival and endurance—is slated to be released this fall.

Aaron Oforlea and **DJ Lee** ran a workshop titled "Documenting Insurrectionist Voices: Life-Writing and African American Literary Theory" at the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism conference at Georgetown University on August 16.

Nishant Shahani gave a talk entitled "Pink Revolutions" in the Department of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Scripps College.

Peter Chilson performed the narrative voice over for the short documentary film, "Mediation and Traditional Conflict Resolution in Timbuktu." The film is part of an ongoing project of the Timbuktu Center for Strategic Studies on the Sahel, which is working to provide diplomatic solutions to the civil war in Mali. Chilson is on the Center's board of advisors.

Lauren Westerfield, **Grant Maierhofer**, **Jeff Jones**, and **Cameron McGill** were invited readers at the University of Idaho's 30th Anniversary MFA Festival celebration, held August 23rd & 24th in Moscow, Idaho. Jeff and Cameron read at the Alumni & Emeritus Faculty Reading on August 23rd at the 1912 Center, and Lauren and Grant participated in the Alumni Reading & Publishing Panel on August 24th at PCEI, after which **The Widow Cameron** (Cameron McGill) performed live music.

Michael Delahoyde, on his monthly live Zoom show *Shakespeare Illuminated*, sponsored by the Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship, presented *The Taming of the Shrew* and "Chaucer Hidden in Shakespeare." Late summer episodes of *King John* and *Hamlet* (which included British actors Richard Clifford and Annabel Leventon) are prepared for YouTube viewing.

Michael Delahoyde was invited back by the Brits for a recitation, "All the World's a Stage," for a De Vere Society event, *The Earl's Stage*. He presented at the Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship Conference a piece titled "Nothing," concerning Shakespeare's multivariant and enlightened uses of the word.

Teaching Highlights, Activities, & Innovations

[WSU Open Mic](#) was recently featured in the *Daily Evergreen*. The article quoted creative writing director and faculty advisor **Linda Russo**, who described Open Mic as "a combination of community and a shared love for the arts."

Jillian Ankney, Campus Director of Native American Programs, WSU Vancouver, invites everyone to join an amazing lineup of events at WSU Vancouver! In partnership with Academic Affairs, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, **Thabiti Lewis**, CAS, CSEJ, the Visiting Writers Series, the Food and Justice Council, our new ITECK-garden reps, Garden Club, Native American Club, and Native American Programs, will be partnering with WSU Pullman Common Reading Program's book selection this year, *How the Other Half Eats* by Priya Fielding-Singh. Featuring talks with leaders in social justice, food sovereignty, ITECK-knowledges, histories, and treaty rights for Indigenous peoples. Past and Future events include:

Harry H. Slickpoo Jr., Nez Perce, his Indian name is tísqe? 'Ilp'íl̓p, gave a presentation on October 1 at WSU Vancouver and via Zoom. Currently Slickpoo Jr. teaches multiple language revitalization classes that focuses on reclamation, revitalization, and the importance of Nez Perce language and culture. Camas prairies, Indigenous food sovereignty, and camas pit talk.

Indigenous People's Day Guest Lecturer Series will include Tanna Engdahl. Engdahl is ppiritual leader of the Cowlitz Tribe and WSU Vancouver NACAB and will be our honored guest lecturer for two weeks for Native American literature and the history of the Cowlitz Tribe, treaty rights, and food sovereignty. October 15, 17, 22, 24th. 10:35-11:50am VCES 122 and via zoom. Contact Jillian Ankney for Zoom link.

For Native American Heritage Month, honored storyteller, Tanna Engdahl, Spiritual Leader Cowlitz Tribe and NACAB, will be our guest storyteller along with Tanna's nephew Clay, Cowlitz storyteller and singer/drummer on November 7th, 10:30-11:50 am, Firstenburg & CILA building. Indigenous Feast to follow the storytelling events. Sponsored by WSU Vancouver Native American Programs, CILA, CSEJ, OSI, Office Of Equity and Diversity, and Academic Affairs

On September 12, French-Natchitoches actor and filmmaker Clément Lagouarde screened and discussed his short films at WSU Vancouver. Lagouarde is a member and ambassador of the Natchitoches tribe of Louisiana. His great-grandfather, Thomas Dixon, a member of

the Natchitoches tribe, left his home in Louisiana in 1917 to serve in World War I. Lagouarde was born in France and was commissioned by the tribe to design their now logo. Lagouarde was eventually elected as a council leader and then ambassador of the Natchitoches tribe.

Lagouarde followed his dreams to become an actor and filmmaker in France. Following screenings at the Vancouver [BC] Indigenous Film Festival, he will screen and discuss his two short films at WSU Vancouver: *13 Octobre*, a satirical comedy about colonization from the point of view of the gods, and *Notre Père 'Our Father'*, in which a brother and sister pay tribute to their father, all three Indigenous expatriates in France. Sponsors are [Native American Programs](#), the History Program, and the [Collective for Social and Environmental Justice](#).

Native American Programs at WSU Vancouver was fortunate to be invited to Lelooska Foundation and Cultural Center for an amazing tour of their facilities! They met a master carver and his grandson, see their masks, cultural sites for gathering, cultural exhibit, and hear a few stories! They also witnessed the process of totem pole restoration for coastal native tribes and see the beginnings of a new totem pole.

On September 10, Sam Robinson, Vice-Chairman of the Chinook Nation, WSUV NACAB, spoke about the Chinook fight for federal recognition, treaty rights, and food sovereignty as part of a field trip day to the Chinook Plank House in Ridgefield, WA. Smoked salmon was served to about 20 guests in attendance! The meal really brang community together!

Jeff Jones ran a two-hour community workshop titled "Art-Inspired Writing" on Oct. 5 at the "[Icons in Transformation](#)" traveling exhibit at St. James Episcopal Church in Pullman.

WSU Visiting Writers Series (VWS), co-directed by **Cameron McGill** and **Julian Ankney**, will host poet and author Arisa White on Thursday October 24 at 5:00 p.m. in the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art and YouTube Live Stream. Visit the VWS Website for more information.

In Fall 2024, the **Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies** began offering the Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Mean Girl Feminism Reading Group: WSU graduate students and WGSS instructors **Anna Bushy**, **Elizabeth Forsythe**, **Christel Woods**, and **Sezin Zorlu**; WSU alums **Leah Wilson** and **Lindsey Carman Williams**; and WSU faculty **DJ Lee**, **Peter Chilson**, and **Pamela Thoma** met on June 18 and June 28 to discuss Kim Hong Nguyen's *Mean Girl Feminism: How White Feminists Gaslight, Gatekeep, and Girlboss* (2024).

WSU Vancouver's **Collective for Social and Environmental Justice** is partnering with @s4pwsuv (Students for Justice in Palestine at WSUV) to continue the teach-in on the crisis in Palestine and Israel. Join us this Thursday, September 26, and on October 10, October 24, and November 7 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm in VUB 121 and on Zoom.

Awards, Honors, Prizes, Fellowships, & Grants

August of 2024 **Thabiti Lewis** received the Black Alumni Excellence Award for faculty. The intent of the Black Alumni Excellence Awards is to recognize the outstanding achievements by Black Washington State University alumni, faculty, staff, and students. The awards serve to honor truly exceptional accomplishments of those who demonstrate the highest levels of leadership, performance, and excellence in their respective fields.

Lauren Westerfield's memoir in essays, *Woman House*, was a semi-finalist for the Ohio State University Press 2024 Non/Fiction Collection Prize.

Geoff Clegg joined the Advisory Board for *the Journal of Multimodal Rhetorics*.

Jillian Ankney is pleased to announce a new member of our Native American Community Advisory Board (NACAB) at WSU Vancouver, Mercedes White Calf! Mercedes White Calf (Oglala Sioux) in her new position, serves on the Southwest Washington SWACH, as the Vice President of Political Affairs for the NAACP (Vancouver branch), she has spearheaded the formulation and execution of political strategy and is also a Washington State lobbyist. Mercedes is a social justice advocate and has been a voice on *Power Hour!* Power Hour is an intentional space for Black, Brown, and Indigenous people to build community and heal from the impacts of racism. Mercedes was born to a full-blood Lakota Sioux woman from Pine Ridge South Dakota, and she grew up in Portland, Oregon. A University of Oregon alumni with a Bachelor of Science degree in American Indian Education, Treaty & Policy, and was a recipient of the Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship. Welcome Mercedes to NACAB! We are so excited to have you join us!