

January 2011

Lawrence Culver

Fields: U.S. Cultural, Environmental, and Urban History; U.S.-Mexico Borderlands, U.S. West

Department of History
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322-0710

(435) 797-3101
(435) 797-3899 (fax)
lawrence.culver@usu.edu

Employment

Associate Professor, Department of History, Utah State University. Tenured March 2010.

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Utah State University. Appointed August 2004.

Education

2004 Ph.D. in History, University of California, Los Angeles
Dissertation: "The Island, the Oasis, and the City: Santa Catalina, Palm Springs, Los Angeles, and Southern California's Shaping of American Life and Leisure."
Committee: Stephen Aron, Dennis Cosgrove, Thomas Hines, and Kevin Terraciano

1997 M.A. in History, Utah State University

1994 B.A. in History and English, University of Montevallo

Research and Teaching Awards

2005 Rachel Carson Prize for Best Dissertation in Environmental History (U.S. or World), American Society for Environmental History

2007 Excellence in Instruction for First-Year Students Award, Utah State University

Publications

Book:

The Frontier of Leisure: Southern California and the Shaping of Modern America. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals:

"Sin City or Suburban Crucible?: Searching for Meanings in the New Las Vegas." *Journal of Urban History.* (November 2009, 1052-1058.)

"Connecting Myth to History: Interpreting the Western Past at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center." *Western Historical Quarterly.* (Winter 1998, 515-519.)

Chapters in Peer-Reviewed Anthologies:

“America’s Playground: Recreation and Race.” In *A Companion to Los Angeles*. Blackwell Companions to American History Series. Eds. William Devereil and Greg Hise. Malden, Mass: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010, 421-437.

“Promoting the Pacific Borderlands: Leisure and Labor in Southern California, 1870-1950.” In *Land of Necessity: Consumption in the United States-Mexico Borderlands*. Ed. Alexis McCrossen. Durham: Duke University Press, 2009, 168-195.

“From Public to Private Nature in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles.” In *Green Openings: Urban Landscapes in Twentieth-Century History*. Eds. Dorothee Brantz and Sonja Duempelmann. (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, in process and scheduled for publication Spring 2011).

Additional Anthology Chapters:

“Economic Aspirations and the Politics of National Park Creation in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, 1919-1929.” In *People and Place: The Human Experience in Greater Yellowstone*. Eds. Paul Schullery and Sarah Stevenson. Yellowstone National Park, Wyo.: National Park Service and Yellowstone Center for Resources, 2005, 180-194.

“From Last of the Old West to First of the New West: Tourism and Transformation in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.” In *Imagining the Big Open: Nature, Identity, and Play in the New West*. Eds. Liza Nicholas, Elaine P. Bapis, and Thomas J. Harvey. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2003, 163-180.

“The Literature of Tourism and Its Discontents: Auto Tourist Travel Narratives, 1915-1940.” In *Reading Under the Sign of Nature: New Essays in Ecocriticism*. Eds. John Tallmadge and Henry Harrington. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2000, 36-48.

Encyclopedia Articles:

“Disney,” “Los Angeles, California,” “Outdoor Recreation,” “Southwest,” and “Sunbelt” in *Encyclopedia of American Environmental History*. Ed. Kathleen A. Brosnan. (Facts on File, 2010.)

“Bungalow,” in *Encyclopedia of American Urban History*. Ed. David R. Goldfield. (Sage Publications, 2006), 105-106.

“Disneyland,” in *Encyclopedia of American Urban History*. Ed. David R. Goldfield. (Sage Publications, 2006), 221-222.

“Resort Towns,” in *Encyclopedia of American Urban History*. Ed. David R. Goldfield. (Sage Publications, 2006), 674-676.

“Spanish Colonial Towns and Cities,” in *Encyclopedia of American Urban History*. Ed. David R. Goldfield. (Sage Publications, 2006), 753-755.

Book Reviews:

“*Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Local Development* by Luigi Fusco Girard and Peter Nijkamp, eds.” *Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change*, (forthcoming).

“*Urban Farming in the West: A New Deal Experiment in Subsistence Homesteads* by Robert M. Carriker.” *Pacific Historical Review*, (forthcoming).

“*Are We There Yet?: The Golden Age of American Family Vacations* by Susan Sessions Rugh.” *Western Historical Quarterly*, (Spring 2010), 98-99.

Shaping the Shoreline: Fisheries and Tourism on the Monterey Coast by Connie Y. Chiang.” *Journal of American History* (June 2009), 245-246.

“*Landscapes of Fraud: Mission Tumacácori, the Baca Float, and the Betrayal of the O’odham* by Thomas E. Sheridan.” *New Mexico Historical Review* (Summer 2008), 387-388.

“*Suffering in the Land of Sunshine: A Los Angeles Illness Narrative* by Emily K. Abel.” *Western Historical Quarterly* (Summer 2008), 235-236.

“*California Vieja: Culture and Memory in a Modern American Place* by Phoebe S. Kropp.” *Western Historical Quarterly* (Winter 2008), 526-527.

“Swimming Together, Swimming Apart: The History of Swimming Pools in America.” Review of *Contested Waters: A Social History of Swimming Pools in America* by Jeff Wiltse. *H-Environment – Humanities and Social Sciences Online* (September 2007).

“Selling Mexico and Modernity through Tourism.” Review of *The Development of Mexico's Tourism Industry: Pyramids by Day, Martinis by Night* by Dina Berger. *H-Travel – Humanities and Social Sciences Online* (December 2006).

“*Ramona Memories: Tourism and the Shaping of Southern California* by Dydia DeLyser.” *Western Historical Quarterly* (Winter 2006), 511.

“*Indian Country: Travels in the American Southwest, 1840-1935* by Martin Padget.” *Western Historical Quarterly* (Autumn 2005), 375-376.

“*The Great California Story* by Carl Palm.” *Southern California Quarterly* (Summer 2005), 210-212.

“Predators, Parables, and the Limits of Public Environmental Science.” Review of *In the Absence of Predators: Conservation and Controversy on the Kaibab Plateau* by Christian C. Young. *H-Environment – Humanities and Social Sciences Online* (December 2003).

“*Ruins and Rivals: The Making of Southwest Archaeology* by James E. Snead.” *Southern California Quarterly* (Summer 2003), 230-232.

“*Seeing and Being Seen: Tourism in the American West*, edited by David M. Wrobel and Patrick T. Long.” *Western Historical Quarterly* (Summer 2002), 234-235.

“*The Spirit of Yellowstone* by Judith Meyer.” *Environmental History* (Autumn 1998), 543-544.

Additional Publications:

“Are We There Yet?: Historians and the History of Tourism.” *History News Network* (June 2007).

“From Paradise to Parking Lot: The History of Parks in Los Angeles.” *Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design* (Spring 2003).

“Exploring the Frontiers of Leisure: Tourism in the American West.” *Spur: Magazine of the Autry Museum of Western Heritage* (Spring 2002).

“Tourism in Yellowstone.” *Points West: Magazine of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center* (Spring 1998).

Current Research

“Manifest Disaster: Climate and the Making of America.” My second book will examine how Americans have perceived – and often misperceived – the climates and ecosystems of North America. In this new book, I aim to connect the current debate over climate change to a much longer history of how Americans have thought about climate, from the continent they imagined from early exploration and settlement, to the ideology of Manifest Destiny, to the climatic myths that spurred development on the high plains and in the arid Southwest in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. By combining environmental history with cultural and intellectual history, geography, and the history of environmental science, “Manifest Disaster” will help illuminate the longer and little-known history of the most contentious environmental debate of our time.

Fellowships and Grants

(Amount and Purpose Listed for Funding Received since Appointment at U.S.U.)

2011	Giles W. and Elise G. Mead Foundation and Michael J. Connell Foundation Fellowship, Huntington Library \$7,500 – Research Funding for Second Book Project
2010	Research Fellowship, Rachel Carson Center for Environmental Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich and the Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany. \$15,000 – Six Months of Supplemental Sabbatical Salary and Support for Second Book Project.
2009	Visiting Scholar Fellowship, Autry National Center Institute for the Study of the American West \$1,250 – Research Funding for Second Book Project

2008 Utah Humanities Council Grant
\$500 – Campus Programming; New Directions in Western History Symposium

2007 Historical Society of Southern California Haynes Foundation Research Award
\$1,200 – Research Funding for First Book

2007-2008 John Topham and Susan Redd Butler Faculty Fellowship, Charles Redd Center
for Western Studies, Brigham Young University
\$1,200 – Research Funding for First Book

2007 Utah Humanities Council Grant
\$500 – Campus Programming; “A Literary History of Mexican America,” by
Visiting Lecturer José Aranda

2006 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship, Huntington Library
\$2,000 – Research Funding for First Book

2006 Historical Society of Southern California Haynes Foundation Research Award
\$300 – Research Funding for First Book

2005 Utah State University New Faculty Research Grant
\$11,234 (including supplemental salary and calculated benefits) – Research
Funding for First Book

2005 Western History Association – Martin Ridge Fellowship, Huntington Library
\$2,000 – Research Funding for First Book

2005 Historical Society of Southern California Haynes Foundation Research Award
\$1,200 – Research Funding for First Book

2004 American Society for Environmental History Donald Worster Travel Award

2004 Historical Society of Southern California Haynes Foundation Research Award

2003-2004 UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship

2001 Historical Society of Southern California Haynes Foundation Research Award

2001 Autry Museum of Western Heritage Summer Research Fellowship

2000 UCLA Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship

1998-2002 UCLA Regents/Carey McWilliams Fellowship

1997 Mountain West Center for Regional Studies Research Award

Presentations

Refereed Conference Presentations:

- July 2010 “Manifest Disaster: Climate and the Making of America.” Green Cultures: Environmental Knowledge, Climate, and Catastrophe Conference. Bavarian American Academy and Rachel Carson Center. Munich, Germany.
- March 2010 “Publishing *The Frontier of Leisure*.” American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference. Portland, Oregon.
- October 2009 “The Nature of Suburbia.” Western History Association Annual Conference. Denver, Colorado.
- March 2009 “Labor, Leisure, and Culture.” Organization of American Historians Annual Conference. Seattle, Washington.
- January 2009 “Promoting the Pacific Borderlands: Leisure and Consumption in Southern California.” Organized Panel, “Disrupting Boundaries and Globalizing Historiographies: Consumption, Consumer Cultures, and the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.” American Historical Association Annual Conference. New York City, New York.
- October 2008 “Perils of Place: Teaching Western History to Diverse Audiences.” Pedagogy Panel sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta. Western History Association Annual Conference. Salt Lake City, Utah.
- February 2007 “Leisure, Labor, and the Making of Modern Southern California: Recreation, Conservation, and Resort-Making at Santa Catalina Island.” Organized Panel, “Nature, Recreation, and Inequality in the City.” American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- January 2007 “The Frontiers and Borders of Public Space in Los Angeles.” Organized Panel, “The Shape of the City: Contesting Culture and Space in Nineteenth-Century America.” Co-sponsored by the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. American Historical Association Annual Conference. Atlanta, Georgia.
- October 2006 “The Border, the Bungalow, and the Birth of Sunbelt Suburbia in Southern California and the Borderlands.” Urban History Association Biennial Conference. Tempe, Arizona.
- October 2006 “Writing and Reading the Recreational Southwest.” Organized Panel, “Engendering Nature through Labor and Leisure.” Western History Association Annual Conference. St. Louis, Missouri.

- December 2005 “From Public to Private Nature in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles.” The Place of Nature in the City in Twentieth-Century Europe and North America, German Historical Institute. Washington, D.C.
- October 2005 “Palm Springs and the Shaping of Postwar Suburbia.” Western History Association Annual Conference. Scottsdale, Arizona.
- August 2005 “Nature, Race, and Recreation in Southern California.” American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch Annual Conference. Corvallis, Oregon.
- March 2005 “Arcadian Urbanism: Recreation and the Environmental History of Los Angeles.” American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference. Houston, Texas.
- February 2005 “Inventing Region and Making the Regional International: Tourism, Promotion, and Architecture in Southern California.” Architecture and Regionalism: The Fourth Savannah Symposium, Savannah College of Art and Design. Savannah, Georgia.
- April 2004 “From Playground to Parking Lot: The History of Parks in Los Angeles.” American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference. Victoria, British Columbia.
- October 2001 “From Isle of Romance to Island Refuge: A Study of Regional Culture and National Leisure at Santa Catalina Island, California.” Western History Association Annual Conference. San Diego, California.
- April 2001 “Preservation and Promotion: The Contradictory Career of Charles Fletcher Lummis.” Organization of American Historians Annual Conference. Los Angeles, California.
- October 1997 “Economic Aspirations and the Politics of National Park Creation in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, 1919-1929.” People and Place: The Yellowstone 125th Anniversary Conference, Yellowstone National Park.
- July 1997 “The Literature of Tourism and Its Discontents: Auto Tourist Travel Narratives, 1915-1940.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference. Missoula, Montana

Invited Presentations:

- November 2010 “The City in Contemporary Environmentalist Thought.” Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology, University of Bielefeld. Bielefeld, Germany.

- November 2010 “The Frontier of Leisure: Southern California and the Shaping of Modern America.” Colloquium, Rachel Carson Center, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. Munich, Germany.
- November 2010 “Manifest Disaster: Climate and the Making of America.” Works in Progress Meeting, Rachel Carson Center, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. Munich, Germany.
- July 2010 “California Dreams and Disasters: Environmental Hazards in America’s Golden State.” “Still the Golden State? *Kalifornien Heute*” Lecture Series. Bavarian American Academy, Rachel Carson Center, and Amerika Haus Association. Munich, Germany.
- May 2010 “The Frontier of Leisure: Southern California and the Shaping of Modern America.” Clark Davis Memorial Lecture, Los Angeles History Research Group and the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West. Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
- January 2010 “The Frontier of Leisure: Southern California and the Shaping of Modern America.” Department of Environment and Society and College of Natural Resources Seminar Series, Utah State University. Logan, Utah.
- May 2009 “Manifest Disaster: Climate, Catastrophe, and the Making of America.” Autry National Center, Los Angeles, California.
- November 2008 “Phoenix at the Frontier of Leisure.” F.A.R. Xchange 1: The Desert between Us. Future Arts Research at Arizona State University. Phoenix and Tempe, Arizona.
- April 2006 “Inventing the ‘Great Southwest’: Creating and Consuming Leisure in the Southwest Borderlands.” Consumer Cultures Meet the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands. Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Southern Methodist University. Dallas, Texas.
- March 2006 “Making the Desert Modern: Architectural Modernism in Palm Springs.” Modernism and Regionalism: Art and Life in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles. Cosponsored by the Armand Hammer Museum, UCLA, and the Autry National Center. Los Angeles, California.
- Refereed Conference Chair or Comment:**
- March 2008 Panel Comment, “‘Marketing the Sublime?’: Global Tourism, Outdoor Recreation, and Commercial Imagination.” American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference. Boise, Idaho.
- October 2006 Panel Chair, “Urban Infrastructure.” Urban History Association Biennial Conference. Tempe, Arizona.

December 2005 Panel Chair, “(Re)constructing Nature.” The Place of Nature in the City in Twentieth-Century Europe and North America, German Historical Institute. Washington, D.C.

Teaching Experience

2004-2010 **Assistant and Associate Professor, Utah State University**

- U.S. Institutions/U.S. History Survey (Colonial Era to Present)
- History of Mexican Americans
- History of the Twentieth-Century American West
- History of the United States, 1900-1945
- History of Urban America
- History of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands
- Environmental History Graduate Seminar
- Historical Methods and Practice Graduate Seminar
- History of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands Graduate Seminar

2008-2009 **Teaching History in the Schools Teacher Seminars**

Teaching American History Connections Seminars, U.S. Department of Education Teaching History in the Schools Project, Park City and Salt Lake City, Utah

- The U.S.-Mexico War
- History of Mexican Americans
- The Environmental History of the American West

2006-2009 Bridgerland PATHS/NuPATHS Seminars, U.S. Department of Education Teaching History in the Schools Project, Logan, Utah

- Hurricane Katrina and the Unnatural History of Natural Disasters in America
- Mexican Americans and the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands in American History
- The American West
- U.S. History Survey
- Historic Washington, D.C. Travel Seminar

Chair, Graduate Student M.A./M.S. Thesis Committees

2010 Philip Lockette, “Sex in the Kitchen: The Re-Interpretation of Gendered Space within the post-World War II Suburban Home in the West.”

2009 Clint Pumphrey, “From Sagebrush to Subdivisions: Visualizing Tourist Development in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, 1967-2002.”

2009 Jami Van Huss, “From Cultural Traditions to National Trend: The Transition of Domestic Mormon Architecture in Cache Valley, Utah, 1860-1915.”

2006 David Vail, “‘The Thirsty Places of the Earth’: Politics, Environment, and the Contentious History of Utah’s Cache County Water Conservation District No. 1.”

- Chair, Graduate Student M.A./M.S. Plan B Research Project Committees**
- 2010 Sierra Robinson Nelson, “Out of Ashes: An Exploration of the Effects of Technology on Firefighting in the Intermountain West.”
- 2007 Ryan Waite, “Marching with the Mormon Battalion: Insights and Observations from the Diary of William Hyde.”
- Committee Member, Graduate Student Thesis and Plan B Committees**
- 2010 Brandon Rains, “The Career Intern Program: An Alternative High School in 1970s Philadelphia.” Thesis.
- 2010 Melinda Rich, “‘To Drink from Places’: Uncovering a Rich Way of Life Near the Grand Canyon’s North Rim.” Thesis. American Studies.
- 2010 Nathaniel Whipple, “Individual Gains: A Personal History of Learning, Writing, and Teaching.” Plan B. American Studies.
- 2009 Lyra Hilliard, “Desert Solecisms: Profane Patriotism and Sacred Wildness in the Promised Land.” Thesis. American Studies.
- 2008 David Bigger, “Hosea Stout and the Creation of a Legal System in the State of Deseret.” Plan B.
- 2008 Karl Germeck, “The Cultural Geography and Collective Memory of Chavez Ravine, Los Angeles.” Thesis. American Studies.
- 2007 Adam Luke, “Manufacturing the Wilderness: the Role of Local Communities, Activists, and Industry in Creating Wilderness and Public Land Policy.” Thesis.
- 2006 Joel Miyasaki, “Claiming a Place in the Intermountain West: Japanese American Ethnic Identity in Utah and Idaho.” Thesis.
- 2006 Jack H. Molgard, “The Uintah and Ouray Reservation Boundary: An Assault on the Sovereignty of the Ute Indian Tribe.” Plan B.
- 1998-2004 Doctoral Student, Department of History, UCLA**
- 2004 Instructor, Oasis Older Adult Education Program, Pierce College, Los Angeles
- Lewis and Clark: Journey to another America
- 2002-2003 Teaching Fellow and Seminar Instructor, UCLA
- Are We There Yet?: Tourism and the Invention of the American West
 - Nature’s Nation: Issues in American Environmental History
- 1999-2001 Teaching Associate, UCLA
- History of California
 - History of Colonial Latin America

- History of the Nineteenth-Century United States
- History of the Twentieth-Century United States
- History of the World, 600 to 1750

Public History Experience

- 2003-2004 Research Associate, Southwest Museum of the American Indian and Museum of the American West, Autry National Center, Los Angeles
- 2002 Historian, Natural Resources Defense Council Project, “The Garden and the Grid: A History of Race, Recreation, and Parks in the City and County of Los Angeles”
- 2000-2002 Research Assistant, Institute for the Study of the American West, Autry National Center, Los Angeles
- 1997 Archival Intern, McCracken Research Library, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming
- 1996 Editorial Intern, *Western Historical Quarterly*, Utah State University

Public Engagement and Recognition

“Late Mornings with Jeff Schechtman,” KVON Radio, Napa, California. Interview on *The Frontier of Leisure*, 26 October 2010.

“Which Way, LA?,” KCRW National Public Radio, Santa Monica, California, Interview on the history of parks and recreation in Los Angeles, 22 July, 2008.

“Access Utah” Utah Public Radio Interview on *The Frontier of Leisure*, 17 January 2008.

“The Good Side of Tourism in America,” article in “The Informed Reader” column, highlighting prior research and publications, *Wall Street Journal*, 29 June, 2007.

Featured as “Top Young Historian” by the History News Network, 3 June 2007.

“Access Utah” Utah Public Radio Interview on Hurricane Katrina and Recovery Efforts in New Orleans, 30 March 2007.

“Access Utah” Utah Public Radio Interview on Japanese American Internment during World War II, 8 September 2005.

Service

Professional:

- 2010-2012 Chair, Program Committee, American Society for Environmental History, Madison, Wisconsin 2012 Annual Conference

- 2009-2010 Chair, Samuel P. Hays Research Fellowship Committee, American Society for Environmental History
- 2008-2010 Program Committee, American Society for Environmental History, Portland, Oregon 2010 Annual Conference
- 2008-2009 George Perkins Marsh Prize Committee for Best Book in Environmental History, American Society for Environmental History
- 2007-2008 Local Arrangements Committee, Western History Association, Salt Lake City, Utah 2008 Annual Conference
- 2007 Journal Article Prize Committee, Urban History Association
- 2005-2006 Rachel Carson Prize Committee for Best Dissertation in Environmental History, American Society for Environmental History
- 2004- Reader for Oxford University Press, Prentice Hall, Rowman & Littlefield, Routledge, *California History*, the *Journal of American History*, the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, the *Journal of Urban History*, *Rangelands*, *Transfers: New Mobility Studies*, and the *Western Historical Quarterly*

Community:

- 2007- Steering Committee, Utah State University American Odysseys Multicultural Literature Project, Cache County Schools, Utah
- 2004-2007 Advisory Council, Museum of Utah Art and History, Salt Lake City
- 2004-2007 Programming Committee, American West Heritage Foundation and American West Heritage Center, Logan, Utah

University:

- 2009 U.S.U. Roads Scholar High School Student Recruitment Program
- 2008-2010 College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Alternate Representative, Utah State University Faculty Senate
- 2007-2008 Planning Committee, 2008 Tanner Symposium, “Celebración: Latinos and U.S. Culture”
- 2007-2008 Excellence in Instruction for First-Year Students Award Committee
- 2007-2008 Planning Committee, “Focus the Nation: Global Warming Solutions Symposium”
- 2007- Diversity Scholarship Committee
- 2007 Planning Committee and Panelist, “Retention Matters: Utah State University Student Retention Symposium”
- 2004-2005 Utah State University Arrington Student Writing Award Committee

Department:

- 2009-2010 Chair, Department of History Scholarship Committee
- 2009-2010 Revising and Globalizing U.S. History Curriculum Committee
- 2008-2009 Director of Graduate Studies, History
- 2008-2009 Chair, Department of History Graduate Student Admissions Committee
- 2007-2008 U.S.U. Brigham City Nineteenth-Century America Search Committee
- 2006- Department of History Graduate Committee
- 2006-2007 Department of History Graduate Student Admissions Committee
- 2004- Department of History Undergraduate Committee
- 2004-2005 Bullen Undergraduate History Essay Award Committee

2004-2005 Department of History Scholarship Committee

Professional Affiliations

American Historical Association
American Society for Environmental History
American Studies Association
Organization of American Historians
Urban History Association
Western History Association