

Acknowledgements

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Throughout the last three or so years, researching spatial imaginations of the American West became more than a academic exercise. Navigating the interplays of space and discourse has also brightened my own sensibilities for the real and imagined spaces we navigate on a daily basis. The mental and physical planes and borders that confront us there are not always easily understood or put into writing. Delving into the unexplored realms of spatialization processes often meant questioning familiar ideas of space and time and their roles in the construction of individual and collective identities and performances. Life, it seems, is firmly bound by temporality and finiteness; often, we feel appointments, conferences, looming deadlines, or inconvenient opening hours conspire to form various stressful and life-shortening combinations. Adding spatial variables for example in terms of movement and (im)mobility further complicates the picture. But it also offers new potentialities of understanding and negotiating literature and culture as vital expressions of the human condition. Hopefully, the results of these negotiations make for worthwhile reading and will generate further interest in the emergent and rich topic of spatialization processes.

