

MARY E. WITLACIL

Department of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
Department of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Fall 2023–Present

Graduate Teaching Assistant Colorado State University
Department of Political Science Fall 2017–Spring 2023

EDUCATION

Colorado State University Fort Collins, CO
Ph.D. Political Science 2023
Dissertation: *Pessimism and the Anthropocene*

Northern Arizona University Flagstaff, AZ
M.A., Politics and International Affairs 2017

University of Colorado, Denver Denver, CO
B.A., Dual Major: Political Science and French 2009

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

2022. “The Critical Pessimism of Theodor Adorno,” *New Political Science* 44, no. 2: 248-264

2022. Frederic I. Solop, Haley N. Anderson, Christina Barsky, Emily Schnurr, Mary Witlacil.
“Introducing Client-Focused Research (CFR) Projects into the Research Methods Curriculum:
Key Considerations for Political Science Instructors,” *Journal of Political Science Education* 18, no.
3: 284-300.

Book Chapters, Encyclopedia Entries

Forthcoming (Anticipated Spring 2025): “Introduction to Theories of Environmental and Climate
Justice,” in *Climate Justice Now!* edited by Rebecca Sophie Marwege, Nikhar Gaikwad, and Joerg
Schaefer (Under Contract with Columbia University Press).

“Reification.” in *Encyclopedia of Critical Political Science*, edited by Clyde W. Barrow, 471-473
(Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2024).

Book Reviews

- (forthcoming) 2024. Ira J. Allen, *Panic Now? Tools for Humanizing* (Knoxville: Tennessee University Press, 2024), *Theory & Event*.
2024. Christine J. Winter, *Subjects of Intergenerational Justice: Indigenous Philosophy, the Environment and Relationships* (London: Routledge, 2021), *Environmental Politics*.
2024. “Loren Goldman, *The Principle of Political Hope: Progress, Action, and Democracy in Modern Thought* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023),” *Contemporary Political Theory*.
2022. “Craig M. Kauffman, and Pamela L. Martin, *The Politics of Rights of Nature: Strategies for Building a More Sustainable Future* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2021),” *Global Environmental Politics* 22, no. 2: 201-203.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Book Manuscripts

Climate Pessimism

Manuscript based on dissertation.

Environmental Political Theory Pedagogy, co-edited with Peter Cannavò, Gregory Koutnik, and Mary Witlacil, in preparation (Anticipated Spring 2026).

Articles & Book Chapters

“The Consolation of Pessimism (*preparing for submission*)

“Climate Pessimism and the Limits of Hope” (*preparing for submission*)

“Techno-Optimism is Climate Denial” (*preparing for submission*)

“Pessimism or Paranoia? Complicating Sedgwick’s Assessment of Foucauldian Paranoia” (*draft*)

FELLOWSHIPS

SoGES Sustainability Leadership Fellow, Colorado State University	2022-2023
Summer Research Fellowship, School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University	2022
Graduate Fellowship, Department of Political Science, Colorado State University	2020
Fulbright Fellowship Alternate (New Zealand)	2020
Gilman Fellowship for International Studies	2007

AWARDS AND HONORS

Best Paper in Environmental Political Theory, Western Political Science Association	2024
Graduate Student Committee Supply Grant	2023
Best GTA, Department of Political Science, Colorado State University	2021-2022

SELECTED CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Presentations

“Techno-Optimism is Climate Denial” 2024

American Political Science Association	Philadelphia, PA
“Techno-Optimism, Ecological Modernization, and Climate Denial” Western Political Science Association	2024 Vancouver, Canada
“Theorizing Ecopessimism” Western Political Science Association	2023 San Francisco, CA
“The Case for Pessimistic Hope” American Political Science Association	2022 Montreal, Canada
“Critical Hope in the Anthropocene” Western Political Science Association	2022 Portland, OR
“Pessimism and the Frankfurt School” American Political Science Association	September 2021 Online
“Resistance without Certainty, Nietzschean Pessimism in the Anthropocene” Western Political Science Association	2021 Online
“Decolonizing Place: Recognition and Environmental Personhood” Western Political Science Association	2019 San Diego, CA
“Ecopessimism and Climate Change” Western Political Science Association	2018 San Francisco, CA
“The Navajo Nation, Water Scarcity, and the Paradox of Climate Justice in the Southwest” Western Political Science Association	2017 Vancouver, Canada
“The Devil’s Advocate: Water Scarcity and the Navajo Nation” CSU Environmental Justice Symposium	2017 Fort Collins, CO
“Climate Change, Water Policy, and the Navajo Nation” Society for Human Ecology	2016 Santa Ana, CA
Roundtables	
Environmental Political Theory Pedagogy: Why Political Theory? American Political Science Association	2024 Philadelphia, PA
Author Meets Critics: The Other Side of Disappointment, Martel's <i>Anarchist Prophets</i> & JUJU Western Political Science Association	2024 Vancouver, Canada
Fresh Approaches to Teaching Environmental Political Theory “Interdisciplinary Approaches to EPT Pedagogy” Western Political Science Association	2023 San Francisco, CA
Rethinking Environmental Political Theory Pedagogy in a Time of Crisis “Decolonizing the EPT Canon”	2022

American Political Science Association Montreal, Canada

Panels Organized

“Political Theory without the Bannister of Progress” 2024
American Political Science Association Philadelphia, PA

“Misinformation and the Politics of Climate Denial” 2024
Western Political Science Association Vancouver, Canada

“Climate Pessimisms and the Dystopian Turn” 2023
Western Political Science Association San Francisco, CA

“The Utopian Turn and the D etournement of the Real” 2022
American Political Science Association Montreal, Canada

“Adorno, Benjamin, and Querying the Unreason in Contemporary Politics” 2021
American Political Science Association Online

“Nietzschean Subjectivities and Subjecting Nietzsche to Ecology” 2021
Western Political Science Association Online

Panels Chaired

“The Political Theory of Crisis: Existentialism, Affective Algorithms, and Utopia” 2024
Western Political Science Association Vancouver, Canada

“Contestation or Obstruction? Resistance, Democracy, and Green Oligarchy” 2022
American Political Science Association Montreal, Canada

“Environmental Publics” 2022
Western Political Science Association Portland, OR

“Shop ‘til You Drop: Green Capitalism, Climate Managerialism, and Extinction” 2020
American Political Science Association Online

“Decolonizing Knowledge” 2016
Western Political Science Association San Diego, CA

INVITED TALKS

Book Launch: Kathryn Lawson’s *Ecological Ethics & the Philosophy of Simone Weil* Fall 2024
Meeting of the Simone Weil Society

“Teaching in Turbulent Times” Spring 2024
Environmental Political Theory Pre-Conference Workshop, WPSA

“Reflections from the Job Market” Fall 2023
Colorado State University, Brown Bag Talk

“The Case for Pessimistic Hope”
Northern Arizona University, Brown Bag Talk

Spring 2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

The Politics of Nature and Technology	Fall 2024
Introduction to International Relations	Fall 2024
Environmental Law and Policy	Spring 2024
Political Ideologies	Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024
American Political Issues	Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024

Instructor of Record, Colorado State University

Current World Problems	Fall 2022
History of Political Thought	Summer 2020, Summer 2021

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Colorado State University

International Relations	Spring 2023
Contemporary Political Theory	Spring 2022
Comparative Politics	Fall 2017, Fall 2020, Spring 2021
International Relations	Spring 2019, Spring 2020
State and Local Politics	Fall 2019
Current World Problems	Spring 2018, Fall 2018

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Northern Arizona University

Social Movements Capstone	Spring 2017
Research Methods	Fall 2016
State and Local Politics	Fall 2016
Contemporary Revolutions	Spring 2016
Global Village	Fall 2015

GUEST LECTURES

Colorado State University

Contemporary Political Theory: “Anarchism”	Spring 2022
Contemporary Political Theory: “Critical Theory”	Spring 2022
Contemporary Political Theory: “Feminism”	Spring 2022
Contemporary Political Theory: “Environmental Political Theory”	Spring 2022
International Relations: “Theories of IR – Feminism”	Spring 2020
International Relations: “Theories of IR – Postcolonialism”	Spring 2020
State and Local Politics: “Gerrymandering: The Case of San Juan County, UT”	Fall 2019
Global World Problems: “Climate Change”	Fall 2018

Colorado College

Global Environmental Policy: “Environmental Justice”	Spring 2020
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ACADEMIC SERVICE

Climate Action Committee, WPSA	2024-Present
Organizing Local Candidate & Ballot Initiative Forum, SD Mines	Fall 2024

Committee Chair: Best Paper in Environmental Political Theory, WPSA	2024
Community Outreach and Engagement Committee, SD Mines	2023-Present
Campus Sustainability Committee, SD Mines	2023-Present
Executive Council: Environmental Politics and Theory Related Group, APSA	2021-2023
Committee: Critical Political Science, Charles A. McCoy Career Achievement Award, APSA	2022
Committee: Best Paper in Environmental Political Theory, WPSA	2021
Organized Speaking Event: George Ciccarello-Maher	2017
Co-President for Graduate Association for Political Science, NAU	2017-2018
Hiring Committee, Politics and International Affairs, NAU	2016

Manuscript Reviewer

Polity, European Journal of Political Theory, Colorado State Political Science Journal

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

WPSA Virtual Community: Political Theory Group, Member	2024-Present
WPSA Virtual Community: Environmental Justice & Climate Justice Group, Member	2023-Present
American Political Science Association, Member	2020-Present
Environmental Politics and Theory, Program Co-Chair	2020-2023
Critical Political Science, Member	2020-Present
Foundations in Political Theory, Member	2020-Present
Association for Political Theory, Member	2020-Present
Feminist Ecological Research Network, Member	2019-Present
Environmental Political Theory Working Group, Member	2016-Present
Western Political Science Association, Member	2016-Present
Graduate Association of Political Science, Northern Arizona University	2015-2017

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

The Institute for Teaching and Learning, Colorado State University Graduate Teaching Certificate	Awarded 2023
Cornell School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University “Marxism and the Problem with History” with Dr. Amy Allen	2022
French Language Institute, Université de la Sorbonne ISA Study Abroad Program	2007

LANGUAGE ABILITIES

Native: English
 Advanced Proficiency: French (reading, writing, speaking)
 Novice: Spanish

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Outdoor Gear Lab Review Editor	Online; South Lake Tahoe, CA 2020-2023
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Colorado Outward Bound School
Assistant Instructor

Leadville, CO
2012-2013

English Teaching Assistant in France (TAPIF)
High School Teaching Assistant

Yssingeaux, France
2011-2012

REFERENCES

References available on request.