

David M. Wrobel, Curriculum Vitae

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EMPLOYMENT:

- History Department Chair, University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) (July 2008-)
- Professor of History, UNLV (July, 2004-).
- Associate Professor of History UNLV (2000-04).
- Associate Professor of History (1998-2000); Chair (August 1997-December 1998—on leave Spring 1999); Assistant Professor (1994-98), Widener University.
- Visiting Assistant Professor of History, Hartwick College (1992-94).
- Visiting Assistant Professor of History, The College of Wooster (1991-92) and Visiting Instructor (1990-91).

EDUCATION:

- Ph.D., American Intellectual History, Ohio University, June 1991.
- M.A., American Intellectual History, Ohio University, October 1987.
- B.A., History/Philosophy, University of Kent, Canterbury, England, July 1985.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS:

U.S. West, Regionalism, American Thought and Culture, Late Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century U.S., Historiography.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Promised Lands: Promotion, Memory, and the Creation of the American West (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2002).

The End of American Exceptionalism: Frontier Anxiety from the Old West to the New Deal (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1993).

Books in Progress:

“The World in the West: Travelers’ Accounts, 1840-2000” (Calvin Horn Book Series, University of New Mexico Press).

“The Rebirth of American Exceptionalism: The Cold War, the West, and the Frontier Revival.”

Co-Edited Collections:

Seeing and Being Seen: Tourism in the American West, primary co-editor, with Patrick Long (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2001).

Many Wests: Place, Culture, and Regional Identity, co-editor, with Michael C. Steiner (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1997).

Edited Collection in Progress:

“Friedrich Gerstäcker’s West: A German Traveler on the Nineteenth-Century American Frontier” (for Arthur H. Clark Company and University of Oklahoma Press).

Edited Journal Issue:

The Historian, 66, (Fall 2004), “The West Enters the Twenty-First Century: Appraisals on the State of the Field.”

Articles:

“Global West, American Frontier,” Presidential Address, Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association, delivered in Pasadena, August 9, 2008 (*Pacific Historical Review*, forthcoming, 2009).

“A Place for Regions in the Modern U.S. Survey,” *Journal of American History*, 94 (March 2008): 1203-1210.

“A Lesson from the Past and Some Hope for the Future: The Academy and the Schools, 1880-2007,” *The History Teacher*, 41 (February 2008): 151-162.

“The Global West: Gerstäcker, Burton, and Bird on the Nineteenth-Century Frontier,” *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*, 58 (Spring 2008): 24-34.

“Historiography as Pedagogy,” *Teaching History: A Journal of Methods* (Spring 2008).

“Exceptionalism and Globalism: Travel Writers and the Nineteenth-Century American West,” Phi Alpha Theta Presidential Address, *The Historian*, 68 (Fall 2006): 430-460. (Reprinted in David Roediger, ed., *The Best American History Essays, 2008* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), 75-99—see Fellowships, Honors & Awards).

“Where is the WHA and Where Should it be Going? Thoughts on a Survey,” *Western Historical Quarterly*, 38 (Fall 2007).

“Movement and Adjustment in Twentieth-Century Western Writing,” in “Forum: Approaching the Literature of the 20th-Century West,” *Pacific Historical Review*, 72 (August 2003): 393-404.

“The West in Contemporary Rock Music, 1970-2000: A Trans-Atlantic Perspective,” *American Music Research Center Journal*, 10 (2000): 83-100.

“The View from Philadelphia,” in “*The Atlas of the New West: A Forum*,” *Pacific Historical Review*, 67 (August 1998): 383-92.

“Beyond the Frontier-Region Dichotomy,” *Pacific Historical Review*, 65 (August 1996): 401-29.

“Early Reflections on Teaching Western History,” *OAH Magazine of History*, 9 (Fall 1994): 51-57.

“The Closing Gates of Democracy: Frontier Anxiety Before the Official End of the Frontier,” *American Studies*, 32 (Spring 1991): 49-66.

Essays:

“Sectionalism and Regionalism in American Historical Scholarship, 1907-2007,” for James M. Banner, Jr., ed., *American History Today* (Bedford/St. Martins, for the OAH, forthcoming 2009).

“The Politics of Westernness,” in Jeff Roche, ed., *Political Legacies of the 20th-Century West* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2008), 33-63.

“Twentieth-Century Western Writing,” in William Deverell, ed., *The Blackwell Companion to Western History* (Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2004), 460-480.

“Manifest Destiny and American Exceptionalism,” in Pierre Lagayette, ed., *La Destinée Manifeste des États-Unis au XIX siècle: aspects politiques et idéologiques* (Paris: Ellipses, 1999), 145-57.

“Frederick Jackson Turner,” *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, vol. 186: *Nineteenth-Century American Western Writers*, ed. Robert L. Gale (Detroit: Gale Research, 1997), 365-78.

Review Essays:

“Paradise Pondered: Urban California, 1850-2000,” in *Journal of Urban History*, 34 (September, 2008): 1029-43.

“Frontier House,” *The Public Historian*, 25 (Summer, 2003): 147-150.

“Capitalism in the West: Macrocosm and Microcosm,” in *Reviews in American History*, 24 (June 1996): 258-64.

Encyclopedia Entries:

“Interpretations of the Frontier/West,” 2: 117-20, & “Frontier,” 1: 519-23, in Paul Finkelman, ed., *Encyclopedia of the United States in the Nineteenth Century*, 3 vols. (NY: Scribner’s, 2001).

“Arid Lands Thesis,” 66-68; “Frontier Thesis,” 576-80; “Historiography, Western,” 674-78; “New Western History,” 1191-94; “Safety Valve Theory,” 1405-07; “Frederick Jackson Turner,” 1604-05; & “West-as-Region School,” 1727-30: all in Charles Phillips

and Alan Axelrod, eds., *Encyclopedia of the American West*, 4 vols. (NY: Simon & Schuster/Macmillan, 1996).

Book Sections:

“Don Laughlin,” in Kathryn Hashimoto, Sheryl Fried-Kline, & George Fenich, eds., *Introduction to Casino Management* (Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt, 1995), 66-69.

On-Line Articles:

“About Donald Rumsfeld’s Comparison of Iraq and the Civil War,” History News Network, May 24, 2004: <http://hnn.us/articles/5199.html>

Case Studies:

“Woodrow Wilson’s “‘Leaderless Government’ Speech”; & “Abraham Lincoln: Selected Speeches” (Oneonta, NY: Hartwick Humanities in Management Institute, 1993).

Book Reviews:

Published in: *American Historical Review*, *Annals of Iowa*, *CHOICE*, *The Historian*, *H-List*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of the West*, *Michigan Historical Review*, *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*, *New Mexico Historical Review*, *Ohio History*, *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, *Pacific Historical Review*, *Reviews in American History*, *Utah Historical Quarterly*, *Western Historical Quarterly*.

Selected Conference Presentations and Invited Talks:

“Historiography as Pedagogy: Thoughts About the Messy Past and Why We Shouldn’t Clean It Up,” OAH Distinguished Lecture Series (Oklahoma State University, November 10, 2008) (invited)

“Global West, American Frontier,” Presidential Address, Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association (Pasadena, August 9, 2008).

“The Conundrums of Causation” and “History as Pedagogy,” Keynote Addresses, Jefferson County (Jeffco) Department of Education (DOE) Teaching American History (TAH) Institute, Lakewood, Colorado, delivered, respectively, June 11, 2008 and June 8, 2007 (invited). Additional Jeffco TAH keynotes delivered in 2004, 2003, & 2002.

“The World in the West: Travel Writers and the American Frontier,” Beinecke Library, Yale University, May 17, 2006 (invited).

“A Lesson from the Past: The Academy and Schools, 1880-2006,” Organization of American Historians Meeting, Washington, D.C., April 12, 2006.

“Global Travelers in the Great American West: From Isabella Bird to Mark Twain,” Colorado Historical Society, Denver, March 21, 2006 (invited).

“A Lesson from the Past: How Teachers and Professors Can Together Save History Education,” University of Colorado at Boulder, March 22, 2006 (invited).

“Globalism, Exceptionalism, and Western American Travel,” Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University, February 6, 2006 (invited).

“Global West: Travelers’ Visions of Western America, Phi Alpha Theta Presidential Address, Biennial meeting, Philadelphia, January 5, 2006 (invited).

“Through Travelers’ Eyes: Western American Exceptionalism and the Travel Narrative,” Calvin Horn Lecture in Western History and Culture, University of New Mexico, November 23, 2003 (invited); also delivered as the Banquet Keynote Address at the Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Meeting, New Orleans, January 16, 2004 (invited).

“Desperately Seeking Authenticity: Academics, Tourists, Travel Writers, and the West,” Plenary Session at the Western Literature Association Meeting, Tucson, October 2002 (invited).

“Promised Lands: Boosterism and Reminiscence in the American West,” Keynote Address at the Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Meeting, San Antonio, December 2001 (invited).

“Reconsidering the Parameters of Twentieth-Century Western Writing,” Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, Vancouver, B.C., August 2001.

“In Defense of Tourists: Or, Beyond the Tourist-Traveler Dichotomy,” Center of the American West, University of Colorado, Boulder, July 2001 (invited).

“Beyond the Borders of Historical and Regional Representation,” Tempe Historical Museum, April 2001 (invited).

“The West in Rock Music: A Transatlantic Perspective,” Keynote Address, “Music in the West: Listening to the Heart & Soul of a Region” symposium, University of Colorado, Boulder, August, 2000 (invited); and Far Western Popular Culture Association Meeting, Las Vegas, February 2001.

“Honors: Advantages and Responsibilities,” Keynote Speech, Opening Ceremony, Honors Week, Widener University, March 2000 (invited).

“Imagining and Remembering the West: The Ghosts of Western Future and Past,” University of Colorado at Boulder, Center of the American West Seminar Series, March, 1999 (invited); and Mesa State College, Grand Junction, CO, April 1999 (invited).

“Many Wests: Notes Toward a Dynamic Western Regionalism” (with Michael C. Steiner), California History Association, University of California, Berkeley, February 1997 (invited).

“Developing Western Regional Consciousness: A Research Report,” Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, San Francisco, August 1996.

“Boosters, Pioneer Reminiscers and Western American Identity,” Newberry Library, Chicago, Brown Bag Seminar Series, June 1996 (invited).

“Teaching Western History and Historiography,” Western History Association, Denver, October 1995.

“The Significance of Frontier Anxiety in American History,” Southwest Social Science Association, Dallas, March 1995.

“John Steinbeck, John Ford, and the Depiction of Workers in *The Grapes of Wrath*,” American Popular Culture Association, Philadelphia, April 1995.

“Public Intellectuals and the Road to Tomorrow,” Baccalaureate Address, Hartwick College, May 1994 (invited).

“The New Western History and Old Western Art,” Rockwell Museum, Corning, NY, March 1994 (invited).

“A Frontier Much-Maligned, A Region Ill-Defined: Making Sense of America’s Frontier/Western Heritage,” Clinch Valley College, VA, March 1994 (invited).

“Frederick Jackson Turner’s Frontier Thesis: Perspectives of a Century,” Rockwell Museum, Corning, NY, October 1993 (invited).

“Unraveling Steinbeck’s Layers in *The Grapes of Wrath*,” in New York State’s American Century Series, Bethlehem Public Library, Albany, December 1993; & Moore Memorial Library, Greene, September 1994 (both invited).

“Prophecies of Gloom and Doom: Malthusian Alarmism in Post-WWI America,” Ohio Academy of History, Wright State University, April, 1992; and Kentucky-Tennessee American Studies Association, Nashville, March 1992.

“Steinbeck’s Endings,” American Popular Culture Association, Louisville, March 1992.

“The Closing Gates of Democracy: Frontier Anxiety in the 1880s,” American Popular Culture Association, Toronto, March 1990.

Session Commentaries:

Western History Association (Oklahoma City, October 2007).

Pacific Coast Branch/AHA (PCB-AHA) (Honolulu, July 2007).

PCB-AHA (Palo Alto, August 2006).

Western History Association (Scottsdale, October 2005).

PCB-AHA (San Jose, August 2004).

Organization of American Historians (Memphis, April 2003).

Western History Association (Colorado Springs, October 2002).

American Society for Environmental History (Denver, March 2002).

Western History Association (San Diego, October 2001).

Organization of American Historians (Los Angeles, April 2001).

“Packaging Places” Symposium, American Heritage Center (Laramie, August 2000).

“A Family Reunion Symposium” (Sun Valley, ID, June 2000).

Western History Association (St. Paul, MN, October 1997).

Southwest Social Science Association (Corpus Christi, TX, March 1997).

Southwest Social Science Association (Houston, March 1996).

Panel Sessions:

“Carl Abbott and the Urban West: A Career in Perspective,” Urban History Association (Houston, November 2008).

“Building Bridges Between K12 Schools and the History Academy: Advantages, Challenges, Responsibilities,” PCB-AHA (Pasadena, August 2008).

“Where is the Western History Association: Report on a Survey,” Western History Association (St. Louis, October 2006).

“Teaching Western History,” Western History Association (Fort Worth, October 2003).

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, & AWARDS:

- Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer, 2008-2011.
- “Exceptionalism and Globalism: Travel Writers and the Nineteenth-Century American West,” Phi Alpha Theta Presidential Address, *The Historian*, 68 (Fall 2006): 430-460, chosen for inclusion in David Roediger, ed., *The Best American History Essays, 2008* (NY: Palgrave/Macmillan, for the OAH, 2008), 75-99.

- Senior Research Fellow in Western History, Beinecke Library & Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers & Borders, Yale University, academic year 2005-2006.
- Featured on History News Network's (George Mason University) "Top Young Historians" series, December 18, 2006: <http://hnn.us/roundup/entries/33046.html>
- Calvin Horn Lecturer in American Western History and Culture, University of New Mexico, November 2003.
- *Promised Lands, Promotion, Memory, and the Creation of the American West* (2003 Finalist, Spur Award for Contemporary Non-Fiction, Western Writers of America).
- Andrew Mellon Fellow, Huntington Library, summer 2003.
- Los Angeles Corral of Westerners' Fellow, Huntington Library, summer 2001.
- Visiting Scholar, Center of the American West, University of Colorado, Boulder, spring and summer, 1999.
- Lindbach Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, Widener University, 1998.
- Cailhouette Fellow, Huntington Library, summer 1997.
- Newberry Library Fellow, summer 1996.
- American Philosophical Society Fellow, summer 1994.
- Baccalaureate Speaker, Hartwick College, May 1994 (chosen by student body).
- Mayer Fund Fellow, Huntington Library, summer 1993.
- Haynes Fellow, Huntington Library, summer 1990.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

Offices:

- President, Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association (PCB-AHA) (July 2007-August 2008); Vice President (2006-07).
- Chair, PCB-AHA, Executive Director Search (2007).
- President, Phi Alpha Theta Phi Alpha Theta, National History Honors Society (2004-2006); Advisory Board Chair, (2006-08); Vice President (2002-04).

- Council Member, Western History Association (WHA) (2006-09).

Book Series:

- Co-editor, the Modern American West book series, U. of Arizona Press (2002-).
- Co-editor, the Urban West book series, U. of Nevada Press (2003-).

Editorial Boards:

- Editorial Board Member, *Pacific Historical Review* (2002-04).

Committees:

- Member, Merle Curti Prize Committee for Best Books in American Social/Cultural and Intellectual History, Organization of American Historians (2004-05).
- Chair, Membership Committee, WHA (2004-07).
- Chair, Local Arrangements Committee, WHA, Las Vegas (2004).
- Chair, Nominating Committee, WHA (2004, and Member, 2003).
- Member, Program Committee, WHA (2005-06).
- W. Turrentine Jackson Dissertation Award Committee, PCB-AHA (Member, 2005-06, Chair 2007).
- Member, Spur Award Committee (Western Writers of America) for the Best Book in Contemporary Western Non-Fiction (2003).
- Program Committee, PCB-AHA (2003-04).
- Martin Ridge/Huntington Library Fellowship Committee, WHA (2002-04, Chair, 2003-04).
- Caughey Prize Committee, WHA (Member 2000, Chair 2001).

Book Manuscript Reviewer for:

Arizona, California, Kansas, Oxford, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, and Yale University presses and for Wiley/Blackwell Publishers.

Article Manuscript Reviewer for:

Numerous journals including: *Journal of American History*, *Pacific Historical Review*, *Polity*, *Western Historical Quarterly*

Institutional Service:

- History Department Chair (elected to 3-year term, July 1, 2008-).
- UNLV Faculty Senator (2007-08).
- History Graduate Committee, UNLV (2000-05, 2006-08).
- History Department Search Committee Member, Senior US Hire (2007).
- History Assessment Committee (2006-8).
- Phi Alpha Theta, Co-advisor, UNLV (2000-8).
- Interim Graduate Coordinator, UNLV (2004-05).
- History Personnel Committee, UNLV (spring 2001).
- History Chair, Widener University (August 1997-December 1998, research leave spring 1999).
- Faculty/Faculty Council/Executive Committee Secretary, Widener (1995-97).
- Humanities & A&S Promotion and Tenure Committees, Widener (1998-99).

Teacher Institutes:

- Faculty participant, Jefferson County, CO, U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History (DOE-TAH) Institute (summers 2002-04, 2006-08).
- Faculty participant, “Modern American Wars: World War Two, Korea, Vietnam, & the Cold War,” DOE-TAH-NCHE colloquium, Greencastle, PA Public Schools (summer 2008).
- Faculty participant, NEH Institute, Wyoming, “Wyoming Women’s Suffrage,” (summer 2006, 2008).
- Faculty participant, “History & Imagination,” Mellon-TAH-NCHE colloquium in honor of David McCullough, Omaha Nebraska (summer 2008).
- Faculty participant, TAH Institute, Clark County, Nevada (2005, and 2006).
- Co-Director, “The American West,” Washoe County, NV, TAH Institute (summer 2003).

- Co-Director, NEH Teacher Institute, “Perceiving the American West: Expectations and Outcomes,” University of Colorado at Boulder (summer 2001). (Authored narrative for NEH grant application: awarded \$155,000).

COURSES TAUGHT: (Key: G=Grad, UG=Undergrad, GLS=Grad Liberal Studies)

American West:

Research Seminar: The Modern American West (G: UNLV)

Colloquium: Regionalism & the American West (G: UNLV)

Colloquium: American Western Thought & Culture (G: UNLV)

American Western Historiography (G: UNLV)

American West, 1849-Present (G/UG: UNLV)

American West: Myth & Reality (UG: Hartwick, Wooster)

Studies in American Western History (UG: Widener)

American Cultural/Intellectual History:

Modern American Thought: Civil War to Culture Wars (G/UG: UNLV; UG, Hartwick, Wooster)

American Thought & Culture, 1920s & 1930s (G/UG: UNLV; GLS, Widener; UG, Hartwick)

American Thought & Culture, 1950s & 1960s (GLS & UG Honors, Widener)

Early American Thought (UG: Wooster)

American Period Courses:

Progressive Era, 1890-1920 (G/UG: UNLV)

America, From Civil War to World Stage, 1865-1914 (UG: Widener)

America, Between the Wars, 1914-1945 (UG: Widener)

Recent America, 1945-Present (UG: Widener, Hartwick, Wooster)

Methods/Undergraduate Seminars:

Historical Methods: Research & Writing (UG: UNLV, Widener, Hartwick)

American Values: Capstone Seminar (UG: Widener)

Liberal Arts Senior Seminar: Contemporary Problems in Historical Context (UG: Widener)

American Surveys:

America: Since 1865 (UNLV, Widener, Hartwick, Wooster, Ohio University)

America: To 1865 (Wooster)

Latin American Surveys:

Modern Latin America (UG: Hartwick)

Colonial Latin America (UG: Hartwick)

Advising Responsibilities:

Ph.D.: Primary/dissertation advisor for eleven UNLV students, co-advisor for one student, committee member for six more, and committee member for two recently minted PhD students (at University of New Mexico and Yale University).

M.A.: Currently the primary advisor for six M.A. students at UNLV.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

American Historical Association

Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

Phi Alpha Theta, National History Honor Society

Phi Kappa Phi, Academic Honors Society

Urban History Association

Western History Association

REFERENCES: Available upon request.