

# Amy Lee Kohout

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## EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Department of History, Colorado College, July 2022-present.

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Colorado College, August 2016-June 2022.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Humanities, Environmental Studies Department,  
Davidson College, 2015-2016.

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, May 2015.

Dissertation: "From the Field: Nature and Work on American Frontiers, 1876-1909"

Committee: Aaron Sachs (chair), Sara Pritchard, Eric Tagliacozzo

Fields: U.S. history, environmental and cultural; history of technology; modern Southeast Asian history

M.A., History, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, August 2011.

B.A., History, with distinction, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, May 2004.

## PUBLICATIONS

*Taking the Field: Soldiers, Nature, and Empire on American Frontiers*

Many Wests series, University of Nebraska Press, January 2023.

<https://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/nebraska/9781496215215/>

"Soldiers in Colonial Armies," in *Interrogating Colonial Documents and Narratives*,  
Marlborough: AM, 2024.

<https://www.amdigital.co.uk/collection/interrogating-colonial-documents-and-narratives#overview>

"More than birds: loss and reconnection at the national museum of natural history," *Museum History Journal*, 10:1 (2017), 83-96. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19369816.2016.1257852>

"Museums" in *A Companion to the History of American Science*, edited by Mark Largent and Georgina Montgomery, 431-443. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2015.

"From the Aviary: *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*," *The Appendix* 1:2 (April 2013), 64-66.

<https://theappendix.net/issues/2013/4/from-the-aviary-haliaeetus-leucocephalus>

"*There is a Witchery in Kodakery....*," *Rethinking History: The Journal of Theory and Practice*, 16:1 (March 2012), 125-129.

## CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

Micah Ingalls, Amy Kohout, and Richard Clark Stedman, "When Places Collide: Power, Conflict and Meaning at Malheur," *Sustainability Science* May 2019, Volume 14, Issue 3, 625–638.

Ellen Adams et al., "American Empire," Ellen Adams and Amy Kohout, eds., in *The American Yawp*, eds. Joseph Locke and Ben Wright (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2018).

## BOOK REVIEWS

"Jamie L. Jones, *Rendered Obsolete: Energy Culture and the Afterlife of US Whaling.*" *Technology and Culture*, 65, no. 3 (July 2024), pp. 1057-1059.  
[10.1353/tech.2024.a933136](https://doi.org/10.1353/tech.2024.a933136)

"Elliott West, *Continental Reckoning: The American West in the Age of Expansion.*" *Missouri Historical Review*, 118, no. 2 (January 2024), pp.155-156.

"Kirsten A. Greer, *Red Coats and Wild Birds: How Military Ornithologists and Migrant Birds Shaped Empire.*" *The Historian*, 84:2 (2023), 348-349.  
[doi.org/10.1080/00182370.2023.2231307](https://doi.org/10.1080/00182370.2023.2231307)

"Megan Kate Nelson, *The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West.*" *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, 11, no. 2 (2021): 297-299. [doi:10.1353/cwe.2021.0023](https://doi.org/10.1353/cwe.2021.0023).

"Cameron B. Strang, *Frontiers of Science: Imperialism and Natural Knowledge in the Gulf South Borderlands, 1500-1850.*" *American Nineteenth-Century History*, 21, no. 1 (2020): 87-88.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14664658.2020.1749391>

"Emily Wakild and Michelle K. Berry, *A Primer for Teaching Environmental History: Ten Design Principles.*" *Western Historical Quarterly*, 50, no. 2 (Summer 2019): 179–180.

"Andrea Smalley, *Wild by Nature: North American Animals Confront Colonization.*" *Environmental History* Vol. 23, No. 3 (July 2018): 656-658.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/envhis/emy024>

"Robert H. Kargon; Karen Fiss; Morris Low; Arthur P. Molella. *World's Fairs on the Eve of War: Science, Technology, and Modernity, 1937–1942.*" *Isis* Vol. 108, No. 1 (March 2017): 221-222. DOI: 10.1086/690783

"Histories of American National Parks," *Backlist* August 2016. <http://backlist.cc/lists/histories-of-american-national-parks>

## SELECTED PRIZES, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Colorado College Dean's Research Block	2024
Bright Institute Fellowship, Knox College	2022-2024
Colorado College Mellon Humanities for All Time Course Development Grant	2023
Blue Key Award (for service to college and community)	2022
David J. Weber Fellowship for the Study of Southwestern America	2020-2021
Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Southern Methodist University	
Colorado College Crown Manuscript Workshop Grant	2019
Colorado College Southwest Studies Jackson Fellowship	2018, 2019

Colorado College Social Sciences Exec. Committee Research Grant	2017-19, 2020, 2022-23
Colorado College NEH Summer Stipend Institutional Nominee	2018, 2019
Colorado College Mrachek Fellowship	2018
Colorado College Faculty-Student Collaborative Grant	2017
Colorado College First Year Experience Critical Inquiry Grant Recipient	2017
Mellon Visual Cultures Faculty Learning Community Participant	2017
Messenger Chalmers Dissertation Prize	2015
Buttrick-Crippen Fellowship	2013-2014
Cornell University American Studies Research Grant	2011, 2012, 2014
Michael and Carol Kammen Fellowship	2013
History of Science Society Conference Travel Grant	2013
Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA Conference Travel Grant	2013
Newberry Consortium on American Indian Studies Graduate Student Fellowship	2012
LaFeber Research Fund Award	2011
Silbey Fellowship Fund	2010
Princeton-in-Asia Fellow (IUCN, Lao PDR)	2005

## TEACHING

Colorado College, 2016-present

American Frontiers (Fall 2016, Fall 2018, Fall 2021, Fall 2023, Fall 2024)  
 Justice and Injustice: Bodies on the Margins (with Jane Murphy) (Fall 2016)  
 American Environmental History (taught annually; twice in 2023-24)  
 The Civil War and Reconstruction (Spring 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2024)  
 U.S. History, 1860-present (Spring 2017)  
 Place, Power, and Protest in the West (two-block course with Dwanna McKay) (Fall 2017)  
 Senior Seminar at the Newberry Library (Spring 2018, 2020, 2023); at CC (Spring 2022)  
 Senior Thesis (Spring 2018, 2020, 2022, 2023)  
 Environment and Society (Spring 2019)  
 Local History and Documentary Filmmaking (with Dylan Nelson) (Spring 2019)  
 The Craft of Writing History (Spring 2025)  
 First Year Program Writing Seminar: Natural History?: Museums, Collecting, and Display  
 (Fall 2021, Fall 2023)

Davidson College, 2015-2016

Taught courses in the environmental humanities, environmental history, museum studies, and the history of the U.S. West, and a writing seminar on climate change narratives

Cornell University, 2009-2015

Taught 3 first-year writing seminars as an advanced graduate student and TAed a range of courses in environmental history, science and technology studies, and U.S. history

## UNDERGRADUATE THESIS ADVISING

First reader for 21 senior thesis projects and 1 extended thesis between Fall 2016 and Spring 2024 in the History department; supervised 1 Environmental Studies thesis in fall 2017.

## INVITED TALKS

- Invited talk, “*Taking the Field: Soldiers, Nature, and Empire on American Frontiers*,” Tesoro Cultural Center Historic Lecture Series, forthcoming March 29-30, 2025.
- Invited talk, “*Taking the Field: Soldiers, Nature, and Empire on American Frontiers*,” Yale University, March 25, 2024.
- Invited talk, “*Taking the Field: Soldiers, Nature, and Empire on American Frontiers*,” Natural Sciences Colloquium. Colgate University, March 22, 2024.
- Invited talk, “*Taking the Field: Soldiers, Nature, and Empire on American Frontiers*,” Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum lecture series, November 11, 2023.
- Invited talk, “*Taking the Field: Soldiers, Nature, and Empire on American Frontiers*,” Pueblo Archaeological and Historical Society, September 7, 2023.
- Invited talk, “*Taking the Field*,” The Greenhouse Center for Environmental Humanities Book Talk Series, hosted by Prof. Dolly Jørgensen and Prof. Finn Arne Jørgensen at the University of Stavanger, May 8, 2023. Recorded as both audio-only and video podcast: <https://newnatures.org/greenhouse/events/booktalk/online-book-talk-kohout-taking-the-field/>
- Invited talk, “*Taking the Field: Examining Ideas about Nature and Empire through the Collecting Work of Dr. Edgar Mearns*,” Duke-Kunshan University Environmental History Lecture Series (Zoom), March 2, 2023.
- Invited talk, “*On Taking the Field*,” Newberry Colloquium, February 15, 2023.
- Invited comment, Department of History and Sociology Colloquium, Universität Konstanz, Germany, November 2021.
- Invited talk, “*Taking the Field: Natural History on Multiple Frontiers*,” Hulbert Center for Southwest Studies Aficionados Lecture Series, Colorado College, scheduled for October 28, 2020. POSTPONED-COVID.
- Invited talk, “*Taking the Field: The Collecting Work of Dr. Edgar Alexander Mearns*,” New York University, April 22, 2020. CANCELED-COVID.
- Invited talk, “*Taking the Field: The Collecting Work of Dr. Edgar Alexander Mearns*,” Pueblo Archaeological and Historical Society, March 5, 2020.
- Invited talk, “*Taking the Field: The Collecting Work of Dr. Edgar Alexander Mearns*,” *Many Wests* Book Series, Richards Civil War Era Center, Penn State University, Feb 28, 2020.

## SELECTED CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- Panelist, First Book Launch Reception, Western Association of Women Historians Conference, forthcoming April 2024.
- “So You Want to Teach at a Small Liberal Arts College.” Workshop for Graduate Students, Cornell University Department of History, forthcoming March 2024.
- Chair and Commentator, “Environmental Extractivism, Speculation, and Impacts in Battle and Beyond,” American Society of Environmental History conference, April 2024.
- Chair and Commentator, “Environment, Disease, Response,” Society for U.S. Intellectual History conference, November 2023.
- Chair and Commentator, “Religion, Environment, and Colonization Across Many Wests,” Western History Association conference, October 2023.
- Panelist, “Teaching Indigenous History as Environmental History and Vice Versa,” American Society of Environmental History conference, March 2023.
- “Empire in a Drawer,” Organization of American Historians conference, March 2023.

- Commentator, "Connecting Work and Nature: New Approaches, Methods, and Archives," American Society of Environmental History conference, March 2022.
- Chair and comment, "From Hegemony to Resistance: Science and the American Empire in the Pacific," Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA conference, online, December 2020.
- Commentator, "In Whose Interest?: Indigenous Trading, Treaty-Making, and Monetary Policy," Western History Association conference, online, October 2020.
- "From the Field: The Place of Women in a Project about Soldiers," 18<sup>th</sup> Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders, and Sexualities, May 2020. CANCELED-COVID.
- "So You Want to Teach at a Small Liberal Arts College." Workshop for Graduate Students, NYU Department of History, April 22, 2020, CANCELED-COVID.
- "So You Want to Teach at a Small Liberal Arts College." Workshop for Graduate Students, Penn State Department of History, February 28, 2020.
- "Field Books and Army Ledgers: Natural History and Imperial Control During the Apache Campaigns," Western History Association conference, October 2019.
- Chair and comment, "Finding Women: New Methods and New Approaches to Women's History," Western Association of Women Historians conference, April 2019.
- Chair and comment, "New 'Nature Fakers'?: Historians and the Animal Experience," American Society of Environmental History Conference, April 2019.
- Invited Workshop Participant, Interdisciplinary Sustainability ALAAC/AASHE Workshop. Furman University, Feb 28-Mar 3, 2019.
- Chair and comment, "New Perspectives on Women in the West," Western Association of Women Historians conference, April 2018.
- "American Soldiers and the Production of Scientific Knowledge in the Philippines," History of Science Society, November 2017.
- Plenary Panelist and Writing Workshop Facilitator, "A Cornell Conference on Creative Academic Writing: Exploring the Relationship between Artful Prose and Scholarly Production," Cornell University, May 2017.
- Panelist, "The Pedagogy of Hope: Teaching Hope in the Environmental Classroom," American Society of Environmental History conference, March 2017.
- Chair, "Connecting Histories: Exploring the Relationships Between Natural History and Environmental History Across Space and Time," American Society of Environmental History conference, March 2017.
- Invited speaker, "Dismantling White-Washed Historical Narratives of the Pikes Peak Region," Conversations on Whiteness Student Group at Colorado College, December 2016.
- Co-organizer and Panelist, "Environmental History: (in) the Context of Environmental Studies?" American Society of Environmental History conference, April 2016.
- "Partly Settled Colonialism? The Place of Soldiers on American Frontiers," participant in Settler Colonialism and Territorial Expansion, a seminar at C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists conference, March 2016.
- Invited participant, Duke University History Slam, December 2015.
- "'Specimens' at San Carlos: Linking Natural History and Military Work in Arizona Territory," Western History Association conference, October 2015.
- "More than Birds: Collection Narratives and Cultural History at NMNH," Lost Museums: A Symposium on the Ephemerality & Afterlife of Museums, Brown University, May 2015.
- "Pacific Crossings: Specimens Between the (Battle?) Field and the Museum," American Society of Environmental History conference, March 2015.

“Binoculars and Birdsong: Environmental History Outside the Archive,” Cornell Society for the Humanities, April 2014.

“Cleared, Collected, and Displayed at the World’s Fair: The Trees of Forest Park, 1904,” American Society of Environmental History conference, March 2014.

“Working Vacations: Dr. Mearns and the Museum,” History of Science Society, November 2013.

“Summiting Mt. Malindang: Linking Military and Scientific Work in the Philippines,” North American Labor History Conference, October 2013.

“Life’s Work: The Specimen Collecting of Dr. Edgar Mearns,” Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association conference, August 2013.

## **GUEST TEACHING**

Class visit with undergraduate History majors at Colgate University, March 21-22, 24.

Class visit with undergraduate History majors at Cornell University, March 20, 2024.

Class visit with STS undergraduate seminar at Cornell University (Zoom), February 7, 2024.

Author Q & A with graduate seminars who read the book at Southern Methodist University (Spring 2023) and the University of Arizona (Spring 2022)

Invited Speaker (Zoom), University of California at Santa Cruz, History of the Philippines, 1815-Present, February 5, 2021 (recorded interview on colonial science in the Philippines).

Invited Speaker (Zoom), Hastings College, Senior Research Methods, August 28, 2020.

Invited Lecturer, Boston College, Nature on Exhibit, April 7, 2018.

Invited Lecturer, Tulane University, History of Frontiers, April 5 and 7, 2017.

## **PUBLIC AND DIGITAL HISTORY**

**Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum Summer Fellowship Supervisor** (2018, 2019, 2022, 2024)

Developed and now coordinate a summer opportunity at CSPM, funded by the History department. Work with Curator of History to support and mentor our interns each summer.

### **Co-Founder and Editor, [\*Backlist\*](#)**

Online publication connecting general readers with book lists and short essays by historians organized around big themes. Site launched December 2015. (Not currently adding to the site.)

### **Editor, [\*The Appendix\*](#)**

*The Appendix* is a journal of narrative and experimental history that published 8 issues over two years. Worked with 3-6 contributors per issue on their pieces, from pitch to final text. 2013-2015.

### **Linking Sources and Specimens, History and Science: Dr. Mearns’s Birds**

A collaborative project with the Division of Birds at the National Museum of Natural History. Co-wrote grant, conducted research, and wrote content for a website linking specimens with the narratives of their collection. Received funding from the Coypu Foundation to extend project. Completed Spring 2015; Project currently unavailable online due to Smithsonian web redesign.

### **Chapter Editor and Contributor, [\*The American Yawp\*](#)**

*The American Yawp* is a free, online American history textbook. Wrote content on the Philippine-American War and Progressive Era environmentalism and worked with a co-editor to combine multiple author contributions into a chapter on American empire. 2013-2015.

## **PUBLIC-FACING WORK**

Guest Lecturer on a Silversea Cruise, Vancouver to Puerto Vallarta, October 2023.

6-lecture series on the history of the Pacific World and the U.S. West on the *Silver Wind*.

Video interview about *Taking the Field* for Faculti, May 2023. <https://faculti.net/taking-the-field/>

“The Author’s Corner” feature on *Taking the Field*, February 2023.

<https://currentpub.com/2023/02/01/the-authors-corner-with-amy-kohout/>

Podcast interview about *Taking the Field* on the New Books Network. January 22, 2023.

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/taking-the-field>

Guest Lecturer on a Silversea Cruise, Vancouver to San Diego, October 2022.

Delivered a 4-lecture series on history of Pacific World and U.S. West on the *Silver Wind*.

Podcast interview about my book project as part of the Hulbert Center for Southwest Studies

Podcast, Season 1, Episode 4. January 7, 2021.

[https://open.spotify.com/episode/2hSLiQHR4M90w29SWCuAgd?si=bJBJuYrQOqPfju2VMKeeA&dl\\_branch=1](https://open.spotify.com/episode/2hSLiQHR4M90w29SWCuAgd?si=bJBJuYrQOqPfju2VMKeeA&dl_branch=1)

Coverage of activism related to Nike “Lost Cause” ad campaign:

Megan Kate Nelson, “How Historians Got Nike to Pull an Ad Campaign—in Under Six Hours,” *The Washington Post*, “Made by History” section, 12 April 2019

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/04/12/how-historians-got-nike-pull-an-ad-campaign-under-six-hours/>

Leah Veldhuisen, “Professor Amy Kohout Addresses Problematic Nike Ad,” Colorado College Newsroom (and subsequent Colorado College *Bulletin*, Summer 2019), 14 May 2019

<https://www.coloradocollege.edu/newsevents/newsroom/professor-amy-kohout-addresses-problematic-nike-ad#.XZesGZNKjVo>

American History TV (C-SPAN) episode, “Nuclear Weapons Testing and the Environment,”

lecture aired April 21, 2018. <https://www.c-span.org/video/?437891-1/nuclear-weapons-testing-environment>

“Cure for Life,” *The Dead Deads* ([live version released December 2018](#)) is a song inspired by my C-SPAN lecture on nuclear testing (via email from bass player/composer).

## **COLORADO COLLEGE SERVICE**

**Associate Chair, Environmental Studies and Science Program** (July 2024-present)

Together with the program chair, coordinate the Environmental Studies and Science Program. In 2024-25, this work will include chairing a tenure file, handling student questions and advising issues for EV Studies majors and minors, mentoring visiting faculty, and building our course schedule.

**Faculty Affiliate, Environmental Studies and Science Program** (2016-present)

Attend meetings, advise students, teach and cross-list courses, participate in EV events.

**Faculty Affiliate, Southwest Studies Program** (2016-present)

Attend meetings, support program, cross-list courses, and participate in SWS-sponsored events.

**Museum Studies Working Group** (2020-present; Coordinator 2021-22, 2023-24)

The working group revised the Museum Studies minor and continues to collaborate on curricular and cocurricular museum studies opportunities for students and faculty.



**Health Professions Advising Committee (2020-present; Chair 2023-24)**

The committee writes composite letters summarizing the files of students and alumni applying to medical school and other graduate programs in the health professions.

**Faculty Executive Committee, Governance Subcommittee (2023-24)**

Elected to serve a one-year term on the Governance subcommittee as the tenured representative for the Social Science Division at the college. Handled faculty elections, served as the FEC representative to the Faculty Handbook Taskforce, as well as the FEC representative to the Temporary Operational Group on Parking.

**Convener, Mentoring Alliance Program (2023-present)**

Convene a blockly mentoring group for a cohort of four new tenure-track faculty. This is a six-year commitment, meaning I will support this group of faculty members through their tenure review process.

**General Education Assessment and Review Committee (2021-2022)**

This committee conducted assessment for courses in the new General Education program and reviewed proposals for courses to be included in the program.

**ACM Faculty Advisor for the Newberry and Field Museum Semester Programs (2021-22)**

Faculty advisor and Colorado College campus representative for ACM semester programs.

**Curriculum Executive Committee (2018-2019)**

Elected by the faculty for a year-long term during a general education curriculum revision.

**Indigenous Studies Minor Working Group (2016-present)**

Worked with faculty from across the college to develop an Indigenous Studies minor.

**History Department Assessment Representative (2017-2019)**

Design (with the rest of the department), execute, and report on our annual assessment project.

**First-Year Advising (2017-18, 2018-19, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2023-24)****Athletics Board (2017-2018)**

Served as faculty representative to the Athletics Board for the 2017-2018 year.

**Faculty Development Panels (organized by Crown Center for Teaching and Learning)**

Teaching with Slack (August 2020)

Standalone session on teaching with Slack

Teaching with Digital Tools (April 2020)

Panelist to talk about using Slack as a remote classroom space

New Faculty Orientation (August 2017, August 2018, August 2023)

Panelist for sessions focused on course planning, first day activities, active learning



## **SELECTED SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

### **American Society for Environmental History Local Arrangements Committee, 2024**

Worked with committee to help plan conference field trips and plenary session at ASEH 2024.

### **Society for US Intellectual History Program Committee, 2023**

Work with committee members to assemble the program for the 2023 meeting in Denver, CO.

### **Steering Committee, Women's Environmental History Network (WEHN), 2023-present**

The WEHN Steering Committee coordinates opportunities for networking and connection and advocates for more diverse representation within our field. Served as point-person for WEHN reception at ASEH this year in Denver.

### **NEH Review Panel for Public Humanities Projects, Exhibitions and Historic Places**

Invited participant on an NEH review panel focusing on project proposals in Native and Indigenous art and history and western U.S. art and history. October 2021 and October 2023.

### **State Historic Fund Grant Review, History Colorado, Spring 2024**

Volunteer reviewer for three grant proposals submitted to the Colorado State Historic Fund.

### **PCB-AHA Hundley Selection Committee, 2017-2019 (Chair, 2018 and 2019)**

The Norris and Carol Hundley Award is given to the author of a distinguished book on any historical subject who is a member of the American Historical Association within the 22 Western states and 4 Canadian provinces from which the Pacific Coast Branch draws its membership.

### **Manuscript Reviewer**

*Environmental History*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Journal of Gilded Age and Progressive Era History*, *Philippine Studies*, *Western Historical Quarterly*, Johns Hopkins University Press, University Press of Colorado, MIT Press, Cambridge University Press, Michigan State University Press, University of Nebraska Press.

## **CONSULTING WORK**

### **Historical Consultant for Television Series (June 2021-present)**

Provide background research, read scripts, and consult on accuracy and historical narrative.

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Society of Environmental History

History of Science Society

Organization of American Historians

Society for United States Intellectual History

Western Association of Women Historians

Western History Association

## **OUTSIDE SERVICE AND PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT**

### **Board Member, Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions, August 2024-present**

Support the work and mission of an experiential education program that offers summer treks, school programs, and community offerings at its base camp in Thoreau, NM and out in the field.

**Founding Board Member, Friends of the Yale Women's Rugby Football Club (FYWRFC)**

Worked to build a community of Yale women's rugby alumnae. 2010-2015.

**Assistant Director, Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions (Albuquerque and Thoreau, NM)**

Worked closely with the Executive Director to manage all aspects of an educational nonprofit that runs a wilderness summer program that was established in 1926. 2006-2008.

**Princeton-in-Asia Fellow/Assistant Programme Officer, IUCN (Vientiane, Lao PDR)**

Princeton-in-Asia Fellow at IUCN-Lao. Worked with a dynamic team to build the capacity of the Government of Lao PDR to improve natural resource management. 2005-2006.

**Organizer, Green Corps (Environmental Leadership Training Program)**

Worked as a field organizer on short-term environmental campaigns. August 2004-January 2005.