



PROJECT MUSE®

Research in Western American Literature: 1990–1991

Jan Roush

Western American Literature, Volume 26, Number 4, Winter 1992, pp.
343–356 (Article)

Published by University of Nebraska Press

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/wal.1992.0018>

Western
American
Literature

CONTENTS

The Artist and the West: Two Portraits by Jack Kerouac and Sam Wagstaff	James G. Mollaly
Steinbeck's "Woodward": A Reconsideration	Gregory A. Schmidt
Abstract/Philosophy of Studies in Western American Literature	Ernest A. Sutherland
Research in Western American Literature: 1990–1991	Jan Roush
Index	John T. Caldwell

INDEXES

Volume 26, Number 4
The Western Literature Association and The State University

➔ *For additional information about this article*

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/532298/summary>

JAN ROUSH
Utah State University

Research in Western American Literature: 1990-1991

An examination of the twenty-six theses and ninety-six dissertations written during the past year which have some bearing on western American literature reveals a dramatic increase in topics related to Native Americans. Of the five most frequent subjects written about, discussions of some aspect of Native American literature, history, or culture led the way with a total of thirty-four, compared to thirteen on women or gender issues, eight concerning landscape or nature, and twelve each devoted to a discussion of the works by a single author: Twain and Cather.

The remaining theses and dissertations covered the usual wide spectrum of topics, some esoteric: *Splitting in the Thirties: A Psychoanalytic Study of Roth, Steinbeck, Hemingway, and Slesinger*, some more mundane: *The Quest for Freedom in the Changing West of Edward Abbey and Larry McMurtry*. At a time when preparations have begun for revising *The Literary History of the American West* and discussion focuses on whether the old format with its initial outlining of general themes and subsequent treatment by regions is sufficient to withstand the revision, it is interesting to note that research trends, at least as reflected in theses and dissertations, reveal little need to substantially revise the format except in this one area of Native American literature.

COMPLETED MASTERS THESES

American Literature

Lerma, Panfila Pamela

Women in Their Realities.

(M.A.) Texas A&I University, 1990. (Discusses three short stories by Willa Cather: "Coming, Aphrodite!" "Old Mrs. Harris," and "The Best Years.")

Li, Bo

The Chinese as Portrayed in the Writings of Several Prominent American Authors.

(M.A.) Stephen F. Austin State University, 1989.

Hall, Robert Lee

Natural Innocence in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, the Nick Adams Stories, and *The Old Man and the Sea*.

(M.A.) University of North Texas, 1990.

Tokkonen, Tellervo Orvokki

Europe in Mark Twain's Travel Writing.

(M.A.) Florida Atlantic University, 1990.

American Studies

Anderson, Michael Taylor

The Life and Tools of the Rocky Mountain Free Trapper.

(M.A.) Tarleton State University, 1990.

Architecture

Chappel, Jill A.

Homestead Ranches of the Fort Rock Valley: Vernacular Building in the Oregon High Desert.

(M.S.) University of Oregon, 1990.

Canadian History

Hewlett, Lorraine Louise

Development, Decay, Re-development: The Politics of the Northwest Territories.

(M.A.) Carleton University (Canada), 1990.

Cultural Anthropology

Bulette, Elizabeth Anne

Crossing the Water: An Interpretation of Six Indian Women Educated in the West.

(M.A.) Michigan State University, 1989.

Claeys-Shahmiri, Janet Suzanne

Ethnohistorical Investigation of the Battle of Village Creek, Tarrant County, Texas, in 1841.

(M.A.) The University of Texas at Arlington, 1989.

Fast, Phyllis Ann

Naatsilanei and Ko'ehdan: A Semiotic Analysis of Two Alaska Native Myths.

(M.A.) University of Alaska Anchorage, 1990.

Ford, Susan Wise

Lorenzo D. Creel and the Purchase of Land for Washoe Colonies, 1917.

(M.A.) University of Nevada, Reno, 1989.

Joy, Mary E.

Traditional Medicine at an Indian Reserve.
(M.A.) Michigan State University, 1990.

Kerisit, Michele

Feathers, Furs, and Fringes: A Semiological Analysis of Powwow Regalia.
(M.A.) Carleton University (Canada), 1989.

United States History

Beaumont, Philip, Jr.

One Man's Valiant Efforts to Negotiate for His Crow People: The Outcomes
in Decades to Follow.
(M.A.) The University of Arizona, 1991.

Brown, Vanessa Lee Payre

John Moore Shannon: The Legacy of a West Texas Sheepman, 1883-1928.
(M.A.) The University of Texas at Arlington, 1989.

Cashion, Peggy Mullarkey

Women and the Mexican War, 1846-1848.
(M.A.) The University of Texas at Arlington, 1990.

Cashion, Robert Tyrus

An Examination of Frontier Violence at Fort Griffin, Texas.
(M.A.) The University of Texas at Arlington, 1989.

Daniels, John David

The Political Philosophy of Sam Houston.
(M.A.) University of North Texas, 1990.

Golda, John Frederick

Nelson A. Miles' Winter Campaign of 1876/77 and the Battle of Wolf
Mountain.
(M.A.) San Jose State University, 1990.

McGraw, Ursula Gerta

Robert Justus Kleberg: Founding Father.
(M.A.) Texas A&I, 1990. (Discusses the frontier experience of Texas pio-
neers, the Texas Revolution, and the Civil War and Reconstruction.)

Mellis, Jana Elaine

White Canyon, Utah: A Place and Its People.
(M.A.) California State University, Fullerton, 1989.

Oberg, Michael Leroy

National Politics, the Supreme Court, and Indian Removal: A New Look at
the Cherokee Cases.
(M.A.) California State University, Long Beach, 1989.

Rehbock, Julie

Women and Indians in the 1800s: Captivity Narratives as Fact and Fiction.
(M.S.) San Jose State University, 1989.

Roper, Beryl Cain

A Grand Historical Chorus: Source Documents Pertaining to the History of
the Upper Canadian River Basin Found in Small Libraries and Museums
in Family Collections.
(M.A.) Texas Woman's University, 1989.

Sullivan, Leslie Noelle

On the Western Stage: Theatre in Montana, 1880-1920.
(M.A.) The University of New Mexico, 1990.

Women's Studies

Reid, Jane Elizabeth

The Joys of the Long Trail: Three Women Adventure-Travellers in Canada
at the Turn of the Century.
(M.A.) Carleton University (Canada), 1990.

COMPLETED Ph.D, Ed.D, AND D.A. DISSERTATIONS

American Literature

Brienzo, Gary William

To the Northeast: The Quiet Center of Willa Cather's Art and Life.
(Ph.D.) The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1990.

Britton, Wesley Alan

Mark Twain: "Cradle Skeptic."
(Ph.D.) University of North Texas, 1990.

Brown, Sharon Rogers

American Travel Narratives as a Literary Genre from 1542-1832.
(Ph.D.) State University of New York at Stony Brook, 1990.

Brown, William J.

"Lonesome Cowboy Bill": The Western in the Later Fiction of William S.
Burroughs.
(Ph.D.) State University of New York at Buffalo, 1990.

Burgess, Cheryl Anne

Out-of-Doors: Representations of Nature in Sarah Orne Jewett, Willa
Cather, and Eudora Welty.
(Ph.D.) Cornell University, 1990.

Campbell, Donna M.

Repudiating the "Age of the Carved Cherry-stones": The Naturalists' Reaction Against Women's Local Color Fiction.

(Ph.D.) University of Kansas, 1990.

Casperson, Barbara Morris

The Flowering of Desire: Willa Cather and the Sources of Miracle.

(Ph.D.) Drew University, 1990.

Cassidy, Thomas John

Desire and Representation in Twentieth Century American Realism.

(Ph.D.) State University of New York at Binghamton, 1991. (Includes a discussion of Willa Cather's *My Ántonia*.)

Davis, Randall Craig

Firewater Myths: Alcohol and Portrayals of Native Americans in American Literature.

(Ph.D.) The Ohio State University, 1991.

DePriest, Maria

Necessary Fictions: The Re-visioned Subjects of Louise Erdrich and Alice Walker.

(Ph.D.) University of Oregon, 1991.

Dyck, Reginald Bryan

Social Construction in the Midwest Fiction of Willa Cather, Wright Morris, and William H. Gass.

(Ph.D.) University of Washington, 1990.

Graf, Nanette Hope

The Evolution of Willa Cather's Judgment of the Machine and the Machine Age in Her Fiction.

(Ph.D.) The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1991.

Hamer, Karen Rita

More "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn": Mark Twain, Formula Fiction and Metafiction.

(Ph.D.) University of Missouri-Columbia, 1990.

Ingham, Zita

Reading and Writing a Landscape: A Rhetoric of Southwest Desert Literature.

(Ph.D.) The University of Arizona, 1991. (Includes discussions of Lummis's *Some Strange Corners of Our Country*; Van Dyke's *The Desert*; Austin's *The Land of Little Rain*; Krutch's *The Desert Year*; Abbey's *Desert Solitaire*; Lopez's *Desert Notes* and Harjo and Strom's *Secrets from the Center of the World*.)

Kim, Kathryn Jongsoon

The Sense of Loss: A Comparative Study of Careers and Work of Henry Adams and Mark Twain.

(Ph.D.) Tulane University, 1990.

Lang, Nancy Helene

Through Landscape Toward Story/Through Story Toward Landscape: A Study of Four Native American Women Poets.

(Ph.D.) Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 1991. (Includes discussions of poets Paula Gunn Allen (Laguna Pueblo/Sioux), Joy Harjo (Creek), Linda Hogan (Chickasaw), and Wendy Rose (Hopi/Chowchilla Miwok.)

Lindemann, Marilee

Women Writers and the American Romance: Studies in Jewett and Cather.

(Ph.D.) Rutgers The State University of New Jersey-New Brunswick, 1991.

Maney, Jonathan Paul

Western Exposures [original short stories].

(Ph.D.) The University of Utah, 1990.

McKelly, James Crisley

True Wests: Twentieth Century Portraits of the Artist as a Young American.

(Ph.D.) Indiana University, 1990.

McQuillan, Gene Peter

Wilderness and Interference: Images of the Trail in American Literature.

(Ph.D.) City University of New York, 1991.

Michel, Frann

"After the World Broke": Cross-gender Representation in American Fiction of the 1920s.

(Ph.D.) University of California, Berkeley, 1990. (Includes a discussion of Willa Cather's *The Professor's House*.)

Ouderkirk, Bruce J.

Children in Steinbeck: Barometers of the Social Condition.

(Ph.D.) The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1990.

Peck, Demaree Catherine

"Possession Granted by a Different Lease": The Artist as Imaginative Claimant in Willa Cather's Fiction.

(Ph.D.) University of Virginia, 1990.

Peng Bisiar, Nan

Beyond Virtue and Vice: The Literary Self in Chinese-American Literature.

(Ph.D.) Bowling Green State University, 1990.

Quigley, Peter S.

The Ground of Resistance: Nature and Power in Emerson, Melville, Jeffers, and Snyder.

(Ph.D.) Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 1990.

Raglon, Rebecca Sue

American Nature Writing in the Age of Ecology: Changing Perceptions, Changing Forms.

(Ph.D.) Queen's University of Kingston (Canada), 1990.

Railsback, Brian Evan

Searching for "What Is": The Parallel Expeditions of Charles Darwin and John Steinbeck.

(Ph.D.) Ohio University, 1990.

Saldivar-Hull, Sonia

Feminism on the Border: From Gender Politics to Geopolitics.

(Ph.D.) The University of Texas at Austin, 1990. (Includes analyses of works by Chicano authors Sandra Cisneros, Gloria Anzaldua, and Helena Maria Viramontes.)

Schindley, Wanda B.

A Rhetorical Analysis of Mark Twain's *Letters from the Earth*.

(Ed.D.) East Texas State University, 1990.

Schultz, Lydia Agnes

Perceptions from the Periphery: Fictional Form and Twentieth Century American Women Novelists.

(Ph.D.) University of Minnesota, 1990. (Includes a section on Louise Erdrich.)

Segal, Harry George

Mark Twain and the Power of the Paternal: A Psychoformal Analysis.

(Ph.D.) Yale University, 1990.

Shields, Edgar Thomson

Conquistadors and Englishmen: The Interplay of Language and Culture in English and Spanish Early American Exploration Narratives.

(Ph.D.) The University of Tennessee, 1990.

Shour, Nancy Carol

The Prospect of a Nation: Expansionist Landscape and American Identity, 1770-1850.

(Ph.D.) University of California, Berkeley, 1990.

Sloan, Karin Ramspeck

Trading the Pen for the Spade: 19th-century German Immigrant Literature in Texas.

(Ed.D.) Texas A&I University, 1990.

Slote, Benjamin Howell

Exiling the Sensual Muse: The Literary Career of Mark Twain's Decency.
(Ph.D.) Yale University, 1990.

Spitler, Theresa Margaret

The Dilemma of Superiority: The Genius Character in American Fiction.
(Ph.D.) University of Pennsylvania, 1990.

Spresser, James Clarence

Native American Trilogy [original plays].
(Ph.D.) Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 1989.

Taigue, Michelle

"Never Again I": Death and Beauty in Yaqui Stories.
(Ph.D.) The University of Arizona, 1990.

Thurn, Thora Flack

The Quest for Freedom in the Changing West of Edward Abbey and Larry
McMurtry.
(Ph.D.) Texas Christian University, 1990.

Troxclair, Madelyn Clare

An Examination of the Wilderness Theme in Twentieth Century American
Literature: Revising Myths and Projections Regarding Nature and
Women.
(Ph.D.) University of Washington, 1990.

Underwood, Roy Madison, Jr.

"Dark and Bloody Mystery": Mark Twain's Relationship with Detective Fic-
tion.
(Ph.D.) The University of Alabama, 1990.

Ward, Dorothy Patricia

Literature of Conscience: The Novels of John Nichols.
(Ph.D.) University of North Texas, 1990.

Weinstein, Cindy Ann

The Allegorization of American Literature: The Relationship Between Alle-
gory and Technology in the Careers of Melville, Twain, and Adams.
(Ph.D.) University of California, Berkeley, 1989.

Winters, Laura G.

Giving the Land a Voice: The Demands of Multiple Landscapes in Five
Cather Novels.
(Ph.D.) Drew University, 1990.

Woodward, Pauline Groetz

New Tribal Forms: Community in Louise Erdrich's Fiction.
(Ph.D.) Tufts University, 1991.

American Studies

Burgess, Barbara MacPherson

Migrant Women to Oregon, 1836-1860: Hail the Columbia.

(Ph.D.) University of Kansas, 1989.

Foley, Neil Francis

The New South in the Southwest: Anglos, Blacks, and Mexicans in Central Texas, 1880-1930.

(Ph.D.) The University of Michigan, 1990.

Frank, Perry June

"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" on Film: The Evolution of an American Icon.

(Ph.D.) The George Washington University, 1991.

Hill, Sarah Hitch

Cherokee Patterns: Interweaving Women and Baskets in History.

(Ph.D.) Emory University, 1991.

Kim, Hye Kyung

Indian Influence on American Costume from 1960 to 1975.

(Ph.D.) University of Maryland College Park, 1990.

Masterson, Michael Lee

Sounds of the Frontier: Music in Buffalo Bill's Wild West.

(Ph.D.) The University of New Mexico, 1990.

Anthropology, Archaeology

Stapp, Darby Campbell

The Historic Ethnography of a Chinese Mining Community in Idaho.

(Ph.D.) University of Pennsylvania, 1990.

Stone, Connie Lynn

Living in No Man's Land: Prehistoric Economic Strategies and Land Use Patterns in the Western Arizona Outback.

(Ph.D.) Arizona State University, 1990.

Cinema

Mortimer, Barbara Anne

From Monument Valley to Vietnam: Revisions of the American Captivity Narrative in Hollywood Film.

(Ph.D.) Emory University, 1990.

Cultural Anthropology

Bateman, Rebecca Belle

"We're Still Here": History, Kinship, and Group Identity Among the Seminole Freedmen of Oklahoma.

(Ph.D.) The Johns Hopkins University, 1991.

Brayboy, Mary Elizabeth Jones

Voices of Indianness: The Lived World of Native American Women.

(Ph.D.) The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 1990.

Farnell, Brenda M.

Plains Indian Sign-talk: Action and Discourse Among the Nakota (Assiniboiné) People of Montana.

(Ph.D.) Indiana University, 1990.

Krouse, Susan Applegate

A Window into the Indian Culture: The Powwow as Performance.

(Ph.D.) The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1991.

Reynolds, Mary Stephanie

Dance Brings About Everything: Dance Power in the Ideologies of Northern Utes of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation and Predominantly Mormon Anglos of an Adjacent Uintah Basin Community. (Volumes I and II.)

(Ph.D.) University of California, Irvine, 1990.

Swan, Daniel Charles

West Moon-East Moon: An Ethnohistory of the Peyote Religion Among the Osage Indians, 1898-1930.

(Ph.D.) The University of Oklahoma, 1990.

Whiting, Beatrice Blyth

The Role of Sorcery in Social Control: A Study of the Harney Valley Paiute.

(Ph.D.) Yale University, 1942.

Folklore

Erf, Lore M.

The Dynamics of Continuity: The Interaction of Tradition and Innovation in Navajo Weaving.

(Ph.D.) Universität Osnabrück (Germany), 1990.

Ghezzi, Ridie Wilson

Ways of Speaking: An Ethnopoetic Analysis of Ojibwe Narratives.

(Ph.D.) University of Pennsylvania, 1990.

Geography

Bower, John Arthur, Jr.

The Hydrogeography of Yakima Indian Nation Resource Use.
(Ph.D.) University of Washington, 1990.

Rosen, Carol J.

Images of Wisconsin's Settlement Frontier.
(Ph.D.) The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1990.

Wright, John Burghardt, V

Conserving Rocky Mountain Places: The Planning, Development, and Protection of Privately-owned Lands in Colorado and Utah.
(Ph.D.) University of California, Berkeley, 1990.

Journalism

Landini, Ann Lackey

The "Cherokee Phoenix": The Voice of the Cherokee Nation, 1828-1834.
(Ph.D.) The University of Tennessee, 1990.

Linguistics

Escalante, Fernando

Voice and Argument Structure in Yaqui.
(Ph.D.) The University of Arizona, 1990.

Modern Literature

Burgess, Virginia Aleine

Portrayal of Alaskan Native Americans in Children's Literature.
(Ph.D.) University of South Carolina, 1990.

Dinneen, Barbara

Knee-deep in the Thing Not Named: Willa Cather, Her Critics, and Her Novels.
(Ph.D.) Washington University, 1990.

Krumholz, Linda Joan

Ritual, Reader, and Narrative in the Works of Leslie Marmon Silko and Toni Morrison.
(Ph.D.) The University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1991.

Schneer, Deborah Lee

Splitting in the Thirties: A Psychoanalytic Study of Roth, Steinbeck, Hemingway, and Slesinger.
(Ph.D.) University of Massachusetts, 1990.

Waller, James Preston

Visions and Revisions of Mark Twain: Samuel L. Clemens in the Camera's Eye, 1851-1885.

(Ph.D.) Duke University, 1990.

Williams, James Walter

A Critical Edition of "The Star Rover."

(Ph.D.) Columbia University, 1989.

Political Science

Morchower, Barbara Mae Phelps

The Political System's Response to Crisis Conditions: Case Study of Texas' Water Policy for Irrigated Agriculture in the High Plains Region.

(Ph.D.) The University of Texas at Dallas, 1990.

Theater

Berube, David Michael

The Lakotan Ghost Dance of 1890: A Historiocritical Performance Analysis.

(Ph.D.) New York University, 1990.

United States History

Castaneda, Antonia I.

Presidarias y Pobladoras: Spanish-Mexican Women in Frontier Monterey, Alta California, 1770-1821.

(Ph.D.) Stanford University, 1990.

Carroll, Jane Lamm

Criminal Justice on the Minnesota Frontier, 1820-1857. (Volumes I and II.)

(Ph.D.) University of Minnesota, 1991.

Eichstaedt, Donna Roberta March

Professional Theories and Popular Beliefs about the Plains Indians and the Horse with Implications for Teaching Native American History.

(D.A.) Illinois State University, 1990.

Franco, Jere

Patriotism on Trial: Native Americans in World War II.

(Ph.D.) The University of Arizona, 1990.

Fuller, Craig Woods

Land Rush in Zion: Opening of the Uncompahgre and Uintah Indian Reservations.

(Ph.D.) Brigham Young University, 1990.

Hellstern, Mark Eugene

The Western Cherokee Experience As Seen Through the Life of John Drew.

(Ph.D.) Oklahoma State University, 1990.

Maffly-Kipp, Laurie F.

The Cause of the West: Protestant Home Missions in California, 1848- 1870.
(Ph.D.) Yale University, 1990.

McCaffrey, James Michael

The American Soldier in the War with Mexico, 1846-1848: "American Blood
on the American Soil."
(Ph.D.) University of Houston, 1990.

McCroskey, Vista Kay

Plain Folk in Texas, 1821-1860: A Social History.
(Ph.D.) Texas Christian University, 1990.

Miller, Charles Wallace, Jr.

Sacred Cow in the American West: The Origin, Evolution, Administration,
and Impact of Federal Hardrock Mining Laws and Policies.
(Ph.D.) The Union Institute, 1990.

Murphy, Mary

Surviving Butte: Leisure and Community in a Western Mining City, 1917-
1941.
(Ph.D.) The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1990.

Pitzer, Paul Curtis

Visions, Plans, and Realities: A History of the Columbia Basin Project.
(Ph.D.) University of Oregon, 1990.

Reese, Linda Williams

Race, Class, and Culture: Oklahoma Women, 1890-1920.
(Ph.D.) The University of Oklahoma, 1991.

Riney-Kehrberg, Pamela Lynn

In God We Trusted, in Kansas We Busted . . . Again: A Social History of Dust
Bowl Kansas.
(Ph.D.) The University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1991.

Rucker, Brian Roger

Blackwater and Yellow Pine: The Development of Santa Rosa County, 1821-
1865. (Volumes I and II.)
(Ph.D.) The Florida State University, 1990.

Sander, Leanne Louise

"The Men All Died of Miners' Disease": Women and Families in the Indus-
trial Mining Environment of Upper Clear Creek, Colorado, 1870-1900.
(Ph.D.) University of Colorado at Boulder, 1990.

Shoemaker, Nancy

The American Indian Recovery: Demography and the Family, 1900-1980.
(Ph.D.) University of Minnesota, 1991.

Toll, Larry A.

The Military Community on the Western Frontier, 1866-1898.

(Ph.D.) Ball State University, 1990.

Wendt, Bruce Howard

An Administrative History of the Warm Spring, Oregon, Indian Reservation,
1855-1955.

(Ph.D.) Washington State University, 1989.

Yung, Judith

Unbinding the Feet, Unbinding Their Lives: Social Change for Chinese
Women in San Francisco, 1902-1945.

(Ph.D.) University of California, Berkeley, 1990.