

Jared Farmer

Department of History, SUNY at Stony Brook
jared.farmer@stonybrook.edu / www.jaredfarmer.net

Employment

- Professor, Department of History, Stony Brook University (SBU), 2017–
- Associate Professor, Department of History, SBU, 2012–17
- Assistant Professor, Department of History, SBU, 2007–12
- Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Southern California (USC), 2005–07

Education

- Ph.D. in history, Stanford University, 2005 (advisor: Richard White)
- M.A. in history, University of Montana, 1998 (advisor: Dan Flores)
- B.A. in history with honors, Utah State University (USU), 1996 (advisor: Clyde Milner)

Books

- *Trees in Paradise: A California History* (Norton, 2013)
- *On Zion's Mount: Mormons, Indians, and the American Landscape* (Harvard, 2008)
- *Glen Canyon Dammed: Inventing Lake Powell and the Canyon Country* (Univ. of Arizona, 1999)

Writing awards

- Ray Allen Billington Prize, Organization of American Historians, 2015
- Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Award, Forest History Society, 2014
- John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize, Foundation for Landscape Studies, 2014
- Finalist, Spur Award, Nonfiction Contemporary, Western Writers of America, 2014
- Clarence Dixon Taylor Award, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, 2013
- Francis Parkman Prize, Society of American Historians, 2009
- Caroline Bancroft History Honor Book Prize, Denver Public Library, 2009
- Francis Armstrong Madsen Award, Utah State Historical Society, 2009
- Award of Merit, American Association of State and Local History, 2009
- Elizabeth Spilman Rosenfield Prize, Stanford, 2005

Research awards

- Residential fellowship, Rachel Carson Center, Ludwig-Maximilian University, 2018
- Grant, Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program, Carnegie Corporation, 2017–19
- Grant, Public Understanding of Science Program, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, 2017–19
- Grant, Public Scholar Program, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2016
- Hiett Prize in the Humanities, Dallas Institute, 2014
- Residential fellowship, Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah, 2013–14
- Residential fellowship, National Humanities Center, 2009–10
- Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, 2009
- Residential fellowship, Stanford Humanities Center, 2003–04

Other honors

- Art piece “Extinct Device” displayed in special exhibition “Welcome to the Anthropocene: The Earth in Our Hands,” Deutsches Museum, 2014–16
- Distinguished Speaker, Western History Association, 2013–16
- Research and Interdisciplinary Initiatives Individual Grant, SBU, 2008, 2011, 2013
- Inducted member, Society of American Historians, 2010
- Grey Towers Scholar in Residence, U.S. Forest Service, 2012
- Historical Society of Southern California/Haynes Foundation grant, 2006
- Bertha Morton Scholarship, University of Montana, 1998
- Editorial internship, *High Country News*, 1996
- Preston Nibley Scholarship, Utah State University, 1995–96

E-books (self-published)

- *Restoring Greatness to Utah* (2014)
- *The Image of Mormons: A Sourcebook for Teachers and Students* (2013)
- *Mormons in the Media, 1830–2012* (2012)

Current project

- *The Latest Oldest Tree: Survival Stories for a Time of Extinction* (Basic Books)

Teaching

- *Undergraduate lectures*: “The American West” (2007, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017); “United States since the Civil War” (2015, 2016); “Animals in the Modern World” (2011, 2012, 2015); “Plants, Animals, and Pathogens in American History” (2008, 2009)
- *Undergraduate seminars*: “American Landscapes” (2008, 2016); “Food Histories” (2012); “The Politics and Practice of History” (2012); U.S.–Mexico Borderlands” (2011); “The Uses and Abuses of History” (2008); “Environmental History of the Twentieth-century U.S. West” (2007); “Historiography of the American West” (2006); “Approaches to History” (2005, 2006); “California Dreaming” (2005); “California Indians Meet America” (2003)
- *Graduate seminars*: “Dissertation Prospectus” (2016); “Reconstruction to Reagan” (2009, 2015); “Science, Technology, and Planetary History” (2013); “New World Habitats and Borderlands” (2011)

Invited appearances

- Symposium participant, “The Era of Reconstruction in Mormon America,” Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Brigham Young University (June 2017; proceedings to be published): “The Mormon Cause—Lost and Found and Lost Again”
- Symposium participant, “World War II and the West it Wrought,” Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford (May 2017; proceedings to be published by Stanford University Press): “Executive Domain: Military Land Withdrawals in the Wartime West”
- Presenter, Modern America Workshop, Department of History, Princeton (Feb. 2016): “Taking Liberties with Historic Trees”

- Speaker, C. G. Jung Institute, Berkeley (Dec. 2015): “Seeing the Canyon Country through Sound”
- Presenter, Seminar in Environmental and Agricultural History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Sept. 2015): “Historic Trees and Historicized Tree-rings”
- Book workshop participant, “Anthropocene Objects and Environmental Futures,” Rachel Carson Center, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany (July 2015): “Future Fossil”
- Speaker, International Colloquium on American Studies, Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic (May 2015): “American Trees and American Temporality”
- Banquet Speaker, California Native Plant Society Conference (Jan. 2015): “Blue Gum Blues; or, the Poetics of Non-nativeness”
- Presenter, Anthropocene Cabinet of Curiosities Slam, Center for Culture, History, and Environment, University of Wisconsin, Madison (Nov. 2014): “Extinct Device”
- Award Speaker, Hiett Prize Luncheon, George W. Bush Presidential Center (Nov. 2014): “Environmental History and the Future of the Humanities”
- Speaker, California Historical Society (Nov. 2014): “Yosemite’s Big Trees, Past and Future”
- Speaker, Shaping San Francisco Series, Eric Quezada Center for Culture and Politics (Nov. 2014): “Immigrant Trees in the City”
- Speaker, Aquarium of the Pacific (Oct. 2014): “Green Screen: How Trees Made California Modern”
- Speaker and Panelist, Conversations in Place, Rancho Los Alamitos (Oct. 2014): “Urban Nature Isn’t What You Think”
- Speaker, Department of History, University of California at Riverside (Oct. 2014): “Green Screen: How Trees Made California Modern”
- Keynote Speaker, California Urban and Community Forests Conference, San Diego (June 2014): “Trees in Paradise”
- Keynote Speaker, 10th Biennial Great Salt Lake Issues Forum, University of Utah (May 2014): “Restoring Greatness to a Salt Lake”
- Presenter, Los Angeles Times Festival of Books (Apr. 2014): “The Golden State”
- Keynote Speaker, Symposium on Environmental Ethics, Utah Valley University (Apr. 2014): “This Was the Place: Environmental Memory in the Great Basin”
- Speaker, Weber State University (Mar. 2013): “The Making and Unmaking of Utah”
- Speaker, Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah (Feb. 2013): “Trees in Time: History and Mortality among Sequoias”
- Clarence Dixon Taylor Lecture, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Brigham Young University (Feb. 2014): “The Making and Unmaking of Utah”
- Haynes Foundation Lecture, The Huntington Library (Oct. 2013): “Green Screen: How Trees Made California Modern”
- Keynote Speaker, Utah State History Conference (Sept. 2013): “The Making and Unmaking of Utah”
- Presenter, Race, Place, and Nature Conference, Rutgers University (Mar. 2013): “By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them: The Horticultural Conquest of California”

- Speaker, American West Center and the Environmental Humanities Graduate Program, University of Utah (Feb. 2013): “This Was the Place: Environmental Memory in the Great Basin”
- Presenter, Western History Workshop, Autry National Center (Jan. 2012): “Metropolitan Fronds: Street Palms and the Fashioning of Los Angeles”
- Speaker, Emeritus Faculty Association, SBU (Dec. 2011): “History from the Canopy”
- Presenter, Walk the Farm, Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford (Apr. 2011): “El Palo Alto and Other Out-of-Place Flora”
- Distinguished Alumni Lecture, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, USU (Mar. 2011): “Possessed by the Past”
- Panelist, National Humanities Center (Apr. 2010): “The State of Environmental Humanities”
- Rembert W. Patrick Lecture, Guilford College (Mar. 2010): “Speak for the Trees”
- Speaker, Program in Heritage Studies, Arkansas State University (Mar. 2010): “The Global in the Local”
- Discussant, American Religious History Seminar, Yale (Feb. 2010): “Integrating Mormon History”
- Speaker, The Humanities Institute, SBU (Feb. 2009): “The Immigration and Naturalization of Eucalypts to California”
- Speaker, Utah Humanities Council Book Festival (Oct. 2008): “Utah History from the Outside”
- Speaker, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Brigham Young University (Apr. 2008): “On Zion’s Mount”
- Speaker, Department of History, USU (Apr. 2008): “On Zion’s Mount”
- Presenter, Western History Workshop, Autry National Center (Dec. 2006): “The Immigration and Naturalization of Eucalypts to California”
- Speaker, O. C. Tanner Symposium, USU (Nov. 2004): “Historicizing Memory and Sacred Geography”
- Speaker, Stanford Humanities Center (Mar. 2004): “The Rise and Fall of a Lover’s Leap”
- Speaker, Environmental Policy Program, USU (Feb. 2000): “Why Does Lake Powell Matter?”

Radio interviews

- 2015: *99% Invisible* podcast
- 2014: KERA (Dallas); KQED (San Francisco); Utah Public Radio (KUSU, Logan, UT); KBOO (Portland, OR)
- 2013: KBOO; KNEW (San Francisco); KPFA (Berkeley, CA); KVON (Napa, CA); Valley Public Radio (KVPR, Fresno, CA); Northeast Public Radio (WAMC, Albany, NY); BYU Radio (Provo, UT)
- 2011: Utah Public Radio
- 2008: Utah Public Radio; BYU Radio
- 1999: Utah Public Radio; KPCW (Park City, UT)

Other presentations

- Closing panelist, “New Perspectives in Environmental History,” Yale (Apr. 2015)
- Commenter, American West Center Symposium, University of Utah (Sept. 2014): “The Great Basin”
- Co-organizer, chair, and commenter, American Society of Environmental Historians Conference (Mar. 2014): “The Roots of Nature’s Nation: Trees and Culture in the Long-Nineteenth-Century United States”
- Commenter, Western History Association Conference (Oct. 2012): “The Politics of the Colorado River”
- Discussant, New York Metro Seminar in Environmental History (Dec. 2011): “Sequoias and the Measurement of Mortality”
- Discussion leader, Western Historians in the New England Region Conference (May 2009): “Memory Studies and the American West”
- Presenter, American Society of Environmental Historians Conference (Feb. 2009): “Sequoias, Time, and Mortality”
- Presenter, North American Environments Working Group, Huntington Library: (Dec. 2005): “Land-marking and Place-making in America”
- Presenter, Western History Association Conference (Oct. 2002): “Legendary Peaks: Indian Play Meets Alpine Play”

Refereed articles and chapters

- “Technofossil,” in *Future Remains: A Cabinet of Curiosities for the Anthropocene* ed. Gregg Mitman (Univ. of Chicago, 2017)
- “Crossroads of the West,” *Journal of Mormon History* (Winter 2015—fiftieth anniversary special issue)
- “This Was the Place: The Making and Unmaking of Utah,” *Utah Historical Quarterly* (Summer 2014, including expanded online version)
- “Witness to a Hanging: California’s Haunted Trees,” *Boom: A Journal of California* (Mar. 2013)
- “On Emblematic Megaflora,” *Environmental History* (July 2010)
- “Glen Canyon Dam” in *Encyclopedia of American Environmental History* (Facts on File, 2010)
- “Displaced from Zion: Mormons and Indians in the Nineteenth Century,” *Historically Speaking* (Jan. 2009)
- “*Desert Solitaire* and the Literary Memory of an Imagined Place,” *Western American Literature* (Summer 2003)
- “Glen Canyon and the Persistence of Wilderness,” *Western Historical Quarterly* (Summer 1996); reprinted in *The Glen Canyon Reader* ed. Matthew Barrett Gross (Univ. of Arizona, 2003)
- “Naming La Gorce Arch,” *Journal of the Southwest* (Spring 1996)
- “Undiscovered to Undiscoverable: Gregory Natural Bridge,” *Utah Historical Quarterly* (Spring 1995)

Popular pieces

- “A Dream of Humility,” contribution to roundtable discussion “What Is the California Dream Now?” Zócalo Public Square online syndicate (Jan. 2015)
- “Blossom as the Fig: How My Father, a California Transplant, Adapted to Utah,” feature essay, *High Country News* (15 Sept. 2014)
- “How Did L.A. Become a City of Palms? And Other Questions About California’s Trees,” L.A. as Subject online syndicate hosted by KCET (Jan. 2014)
- “Going Out on a Limb to Defend Eucalyptus,” *San Francisco Chronicle* (Jan. 2014)
- “The Rise and Fall of the Gum Tree: How California Came to Love—then Disown—Eucalyptus,” Zócalo Public Square online syndicate (Jan. 2014)
- “Who Says Eucalypts Are Invasive? A Conversation with an Author,” *High Country News* blog (30 Oct. 2013)
- “Flora,” curated photographic essay for “Form and Landscape: Southern California Edison and the Los Angeles Basin, 1940–1990,” a Huntington Library project funded by The Getty’s initiative “Pacific Standard Time Presents: Modern Architecture in L.A.” (May 2013)
- “Scholarly Inquiry: Jared Farmer,” interview on Mormon history blog *Juvenile Instructor* (Sept. 2012)
- “Why *The Book of Mormon* (the Musical) Is Awesomely Lame,” *Religion Dispatches* online magazine (June 2011)
- “Mormon Sacred Space: An Interview with the Author of *On Zion’s Mount*,” *Religion Dispatches* online magazine (Apr. 2010)
- “Extralocal History,” *American Scholar* (Summer 2009)
- “Reclaiming the Low Country,” feature story, *High Country News* (9 Sept. 2008)
- “Gone Native: California’s Love–Hate Relationship with Eucalyptus Trees,” *Huntington Frontiers* (Spring–Summer 2007)
- “Restore Glen Canyon? Let’s Restore Lake Powell,” *Arizona Daily Star*, 7 Oct. 1999
- “Dam Debate Must Weigh Ecology, Politics,” *Writers on the Range* news syndicate, Nov. 1999

Review essays

- “Trans-Mediterranean,” H-Environment Roundtable Reviews (forthcoming): essay on *Strangers on Familiar Soil: Rediscovering the Chile-California Connection* by Edward Dallam Melillo (Yale, 2015)
- “Bitterest Crop,” Reviews in American History (June 2017): state-of-the-field essay on genocide in California
- “Meditations on Conservation,” Science (10 June 2016): essay on *The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America’s National Parks* by Terry Tempest Williams (Sarah Crichton Books, 2016)
- “The Art of Longevity,” Science (16 May 2014): essay on *The Oldest Living Things in the World* by Rachel Sussman (Univ. of Chicago, 2014)
- “A Working Stiff’s Crawl,” Reviews in American History (Mar. 2014): essay on *Here Lies Hugh Glass: A Mountain Man, a Bear, and the Rise of the American Nation* by Jon T. Coleman (Hill & Wang, 2012)

- “What’s Wrong with Synthetic Trees?” Reviews in American History (Sept. 2013): essay on *American Canopy: Trees, Forests, and the Making of a Nation* by Eric Rutkow (Scribner, 2012)
- “Americanasana,” Reviews in American History (Mar. 2012): state-of-the field essay on yoga in the United States
- “Pangaea Penultima,” Science (4 Nov. 2011): essay on *1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created* by Charles C. Mann (Knopf, 2011)
- “Of Birds and Bureaucracy,” American Scientist (Jan.–Feb. 2011): essay on *Seeking Refuge: Birds and Landscapes of the Pacific Flyway* by Robert M. Wilson (Univ. of Washington, 2010)
- “Erosion of Trust,” American Scientist (July–Aug. 2010): essay on *Dreaming of Sheep in Navajo Country* by Marsha Weisiger (Univ. of Washington, 2009)
- “Hatching a Mongrel Species,” Science (2 Apr. 2010): essay on *An Entirely Synthetic Fish: How Rainbow Trout Beguiled America and Overran the World* by Anders Halverson (Yale, 2010)
- “Icons of Early Conservation Biology,” Science (15 Jan. 2010): essay on *Nature’s Ghosts: Confronting Extinction from the Age of Jefferson to the Age of Ecology* by Mark V. Barrow, Jr. (Univ. of Chicago, 2009)
- “Borderlands of Brutality,” Reviews in American History (Dec. 2009): essay on *War of a Thousand Deserts: Indian Raids and the U.S.-Mexican War* by Brian Delay (Yale, 2008)
- “Unruly Histories,” History Now (30 Sept. 2009): essay on *Imperial* by William T. Vollmann (Viking, 2009)
- “Data Drought, Data Flood,” Science (23 Jan. 2009): essay on *Dead Pool: Lake Powell, Global Warming, and the Future of Water in the West* by James Lawrence Powell (Univ. of California, 2009)
- “The Great American Pantheist,” Science (7 Nov. 2008): essay on *A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir* by Donald Worster (OUP, 2008)
- “Violence beneath the Land,” BYU Studies 47, no. 3 (2008): essay on *Massacre at Mountain Meadows: An American Tragedy* by Ronald W. Walker et al. (OUP, 2008)

Book reviews

Agricultural History (1), *Environmental History* (4), *High Country News* (1), *Journal of American History* (2), *Journal of Arizona History* (3), *Journal of the West* (1), *Montana The Magazine of Western History* (1), *Nova Religio* (1), *Pacific Historical Review* (2), *Utah Historical Quarterly* (2), *Western American Literature* (1), *Western Historical Quarterly* (7)

Social media

- [instagram.com/geohumanist](https://www.instagram.com/geohumanist)
- [facebook.com/geohumanist](https://www.facebook.com/geohumanist)
- [facebook.com/CaliforniaTrees](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaTrees)

Occasional blog

- jaredfarmer.net/curios