

MARY E. WITLACIL

Department of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
501 E. Saint Joseph St.
Rapid City, SD 57701

Mary.Witlacil@sdsmt.edu
www.marywitlacil.com

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: <i>Pessimism and the Anthropocene</i>	

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.

Encyclopedia Entries

Forthcoming: “Reification.” *Encyclopedia of Critical Political Science*, Editor: Clyde W. Barrow, (Anticipated
Spring 2024).

Book Reviews

2022. “*The Politics of Rights of Nature: Strategies for Building a More Sustainable Future*, by Craig M.
Kauffman, and Pamela L. Martin (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2021),” *Global Environmental Politics*
22, no. 2: 201-203.

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

Graduate Student Committee Supply Grant	2023
Best GTA, Department of Political Science, Colorado State University	2021-2022
WPSA: Nominated for Best Paper in Environmental Political Theory	2018

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Presentations

“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

Fresh Approaches to Teaching Environmental Political Theory	2023
“Interdisciplinary Approaches to EPT Pedagogy”	San Francisco, CA

Rethinking Environmental Political Theory Pedagogy in a Time of Crisis “Decolonizing the EPT Canon”	2022 Montreal, Canada
--	--------------------------

Panels Organized

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

“The Utopian Turn and the Détournement of the Real” American Political Science Association	2022 Montreal, Canada
---	--------------------------

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

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

Panels Chaired

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

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

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

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

INVITED TALKS

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

“The Case for Pessimistic Hope” Northern Arizona University, Brown Bag Talk	Spring 2023
--	-------------

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor , South Dakota School of Mines and Technology	
Political Ideologies	Fall 2023
American Political Issues	Fall 2023

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
--	-------------

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Peer Reviewer, <i>Polity</i>	2023-Present
Executive Council Environmental Politics and Theory Related Group, APSA	2021-Present
Committee: Critical Political Science, Charles A McCoy Career Achievement Award, APSA	2022
Committee: Best Paper in Environmental Political Theory, WPSA	2021
Peer Reviewer, <i>Colorado State Political Science Journal</i>	2018
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

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Political Science Association, Member	2020-Present
Environmental Politics and Theory, Program Co-Chair	2020-Present
Critical Political Science, Member	2020-Present
Foundations in Political Theory	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

Cornell School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University 2022
“Marxism and the Problem with History” with Dr. Amy Allen

The Institute for Teaching and Learning, Colorado State University Awarded 2023
Graduate Teaching Certificate

French Language Institute, Université de la Sorbonne 2007
ISA Study Abroad Program

LANGUAGE ABILITIES

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Outdoor Gear Lab Online; South Lake Tahoe, CA
Review Editor 2020-Present

- Writes, edits, and maintains reviews for seven categories of outdoor gear.

Colorado Outward Bound School Leadville, CO
Assistant Instructor 2012-2013

- Managed risk, taught backcountry survival and climbing skills

English Teaching Assistant in France Yssingeaux, France
High School Teaching Assistant 2011-2012

- Co-facilitated English learning at a French High School and Middle School

REFERENCES

References available on request.