

**GREGORY K. STEPHENS, Instructor, English Department**  
**New Mexico State University**  
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<http://www.gregorystephens.com>

March 13, 1955                      Born, Ada, Oklahoma  
Divorced, with two children (Sela Alana, born 4-1-1994, & Samuel Adrian, born 7-1-1998)

**EDUCATION**

1992-96                      PhD in Communication, University of California-San Diego  
1991-92                      Doctoral student at University of California-Davis  
1989-91                      California State U-Hayward. Special Masters, "Interracial Communication and Culture"  
1978-80                      University of Arizona, Tucson. B.A. in General Studies (Psychology & Creative Writing)

**DISSERTATION/BOOK** "On Racial Frontiers: The Communicative Culture of Multiracial Audiences."  
Revised & published as *On Racial Frontiers: The "New Culture" of Frederick Douglass, Ralph Ellison, and Bob Marley* (Cambridge University Press, August 1999). Second printing.

**MASTERS' THESIS** in Spanish at the University of West Indies-Mona: "The Poetics of Indigenismo in Zapatista Discourse: Revisioning the Mexican Revolution through Mayan Eyes." (2008)

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Latin American & Caribbean literature, music, film, and social movements; Intercultural Communication & multi-ethnic audiences; bilingualism & language learning; political rhetoric & coalition-building; environmental sustainability; Spanish-language media; cross-cultural ethnography; gender issues in film, advertising, and parenting; depth psychology; comparative religion.

**SPECIAL SKILLS:** Bilingual (English/Spanish), public speaking, radio programming (see website for available shows); editing, award-winning columnist, photography, nationally published writer

**CURRENT PROJECTS:**

A book manuscript: *Real Revolutionaries: Re-Imagining Kinship and Co-Creation* lacks only revisions of already-completed chapters, including studies of Che Guevara, César Chávez, a study on the genre of Environmental Literature, and revisits to some of the figures from *On Racial Frontiers*.

Another book-length manuscript, "*Texts in Flight*": *Borderland Literature in Nuestra América* is a summing up of scholarship I've done in Jamaica over the past three years includes material taken from:

"The Borderland as Mirror: Projection and Interpenetration in Fuentes' *Old Gringo*," forthcoming from *Latin American Literary Review*;

"A North American Jíbaro': Self-Translation in Esmeralda Santiago's *Cuando Era Puertorriqueña*" (under review, *Wadabagei: A Journal of the Caribbean and Its Diaspora*);

"When I Was Puerto Rican as Borderland Narrative: Bridging Caribbean and U.S. Latino Literature," delivered as public lecture at UWI-Mona 11-2-2007 (under review, *A Contracorriente*);

"Arguing the Revolution From Opposite Shores: Familial Drift in *Dreaming in Cuban*";

"I Have Become Terribly Mexicanized': Intercultural Identification in Poniatowska's *Querido Diego*" (the latter under review by *Hispania*);

ALSO, I am exploring visual narrative and the environmental genre in film:

"Sisyphus in the Sand Pit: On the Iconic Character of Sand, and how the 'anti-natural man' Catches Water in *Woman in the Dunes*" (forthcoming, *Kinema*).

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“*Koyaanisqatsi 25 Years On: The Visual Narrative of Environmental Film*” (drafted Fall 2008)  
Retrospective of the career of John Sayles, as an independent director of “borderland cinema.”

IN PROGRESS: I am working on a collection of essays around the general theme of comparative religion in literature, a part of which falls under the rubric of the Bible in Literature. This includes:

“Feeding Tiger, Finding God: Science, Religion and ‘the better story’ in *Life of Pi*” (forthcoming, *Intertexts: A Journal of Comparative and Theoretical Reflections*);

“Santiago’s Joe Dimaggio: Sports as Religion in Hemingway’s *Old Man and the Sea*”

“We Belong to the Mountain: Re-Integration with Mother Earth as a form of psychological healing, cultural regeneration, and spiritual redemption in Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Ceremony*.”

A study of *Jane Eyre*’s use of the Bible, centered on two themes: Jane’s preference for scriptures about escape and vengeance, and her use of scripture to frame and negotiate her relationships with men.

Study of religious syncretism in Louise Erdrich’s *Love Medicine*, especially, the novel’s critique of Catholicism, but also, the ways in which native spirituality actually is a key element of the novel’s critical re-imagining of Anglo-indigenous interpenetration.

A study of Charles Johnson’s reimagining of the slave narrative in *Oxherding Tale* as a “second emancipation” from mental slavery, a process realized through the juxtaposition of “ascent narratives” adapted from three religious traditions: Hinduism, Zen Buddhism, and Christianity.

An analysis of T.C. Boyle’s use of Biblical metaphors and allusions in *A Friend of the Earth*, including the “Back to Eden” experiment and the “Noah’s ark/flood” scenes.

Other works-in-progress include:

“Havana Transfigured: The Return of the Repressed Other in Padura’s *Mascaras*”—a draft was co-written with Maite Villoria Nolla, who completed a version published in her name in *The International Journal of the Humanities*. I am preparing another version that will be published under both our names.

**PUBLICATIONS** (see also on-line publications and Bio on website)

“Interpenetration in the Borderlands: Recovering Memory and Rewriting Scripts in Fuentes’ *Old Gringo*,” *Journal of Borderland Studies* (Spring 2008).

“Brown Boy Blues...inna Jamaica,” in *Authentic Blackness/Black Authenticity: Essays on the Meaning of “Blackness” in Culture and Literature*, ed. Martin Japtok (forthcoming).

“Frederick Douglass and ‘Nuestra América,’” in *Frederick Douglass Encyclopedia*, ed. Julius Thompson, James Conyers Jr., and Nancy Dawson, (Greenwood, 2008).

“Che’s America in Myth, Memory, and Contemporary Reality,” *Estudios Interdisciplinarios de América Latina y el Caribe Volumen 17:1* (Enero-Junio 2006).

“A ‘Second Emancipation’: The Transfiguration of Garvey’s ‘Racial Empire’ in Rastafarian Thought,” *Reevaluating the Pan-africanism of W.E.B. Dubois and Marcus Garvey: Escapist Fantasy or Relevant Reality*, ed. James Conyers (Edwin Mellen, 2006).

“Monolingualism and Racialism as ‘Curable Diseases’: *Nuestra América* in the Transnational South,” *Globalization with a Southern Face*, ed. James Peacock & Harry Watson (UNC Press, 2005).

“‘To Write My Own Pass’: Douglass’ Post-Narrative Trajectory,” Afterword to new edition of *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (Signet Classics, 2005).

“Frederick Douglass as Integrative Ancestor: The Consequences of Interracial Co-Creation,” in *The Anthology of African American Social and Political Thought*, ed. William Banks (Oxford UP, 200?).

“The Strangest of Kin: *Blacks and Whites in America* as Viewed from the Borderlands,” in *Blacks and Whites Meeting in America: Eighteen Essays on Race*, ed. Terry White (McFarland Press, 2003).

“‘Nuestra América’ in the Transnational South: The Bilingual Crisis in Living Color,” *Global View* (Spring 2002).

“‘What’s become of our Bliss’: Transracialism and Transfiguration in Ralph Ellison’s *Juneteenth*.” *Free Inquiry in Creative Sociology* 30:1 (June 2002).

“‘You Can Sample Anything’: *Zebrahead*, ‘Black’ Music,” and Multiracial Audiences,” *New Formations* (1999/2000).

“Frederick Douglass’ Biracial Abolitionism: ‘Antagonistic Cooperation’ and ‘Redeemable Ideals’ in the July 5 Speech,” *Communication Studies* (Fall 1997).

“Romancing the Racial Frontier: Mediating Symbols in Cinematic Interracial Representation,” *Spectator: The University of Southern California Journal of Film and Television Criticism* (Fall 1996).

“Interracial Dialogue in Rap Music: Call-and-Response in a Multicultural Style,” *New Formations* 16 (Spring 1992).

“Rap Music’s Double-Voiced Discourse: A Crossroads for Interracial Communication,” *Journal of Communication Inquiry* 15 (Summer 1991).

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

### **Adjunct Instructor, English Department, New Mexico State University**

Classes include Environmental Film.

### **Lecturer, Cultural Studies & Film, Literatures in English, University of West Indies-Mona, 2004-08**

Courses include Latin American Cultural Studies; Intro to Film; Borderland Cinema; Environmental Literature; Multi-ethnic American literature; The Romance; Classic American Prose; as well as teaching tutorials for Introduction to Drama and Introduction to Fiction.

### **Capitol Hill/Shields Heights Elementary/Oklahoma City Public Schools, August 2002-January 2004**

Bilingual Teacher. Helped Spanish-speaking students improve written and oral English. Administered programs servicing Hispanic students (60% of 800 students at CHE). Duties: Director of ESL programs; supervised bilingual assistants; administered tests for ESL students. Revised curriculum for Latino students, focusing on bilingual books, related Accelerated Reading tests, and creative writing.

### **Visiting Rockefeller Fellow, University of North Carolina, 2001-02**

Ethnographic work among Spanish-speaking immigrants in Chapel Hill and Oklahoma City; their view on living between two cultures; how institutions change to accommodate this demographic. I focused on the implementation of dual immersion Spanish/English schools in Oklahoma and North Carolina, and ideological debates on bilingualism. Politically, I examined the “bilingual crisis”—a lack of bilingual professional workers, which was causing economic stress and the threat of civil rights lawsuits.

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**University of Oklahoma, 2000-2001**

Visiting Assistant Professor of Human Relations. Taught "Coalition-Building," "Intercultural Mediation," "Intro to Human Relations," and more.

**University of California, Berkeley, 1998, 1999**

Lecturer. Taught "Intro to Mass Communication" and American Studies "Senior Thesis Seminar."

**Contra Costa College, Fall-Spring 1998-1999**

Instructor. "Intercultural Communication," "Interpersonal Communication," "Critical Thinking."

**University of California, San Diego, 1997-98; 1992-1995**

Lecturer. Taught "How to Read a Film"; "Race, Culture, and Communication" (Summer-Fall, 1997); "Advertising" (Summer 1998).

T.A. Communication Department. Three times taught sections for Intro Survey courses and for "How To Read A Film." Also Teaching Assistant for "Images of Women" course.

**University of California, Davis, Fall 1991-Spring 1992**

Teaching Assistant: Winter 1992, "Peoples of Middle East," Smadar Lavie, Anthropology Dept; T.A: Spring 1992, "Social Psychology of Clothing," Joan Chandler, Textiles Department.

## **ON-LINE SCHOLARSHIP**

Some of my best writing has been published only in on-line formats. Although not peer-reviewed, much of it is "public sphere scholarship," supported with footnotes, and ready for print publication. Selections:

"Warring Against 'One Love'," *Jahworks*, Feb. 6, 2007;  
<http://www.jahworks.org/v2/cultureeditorialsdetail.asp?ID=4>

"The Sexual Schizophrenia of Celebrity Culture," *Dissident Voice*, Dec. 30, 2006;  
<http://www.dissidentvoice.org/Dec06/Stephens30.htm>

"A 'Second Emancipation' Transfigured? Reflections on Bob Marley at 60," *Jahworks*, Feb. 8, 2005;  
[http://www.jahworks.org/music/features/bob\\_at\\_sixty.htm](http://www.jahworks.org/music/features/bob_at_sixty.htm)

"Letting Go of America," *Dissident Voice*, May 16, 2004;  
<http://www.dissidentvoice.org/May2004/Stephens0516.htm>

"Projections and Erections," *Dissident Voice*, May 9, 2004;  
<http://www.dissidentvoice.org/May2004/Stephens0509.htm> [a critique of hyper-masculinity in United States popular culture and foreign policy]

"Heartland Morality, American Politics," *Dissident Voice*, May 4, 2004;  
<http://www.dissidentvoice.org/May2004/Stephens0504.htm>

"The Dub Revolution. Finding a Musical Home: Through the German-UK Looking Glass," *Reggae Vibes*, May 2004; <http://www.reggae-vibes.com/concert/dubrevol/dubrevol.htm>. [includes a discussion of Ralph Ellison's essay "Living With Music"]

"The Father's Place," *Reggae Vibes*, February 2004;  
<http://www.reggae-vibes.com/concert/fathersp/fathersp.htm>

“Translating Juan Luis Guerra’s Language of Love,” *Jahworks* 2003;  
<http://www.jahworks.org/music/cd/juanluis.html>

“The Fire Burn Controversy: On the Uses of Fire in a Culture of Love and Rebellion,” *Jahworks* Spring 2001; [http://www.jahworks.org/music/features/fire\\_burn.html](http://www.jahworks.org/music/features/fire_burn.html)

**JOURNALISM AND PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK**  
 ( On-line writing at <http://www.gregorystephens.com> )

**Freelance Writer, 1980-present.**

Published in *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Whole Earth Review*, *Village Voice*, *In These Times*, *CommonDreams.org*, *DissidentVoice.org*, *Empirepage.com*, *Oakland Tribune*, *Bloomsbury Review*, *Austin Chronicle*, *Texas Observer*, among others. Syndicated by Pacific News Service.

**Publicist, Texas Department of Commerce, 1987-1988**

Wrote press releases and columns, agency newsletter; and speeches for executive director.

**Publicist, Black Arts Alliance (Austin), 1984-86**

Wrote/designed press releases, posters, PSA’s. Helped conceive and execute exhibits, concerts.

**Entertainment Writer, *Austin American-Statesman*, 1983-1984**

Weekly jazz column and entertainment features focusing on "ethnic" arts. Also wrote news features and book and film reviews.

**Reporter/Columnist, *Laredo News*, 1981-1982**

Columnist and general assignment reporter; entertainment features, photography and relief sports layout. Column won 1st and 2nd Place in the 1982 Corpus Christi Press Club Competition.

**ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PAPERS/SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS**

“Marielitos and the search for identity in Cuban-American Detective Fiction,” presentation with Dr. Maite Villoira, Caribbean Studies Association conference, San Andrés, Columbia, May 26-30, 2008.

“A North American Jíbara: Self-Translation in *Cuando Era Puertorriqueña*,” CSA (“The Caribbean: Embracing the Diasporas Within and Without”), San Andrés, Columbia, May 26-30, 2008.

“Texts in Flight: Borderland Cultures as a bridge between “Nuestra América,” the Caribbean, and Africa,” for Symposium for the Center for Caribbean Studies in Brazil (“Frontiers & Cultures in Motion: Africa, Brazil, Caribbean”), Bahia, Brasil, Sept. 30-October 3, 2008.

“I ‘n’ I in Vienna: Double Vision and Interpenetration in European Dub Reggae,” at Global Reggae Studies conference, Kingston, Jamaica., February 20, 2008.

“*When I Was Puerto Rican* as Borderland Narrative: Bridging Caribbean and U.S. Latino Literature,” Dept. of Literatures in English Staff/Graduate Seminar, Nov. 2, 2007, UWI-Mona.

Maite Villoria, “Drug trafficking subculture & its literary representation” (translation by Gregory Stephens), UWI-Mona International Symposium: Urban Cultures of the Caribbean (Sept. 28-29, 2007).

“Indigenismo in Zapatista Discourse: Revisioning the Mexican Revolution Through Mayan Eyes,” Dept. of Modern Languages Seminar, October 2006.

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“‘I Have Become Terribly Mexicanized’: Intercultural Identification in Poniatowska’s *Querido Diego*,” paper accepted for “Minor Keys: Cultural Expression in the Anglophone Caribbean,” University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedra, March 29-31, 2005

“A ‘Second Emancipation’: The Transfiguration of Garvey’s ‘Racial Empire’ in Rastafarian Thought,” Dept. of Literatures in English Staff/Graduate Seminar, February, 2005, UWI-Mona.

“Meeting the Educational Challenges of Demographic Change: Alternatives to Monolingualism and Racialism,” Presentation to Davidson County Administrations (North Carolina), July 15, 2002

“A Multicentric Model of Intergroup Relations: *Nuestra América*’s Challenge to Monolingualism and Racialism,” Transnational South Conference, University of North Carolina, April 13, 2002

“‘Monolingualism is a Treatable Disease’: Implementation of Dual Language Spanish/English Schools in Oklahoma,” National Association of Hispanic & Latino Studies, Houston, TX, Feb. 13, 2002.

“A Comparative Perspective on Debates About Language Learning in Oklahoma and North Carolina,” University Center for International Studies, University of North Carolina, Feb. 15, 2002.

“Our ‘True Inter-Relatedness,’ Reconsidered: Defending the Borders of/ Building Bridges from Africana Studies,” joint presentation with Reiland Rabaka, National Association of African American Studies, Houston, TX Feb. 14, 2002.

“Frederick Douglass as Integrative Ancestor: Trans-Racial, Trans-Gender, and Trans-National Perspectives,” U. North Carolina English Department Critical Speakers Series, Feb. 21, 2002

“Beloved Community: Multi-Ethnic Kinship in the Culture of Equal Rights and Justice,” Bull’s Head Bookshop Faculty Author Series, University of North Carolina, Jan. 23, 2002

“*A Country of Strangers* or ‘The true inter-relatedness of blackness and whiteness’? Two paradigms of Race relations,” David Shipler Colloquium, Kent State University, September 14, 2001.

“A ‘Second Emancipation’: The Transfiguration of Marcus Garvey’s ‘Racial Empire’ in Rastafarian Thought,” Africanism, Marcus Garvey, & W.E.B. DuBois, Nebraska-Omaha, May 7-8, 2001.

“Republicans and the Politics of Inclusion: From Abraham Lincoln to Frederick Douglass,” Second Annual Conference on Inclusiveness, Texas Christian University, April 6, 2001.

“Racialism as Mental Slavery: Beyond the White/ People of Color Binary,” at National Association of Ethnic Studies conference on “Race, Ethnicity and Pedagogy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” New Orleans, March 29, 2001.

“Marketing Marley: Rasta and Post-Racialism in Global Context.” Presented at “Marketing Ethnicity” panel of “Writing Diasporas” conference, University of Wales-Swansea, September 2000.

Presentation on “The Historical Construction of Race” at the Sawyer Seminar on “The Concept and Consequences of Race: Cross-National and Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives,” University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, November 17, 1999. During week in residence, gave several public lectures.

“Abolitionism as a Biracial Secular Church: ‘Antagonistic Cooperation’ in Frederick Douglass’ July 5 speech,” at American Journalism Historians Association, London, Ontario, Oct. 3, 1996.

"Call-and-Response Among Multiracial Audiences: An Antiphonal Model of Interracial Communication," Theory & Research on Communication & Culture, Cal-State-Fullerton, 3-29-1996.

"Recent Developments in the Interracial Romance Genre," at U. of Louisville 20th Century Literature Conference," Feb. 24, 1996.

"The Communicative Culture of Multiracial Audiences," at American Communication Association meeting, Santa Fe, May 25, 1995.

"Dancing with Richard Rodriguez' Shadow: On Multiracial Origins & the Limits of Oppositional Thinking" for Simmons College Grad Conference: "Marginality and Multiculturalism," 4-7-1995.

"Revisioning the Multicultural Origins of Popular Culture," Kroeber Anthropological Society, UC-Berkeley, April 13, 1991.

## REFERENCES

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Professor of Communication and Sociology, 858/534-2370  
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