



WSSA NEWS

Volume 46, Issue 2 Fall 2014



President's Soapbox

Attending my first academic conference in the mid-1980s as a graduate student from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Department of Sociology, I marveled at the huge number of panels, variety of topics and the attendance of many scholars who vigorously debated critical issues. I paid little attention to the mechanics of organizing and running such large scholarly meetings. Coordinating the WSSA's 2014 Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico as President-Elect and General Program Chair educated me as to how these events are put together.

Social science grad school definitely did not teach me the logistical and other skills needed for pulling off a successful academic meeting. I knew our Conference Program was complicated (34 Sections and Affiliated Groups, each with its own panels and including ones that were cross-listed, sometimes among three groups), but I was not prepared for the difficulties of fitting everything into time slots and room locations within the few days available for our gathering. In addition to the academic

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Featured Article

“Pick Me! Pick Me! Pick Me! What to look for in a coauthor”

Kristina M. Lybecker
The Colorado College

Coauthored research can be one of the most rewarding endeavors or one of the most difficult trials of an academic career. While young scholars are likely to see their graduate school friends or department colleagues as likely candidates for joint research, it is valuable to recognize what makes coauthorship succeed or fail. After working close to twenty coauthors, both students and other academics, I believe that spending a bit of time thinking about the following questions can greatly increase the probability of a successful collaboration.

Do you and your potential coauthor have compatible work styles?

Specifically, it is important to recognize the value of similar expectations and work habits. This doesn't mean that you must have the same work habits (slow and steady vs. a heroic dash to the final deadline), but it is important that each of you knows what to expect of the other. When will deadlines be met? Will the manuscript bounce between you as you

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WSSA Sections Receive Special Recognition for Albuquerque Program

James G. Linn

Coordinator of Recruitment and Retention

While all of the WSSA sections that developed programs for the recent annual meeting in Albuquerque did a splendid job, several deserve special recognition for having more presentations than in 2013.

The following section coordinators deserve kudos for expanding their section participation: Heather Albanesi, Anthropology, Social Psychology, and Sociology; Mark Melichar, Arid Lands; Martin van der Velde, Association for Borderlands Studies; Ross Burkhardt and Rita Ross, Canadian Studies; Debra Andris, Chicano, Latino and Hispanic Studies; Melinda Schlager and Kevin Thompson, Criminal Justice; John P. Watkins, Economics - AFIT; Scott Carson, Economics - General; Ignacio Medina-Nunez and Jesus Ruiz-Flores, Latin American Studies; Mary Jackson-Pitts, Mass Communications; Kevin Mitchell, Communications Studies; William Schaniel and Suzanne Kelly, New Zealand and Australian Studies; Viola Fuentes, Elizabeth D. Fredericksen, and Patsy Kraeger, Public Administration; Boris Morozov and Tima Moldogaziev, Public Finance and Budgeting; Jessica Clark and Anthony Amato, Rural Studies and Agriculture; Melissa Bokovoy, Slavic Studies; Diane Calloway-Graham and Barbara Bonnekessen, Women's Studies; Michele Companion, Globalization and Development; Diane Calloway-Graham, Bill Pedersen and Moises Diaz, Social Work.

Also, Zach Smith, Coordinator of our newest section, Human Ecology; Chelsea Schelly, recently named Coordinator of Environmental Policy and Natural Resources Management; and Theodore Ransaw, Coordinator of our very successful Poster Sessions receive special praise. To obtain assistance in attracting and retaining section members/presenters, please contact Coordinator of Recruitment and Retention at jlinn87844@aol.com.

WSSA NEWS

2014 - 2015

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WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION is a professional educational organization committed to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship, service, and collegiality. The Association's mission is to foster professional study, to advance research, and to promote the teaching of social science. Founded in 1958 as the Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, WSSA draws on scholars and others in some 30 disciplines, or "sections," from across the United States, and around the world; convenes an annual conference; conducts research competitions for faculty and students; and publishes *The Social Science Journal*, a juried, quarterly research journal, and WSSA News, the Association's newsletter, two times a year. WSSA annual membership dues are included in the annual conference registration. For those who will not be joining us at the conference, but would still like to be voting members and to receive the publications, subscription only memberships can be purchased from our website. Prices are \$45 (individual); \$60 (includes spouse); \$35 (student); \$30 (retired). For information, contact Larry Gould, Executive Director, WSSA, c/o Northern Arizona University, Yuma Branch Campus, P.O. 6236, Yuma, AZ 85366-6236 (Phone: 928-317-6475; Fax: 928-317-6419) E-mail: larry.gould@nau.edu

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Food Cart Culture in Portland

Michèle Companion

University of Colorado, Colorado springs

Downtown Portland offers an array of multi-cultural eating experiences for all types of travelers, from the most daring to the merely curious. One of the best places to start is by sampling foods from around the globe, all in the space of



one block! Portland is home to over 500 street food carts, so step up and don't be shy. These miniature restaurants offer amazing fare at very reasonable prices.

You can get everything from reindeer sausage to kosher foods to vegan cuisine.

The rapid expansion of food truck culture has propelled Portland to the top of the premier food tourist destination lists. *Budget Travel Magazine* has hailed Portland as having the best street food in the world. All of this attention is music to the ears of city managers. Street food culture has been actively cultivated in the city, because the carts create economic opportunities and generate increased foot traffic in neighborhoods.

Many food carts are grouped into areas known as "pods." Pods are collections of food trucks situated on hard surfaced areas, usually former commuter parking lots. Larger pods can host over 50 food trucks in one block. Solo food trucks can be found scattered throughout the city. The largest pod is located between Southwest Alder and Washington streets, from Southwest Ninth to Southwest Tenth avenues (not too far from Powell's City of Books!).

A few carts even have limited sidewalk seating.



{“Pick Me!,” cont. from pg. 1 }

each improve the draft or will one person take responsibility for the writing? All sorts of configurations are workable, but it's key to know what you're getting in to and to set deadlines accordingly.

Do you and your potential coauthor have complementary skills? Some of the best collaborations result from working with people whose skills fill the gaps in your own. Are you a stickler for details and the one who checks to see that every “i” is dotted and every “t” is crossed or do you have a big picture vision of where the project contributes to the existing literature? Do you write beautifully or have incredible programming skills? It may be that finding a coauthor whose strengths coincide with your weaknesses, and vice versa, will make you both stronger scholars.

Do you and your potential coauthor have complementary schedules for research and writing? I have taught at institutions on a semester calendar, the quarter system, and most recently the block plan. Each academic calendar provides a different set of windows for research and writing. It is helpful if you and your potential coauthor can schedule the timing of your research to maximize both of your efforts. This may mean carving out time to work together, or alternatively trading off responsibility for drafting the next version. Depending on your writing habits, it may be easiest to work with someone on the same academic calendar as your institution, or perhaps to find someone who has time to write when you are consumed with teaching.

Do you and your potential coauthor have compatible goals? That is, do you and your potential coauthor have similar visions of where the finished manuscript will be placed, how quickly the project will be completed, the sophistication of the analysis and who maintains responsibility for which components of the project? Recognizing differences in advance and coming to an agreement on each of these issues will make the submission process much easier. Sharing a vision of the project and the end results is critical to the success of the project.

Do you and your potential coauthor have the ability to accept criticism and praise from each other? While it's nice to get praise from your coauthor, it's perhaps more important to be open to criticism and rejection. The ability to accept corrections and a willingness to change direction will improve the final project and allow you and your coauthor to fully explore all of the potential avenues that may enhance the project without fear of rejection or conflict.

Does your potential coauthor possess any special assets? Finally, does your potential coauthor bring anything special to the table? Do they know the editor of a particularly high-ranking journal? Do they possess an extraordinary data set? Do they have the ability to work in a foreign language? While one of these qualities shouldn't be the sole reason for selecting a coauthor, it may open a previously closed door and make a particular project more feasible or less costly.

While affirmative answers to these questions can't guarantee a productive research relationship, a little forethought about them may increase the likelihood of a successful collaboration and an enjoyable research experience. This list isn't a list of prerequisites and by no means does a collaborator need to possess all of these characteristics. Wonderful research projects can happen serendipitously, but thinking strategically about potential coauthors can also provide a rich experience and result in a top-tier publication.



Rick Adkisson selected to fill Chair in Economic Development

Rick Adkisson, department head for Economics, Applied Statistics, and International Business in the New Mexico State University College of Business, has been selected to fill the Garrey E. and Katherine T. Carruthers Chair in Economic Development for a three-year term beginning this semester, Interim Dean Kathy Brook announced.

Adkisson, who is a Past President of the Western Social Science Association, has been active in the development and implementation of the Doctor of Economic Development program, having served as director of the program from May 2007 through January 2012. He has conducted research on income convergence between the U.S. and Mexico, retail trade in the U.S.-Mexico border region, tax structure

and economic growth, intellectual property, and state-by-state variations in bankruptcy rates.

As the Carruthers Chair, Adkisson said he plans to support the Doctor of Economic Development program, including assistantships for two students, and to enhance the reputation of NMSU with respect to knowledge and expertise in economic development. The chair was established in 2004 with a \$500,000 gift from then-Dean Garrey Carruthers and his wife, Katherine, and matching funds of \$1 million from the state of New Mexico.

For more information, visit business.nmsu.edu. Adkisson can be reached at radkisso@nmsu.edu.

Jim Peach



River view, from Portland conference hotel



Corner of lobby, in Portland conference hotel



Lobby Café and Bar, in Portland conference hotel



A meeting room, in Portland conference hotel

Science and Environmental Policy Making

Ross Burkhart, Boise State University

More and more people are accepting the presence of climate change in our lives. The role of social science in helping direct the debate about climate change is equally undeniable. Unlike natural scientists who provide the factual fodder for global temperature measurement and perspective on how that temperature relates to earlier earthly eras, social scientists chronicle public opinion about the environment, the extent to which environmental policy making is inclusive of the multitude of stakeholders with massive interest in the policy outcome, and the interactions of the policy making agencies in the creation of law and regulation.

In Alm, Burkhart, and Simon's book *Turmoil in American Public Policy: Science, Democracy, and the Environment*, social scientists and natural scientists are interviewed regarding their perceived roles in environmental policy making. Natural scientists have a more distant view of their work affecting policy making than do social scientists, who are more used to conceiving their work as being of greater utility within the public affairs arena. Natural scientists have a tendency to believe that their fact-generating enterprise stands as is, without the need to enter the political world; facts are facts. Social scientists, on the other hand, tend to imagine their work eventually percolating itself in to the public policy making debates.

However, again to reference Alm,, Burkhart, and Simon's work, while scientists as a group are differentiated from others in their use of the scientific method to acquire

knowledge, the work of scientists is still circumscribed by the simple fact that our planet is political, with our everyday interactions being constrained by the politics of the situation. Thus, there are limits on the desire of social scientists to frame and shape the environmental policy making discussion. Further complicating the picture is that for scientists to be useful in environmental policy making, they must be perceived as separate from politics, measuring in as objective a manner as possible the extent to which the planet has warmed, and to what extent global warming can be attributed to human activities.

Hence, we arrive at one frustration that the public, and its elected officials, has with scientists: our predilection to speak in probabilistic terms. There are rarely any definitive "yes – no" answers that come from the mouths of scientists who follow the scientific method. It is a rigorous method, and the conclusions that are derived from the scientific methods demand criticism and close examination from one's colleagues. Those conclusions are very frequently couched in the likelihood that they will come to pass. In fact, taking conclusions too far has gotten climate scientists into some trouble. For instance, NASA climate scientist Jim Hansen is notable for ignoring industry practice of probabilistic conclusions and instead making sweeping statements about global warming (cf. Mark Bowen, *Censoring Science: Inside the Political Attack on Dr. James Hansen and the Truth of Global Warming*). Social science, too, is right to be cautious, as a credible voice at the policy making table is at stake.

STUDENT LETTER

To whom it may concern,

My name is Aresta Tsosie LaRusso and I am a citizen of the Navajo Nation. I am a full-time graduate student in the American Indian Studies program with a focus on law and policy at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona.

When I decided to attend the 2013 Western Social Sciences Association (WSSA) conference in Denver, Colorado to present my research, *Second Generation Navajo Children of Relocation: Inheriting Intergenerational Losses Due to P.L. 93-53*, I was not quite sure how I was going to fulfill my commitment due to financial constraints. Through the WSSA student travel grant program, I was able to attend and present with success.

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Oregon Food Bank Network: Addressing Food Insecurity in the Northwest

Michèle Companion, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Hunger is a serious problem in the United States. Feeding America (www.feedingamerica.org), a charity that coordinates a network of 200 member food banks across the country, reports that 49.1 million Americans were living in food insecure households in 2013. This includes 33.3 million adults and 15.8 million children! Food security is the ability to acquire enough nutritionally adequate and safe food for an active and healthy life at all times in socially acceptable ways. This excludes obtaining food through scavenging or buying expired or damaged foods, consuming non-food items, other people's leftovers, or road kill or by resorting to illegal means to acquire food. Households are considered food insecure if they experience three or more of the following conditions: cutting the size of meals, skipping meals, running out of food with no money to buy more, being hungry but not being able to eat because of lack of food or money to buy food, and changing eating patterns away from purchasing healthier foods options (lean proteins, fresh fruit and vegetables) to a more basic diet dominated by lower-cost, less nutritionally dense foods (potatoes, rice, pasta, processed flour).



The Oregon Food Bank Network (<http://www.oregonfoodbank.org>) is dedicated to eradicating food insecurity by helping individuals and their communities increase their self-sufficiency and food security status. However, with unemployment rates and food, gas, and housing prices remaining high, demand for their services has increased. It has climbed 41% since the economic downturn in 2008. For the third year in a row, the Oregon Food Bank Network has distributed more than 1 million emergency food boxes in Oregon and Clark County, Washington. A typical emergency food box provides a three- to five-day supply of groceries. Those boxes provide meals for 270,000 people per month, 92,000 of which are children (34%). In addition, the food bank provided the resources to provide 3.9 million emergency meals at soup kitchens and shelters.

However, the Oregon Food Banks does much more than distribute food. They work to eliminate the root causes of hunger by improving the self-sufficiency of low-income families through advocacy, nutrition education, garden education, and strengthening local food systems within communities. They host nutrition education classes in their kitchen, where volunteers teach cooking techniques, food safety, practical shopping techniques, and meal planning to help low income families improve their food access and quality. {cont. on pg. 8}

{“Food Insecurity”, *cont from pg. 7*}

They have also launched a “Learning Gardens” Program in two locations around Portland. These gardens serve to bring community members together to help build social capital, strengthen community ties, and improve local food access. Participants can sign up for the **Seed to Supper** program, which is a five-week beginning gardening course, or **Dig In!**, in which community members work together to grow organic food for distribution to hunger-relief agencies in Multnomah and Washington counties.

The Western Social Science Association is proud to announce that we are continuing our tradition of holding an annual fund raising event that gives back to our conference host community. Last year, we raised over \$2000 for the Road Runner Food Bank of New Mexico at our Albuquerque conference. This year, our annual conference fund raiser in Portland will benefit the work of the Oregon Food Bank. The Oregon Food Bank is a 501c(3) non-profit organization, so your donation is tax deductible! If you are planning on attending the Portland conference, please look for the donation table on Friday April 10, during the breakfast and poster session. Your donations will be matched by the WSSA, so please contribute generously! Just \$10 will feed a family of four for 3-5 days. If you are unable to attend the conference, please consider a direct donation on behalf of WSSA to the following link: <https://community.oregonfoodbank.org/donatenow>.

I look forward to seeing you at the donation table! I will have receipts for your donation and a variety of information about the Oregon Food Bank. Stop by and say hello! I'll be there bright and early...

Future Conferences

2016 Reno, Nevada - Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, April 13, 2016 - April 16, 2016

2017 San Francisco, California Hyatt Regency San Francisco (Embarcadero), April 12, 2017 - April 15, 2017

2018 San Antonio, Texas - Hyatt Regency -- April 4, 2018 - April 7, 2018

2019 San Diego, California - Manchester Grand Hyatt - April 24, 2019 - April 27, 2019

{“President’s Soapbox”, *cont from pg. 1*}

portions of the Conference, we also host other events (e.g., the Wednesday Welcome Reception, the book display, the Friday Breakfast, Poster Session, President's Luncheon and announcement of awards, the Business and Section Coordinators Meetings, and the Saturday Farewell Reception). This year we also decided to make sure audiovisual equipment was available for all panels and all rooms (at no small expense for a regional organization such as WSSA) for the first time in 2014 and this needed to be reflected in our detailed requests to the Hotel. While everything held together and we had a "good time" (as much as is possible for academics) in Albuquerque, sometimes unforeseen screw-ups did take place, e.g., Les Alm ended up with no time to give his scheduled Presidential Address at the inaptly named "Presidential" Luncheon. For me, such mishaps required the exercise of long-forgotten yoga-based deep breathing techniques.

So, how does WSSA carry out this complicated undertaking successfully while schooling a new General Program Chair every year, you ask? We did well in Denver (2013); Albuquerque (2014); and no doubt, will do so again in Portland (2015). Part of our secret is the *continuity* provided by Kate Herke, our Communications Director and Larry Gould, our Executive Director, who are always ready to assist the President-Elect, the Executive Council, and Section Coordinators when needed. For every conference-related problem, they have or will find the optimum solution based on their years of experience in these matters. Further, *planning* for the Conference begins early; at the Fall meeting of the Council at the host hotel in September. This is much before our usual December 1 deadline for submission of paper and panel proposals, Section Coordinators typically communicate with their

{*cont. on pg. 11*}

Against the Odds in the Time of Doubt

Allison Monterrosa MA

Instructor of Sociology, Univ. of Colorado Colorado Springs

It was a statistical improbability; a poor, black, divorced, single parent from the East Side of San Jose California presenting her Thesis research at the Western Social Sciences Association, (WSSA) Conference. How did I get here? “I don’t belong here” was the recurring theme that was running through my mind as I began to discuss my research. My anxiety level was at an all-time high. I delivered my talk, engaged in stimulating discourse about my research, answered great questions and my presentation went off without a hitch.

Yet, the anxiety did not subside. I was frantically asking people “did I do ok?” “Maybe I should have omitted this bit of information, or maybe I should have created another slide to emphasize this point.” It was as if I was searching for validation for my feelings of self-doubt; then I could alleviate the discord I was experiencing. I distinctly remember another student in my cohort ask “why are you doubting yourself?” Though I could not answer her question in a substantive way at the moment, it was then that I decided to examine the genesis of the uncertainty that has been embedded in my brain regarding my academic capabilities.

I am an African American woman and a surviving victim of domestic violence. I was married to a very abusive man. The ten year cycle, of verbal, emotional, psychological, financial and physical abuse was extreme enough to warrant the relocation of my children and myself through the Victim Witness Protection Program in 2004. In 2006 I committed myself to academic pursuit and since then I have earned a bachelors and a master’s degree in sociology from the University of Colorado.

During my graduate program I was introduced to Peggy McIntosh’s article

{cont. on pg. 10 }

The Second Battle of Killdeer Mountain

Aaron L. Barth

Center for Heritage Renewal

As North Dakota continues experiencing an unprecedented population explosion in tandem with the unprecedented petroleum boom in western North Dakota (North Dakota is second, just behind Texas, in oil production), tribal knowledge keepers, serious historians, serious historic archaeologists, and serious archaeologists — hereafter known as the Royal “we” — have been increasingly concerned with the historic landscape of the Killdeer Mountains. The site holds sacred meaning to the Mandan-Hidatsa tribes (the same group of Natives that saved Lewis & Clark and Company when they wintered on the upper Missouri River in 1804-1805).

As well, Tom Isern has poetically referred to the site as the “Gettysburg of the Great Plains.” The Killdeer Mountain landscape is where the largest engagement between Native and Union forces took place on the Great Plains up to that point in July of 1864, this as the Civil War played out in the eastern half of the United States. When we think of the Killdeer Mountains, we think of the prologue to the 1876 Battle of Greasy Grass/Little Bighorn. It was the battle where all the major Dakota, Lakota and Nakota icons of Great Plains and Western Americana gained notoriety, including Sitting Bull, Gall, Inkpaduta, Rain-In-the-Face, and beyond. And it was a battle where Union Army officer General Alfred Sully led a campaign of total war and genocide against the Lakota, Nakota and Dakota.

If you want to think of how the past is complex, and how it is even more complicated today, listen to this: when Sully campaigned in northern Dakota Territory in 1863-1864, he took a Dakota wife. Children came from this marriage, and they eventually produced grandchildren and great-grandchildren. One of these was the late Vine Deloria, Jr., this the father of Philip Deloria. As a quick refresher, Vine championed and advocated for Native American studies in the legal, political, and scholarly

{cont. on pg. 10 }

“Feeling Like a Fraud” (1985) and it strongly resonated with me. “Feeling like a fraud”, according to McIntosh, is first and foremost intentionally taught to us and the consequences of these feelings of unworthiness is that it perpetuates hierarchies. Another consequence may be that once acknowledged, we may eventually undermine hierarchies.

The intersecting, subordinated identities I embody as an African American woman and a survivor of interpersonal violence contributed to my feelings of fraudulence. Stereotypically, African American women’s identities are defined as embodying mythical strengths and being able to endure immense burdens (both physically and emotionally) without the need to elicit aid from others. This stereotype is commonly referred to as “the Strong Black Woman”. Conversely, domestic violence victims are labeled as “weak” due to the way society frames interpersonal violence. As a result of the dichotomous relationship between the two conflicting identities, it produced an extreme sense of dissonance within me, which undoubtedly participated in my “feeling like a fraud”. Presenting at the WSSA furnished agency within me to embrace my “feelings of fraudulence”, pursue my doctorate degree and soon join the ranks of academic scholars. As my experience attests, the WSSA is an integral component in the struggle to create social change and inclusiveness. By providing a platform for underrepresented voices, the WSSA serves as an active participant in undermining hierarchies that perpetuate feelings of fraudulence. I am grateful to have had this opportunity and to be a part of the struggle.

References

McIntosh, P. (1985) *Feeling Like a Fraud in the Wellsley Centers For Women Working Papers*, (Number#18; 1-11)

realms. Two of Vine’s works on my shelf are *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto* (1969), and *God is Red* (1972). This, of course, sits next to Philip Deloria, *Playing Indian* (1998). I speak of this because these are two of the many things I think about when I look at and visit the Killdeer Mountain landscape.

This meaning is what we continue communicating to public officials in North Dakota and in Washington, DC. The Killdeer Mountain landscape today remains threatened, and we in North Dakota and on the northern Great Plains are trying to wake elected officials up from their ahistoricism. In 2010, the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program said the petroleum “development is a steadily increasing threat” at the Killdeer Mountain Battlefield Landscape. This report was authored by the NPS, and the respondents included the State Historical Society of North Dakota. This is important knowledge since as of the summer of 2013 it has become public that Federal tax dollars have been used to propose a utility power line through the middle of the 2010 NPS boundary. Numerous tribal spokespersons and historians have issued formal public criticisms of the proposed utility power line, but it does not seem to have any influence on the public officials or engineers. Nonetheless, we keep speaking up: we were trained to be informed so as, if the time came, we could inform others. It is up to the policy decision makers whether they want to listen, though.

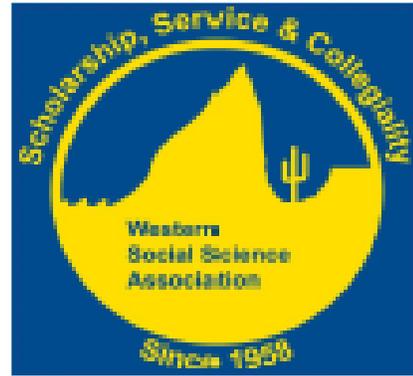
Note: to keep up to date with what is unfolding at the Killdeer Mountains, check in with the Killdeer Mountain Alliance social media page at <https://www.facebook.com/KildeerMountainAlliance>.

By-line: Aaron L. Barth is a historian and archaeologist, and his latest article considered how and why Whitestone Hill, a site from the US-Dakota Wars of 1862-1864, has been remembered for the last 150 years. See Barth, “Imagining a Battle at a Civil War Mistake: The Public History of Whitestone Hill, 1863 to

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{“Kildeer Mountain”, cont from pg. 10 }

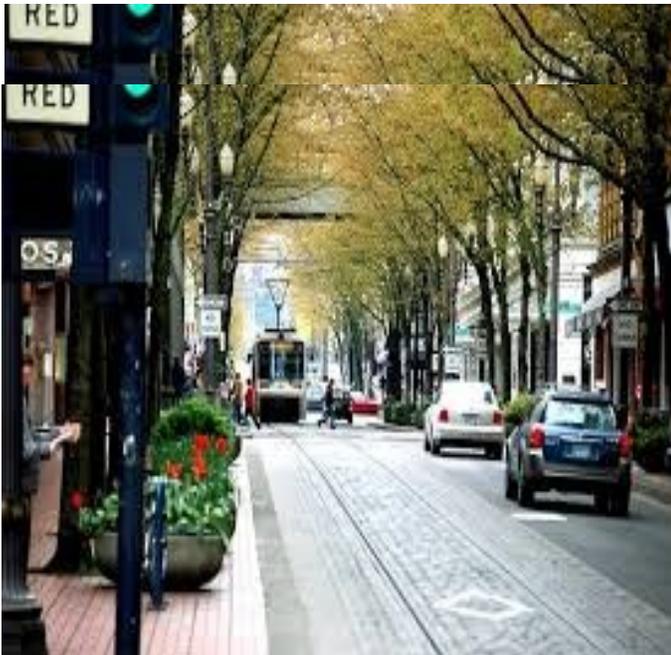
2013” in *The Public Historian*, Vol. 35, No. 3, pp. 72-97 (August 2013). In his ongoing dissertation, Barth considers more broadly why and how the US-Dakota Wars have been remembered in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.



{“Student Letter”, cont from pg. 7 }

As a graduate student researching issues that have current impacts on today’s society, it is important to share, improve and receive feedback on your research. With this experience, WSSA has exemplified their commitment to advancing interdisciplinary scholarship in my discipline of American Indian Studies and other disciplines by assisting scholars to cultivate their research, teaching, and service to higher learning. Since my conference presentation, I have continued my research on intergenerational impacts of displacement and controversial policies. Currently, I have created a poster presentation as part of a University of Arizona competitive poster showcase.

I am sincerely thankful to the WSSA organization in assisting and providing me with the opportunity to share my important work to the many scholars who were in attendance.



Street scene, near Portland conference hotel

{“President’s Soapbox”, cont. from pg. 8 }

members even prior to that. Finally, the *enthusiasm* of students who assist with registration and related tasks (Lahoma Howard, a doctoral student in my Department at Colorado State University, worked hard on the placement of the large number panels last year) makes everything come together.

Many of you have told me personally and through emails how much you enjoyed the fruitful scholarly discussions, many scheduled events, and the general ambiance of our Albuquerque 2014 Conference. Thank you. As you prepare your paper or panel proposal to join colleagues in Portland, April 8–11, 2015, here are my answers to two questions that you did not ask. Did I learn a lot about the internal workings of organizing academic conferences from my Albuquerque experience? Yes, more than I ever wanted to know. Am I glad that, instead of me, it is our current General Program Chair, Heather Albanesi, who is putting all the pieces together for our next meeting? Yes, more and more, as various conference deadlines approach.

See you in Portland!

N. Prabha Unnithan
President, Western Social Science Association