

# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Organized by Wendy Harding, UTM, CAS 5,  
and Nancy Cook, U. Montana

*"The landscape of the American West  
has to be seen to be believed.  
And perhaps, conversely, it has to be  
believed in order to be seen."*

**N. Scott Momaday**

In spite of certain iconic images associated with the American West, representations of this region are multiple and unstable, like all views of places. As the new nation expanded westward, new images of the territory were created and made to circulate. In order to be believed, the West had to be made visible. At the same time, in a palimpsestic process, other visions were occulted, lost, or effaced. Why do some representations of the land enjoy maximal cultural currency? Why are some territories ignored, forgotten or repressed in the collective consciousness? To what extent do iconic images serve as screens obscuring the exploitation of the land? If visibility is not to be trusted, does it follow that what is essential in the land remains invisible? Are visual representations primordial or are other forms of representation more telling? Might the becoming-West be concealed in the territory's invisible zones?

## The Politics of Visibility in the American West

We are grateful for the support of:  
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## The Politics of Visibility in the American West

Friday, March 21, 2014

Université de Toulouse II-Le Mirail, Maison de la Recherche, D31



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# The Politics of Visibility in the American West

9am Welcome Speeches

**Moderator: Wendy Harding, University of Toulouse-Le Mirail**

9.15-9.55 **Gesa Mackenthun**, University of Rostock, Germany:  
*Hidden Cities and American Expansion: Imperial Nostalgia or Imperial Gothic?*

9.55-10.35 **Neil Campbell**, University of Derby, U.K. :  
*Fugitive Work: Affective Critical Regionality & Willy Vlautin's Northline*

10.35- 10.55 Coffee

**Moderator: Anne Stefani, University of Toulouse-Le Mirail**

10.55-11.35 **David Rio**, University of the Basque Country, Spain:  
*Hidden in Plain Sight: Basque Shepherders in Western American Literature*

11.35-12.15 **Nancy Cook**, University of Montana, U.S.A.:  
*Preserving Place and Revising History: Legacies of the King Ranch of Texas*

LUNCH Buffet

**Moderator: Zachary Baqué, University of Toulouse-Le Mirail**

2pm-2.40 **Audrey Goodman**, Georgia State University, U.S.A.:  
*Split Screens: Visualizing the Southwestern Borderlands*

2.40-3.20 **Kelly Dennis**, University of Connecticut, U.S.A.:  
*Hiding in Plain Site: Landscape Photography Under Postwestern Skies*

3.20- 3.40 Tea

**Moderator: Aurélie Guillain, University of Toulouse-Le Mirail**

3.40-4.20: **Cathryn Halverson**, University of Copenhagen, Denmark:  
*The Atlantic Monthly, Gertrude Stein, and "Faraway Women"*

4:20-5:00 **William Handley**, University of Southern California, U.S.A.:  
*American Vanishing Acts*