

## CONTRIBUTORS

**JEFF CONLIN** grew up fascinated by history and urban dynamics. He earned a film/geography degree from the University of Maryland. Following a videography job with NASA, Jeff motorcycled across the US, developing a documentary style highlighting the effects of human interaction with natural landscape. Jeff resides in Seattle, Washington.

**JOHN AUBREY DOUGLASS** is Senior Research Fellow, Public Policy and Higher Education, at the Center for Studies in Higher Education (University of California, Berkeley). He has authored *Globalization's Muse: Universities and Higher Education Systems in a Changing World* (Public Policy Press, 2009) and *The Conditions for Admissions* (Stanford University Press, 2007).

**ALEX FRADKIN** began his photography career in 1996, originally an architect. His first book, *The Left Coast: California on the Edge*, is forthcoming this year from University of California Press. Alex's twelve-year project, *Bunkers: Ruins of War in a New American Landscape*, is forthcoming from Radius Books later in 2011.

**LYNELL GEORGE** is a Los Angeles-based journalist and essayist covering the arts, culture and social issues. She is an assistant professor of English at Loyola Marymount University, where she teaches writing and journalism. George is also the author of *No Crystal Stair: African Americans in the City of Angels* (Verso/Doubleday).

**SCOTT HERRING** holds a doctorate from the University of California, Davis, where he currently teaches writing in medicine and the sciences. He has published often on the national parks and other wild areas, and also currently works as a reporter for [YellowstoneReports.com](http://YellowstoneReports.com).

**JOSH KUN** is an associate professor at the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism and the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. His research focuses on cultural connection and the US-Mexico border. He authored *Audiotopia: Music, Race, and America* (University of California Press, 2005).

**CAROLYN DE LA PEÑA** is professor of American studies and director of the Davis Humanities Institute at the University of California, Davis. Her most recent book, *Empty Pleasures: The Story of Artificial Sweetener from Saccharin to Splenda* (2010), examines the rapid proliferation of sugar substitutes in twentieth-century America with particular attention to the food-pharmaceutical collaborations, gendered invention and marketing, and consumer imperatives that drove it.

**KATHRYN OLMSTED** is a professor of history at the University of California, Davis. She is the author of three books, including *Red Spy Queen: A Biography of Elizabeth Bentley* (North Carolina, 2002); and *Real Enemies: Conspiracy Theories and American Democracy, World War I to 9/11* (Oxford, 2009).

**MARGARET O'MARA** is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Washington and is the author of *Cities of Knowledge: Cold War Science and the Search for the Next Silicon Valley* (Princeton, 2005). Her research examines the environmental impacts of rapid urbanization in China, India, and the US.

**LUCY PULS** received her MFA from Rhode Island School of Design. Her work is represented in the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Oakland Museum of California, Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts, and The Jewish Museum in New York. She is represented by Electric Works in San Francisco, California.

**BRYANT SIMON** is professor of history and Director of American Studies at Temple University. Most recently, he is the author of *Everything but the Coffee: Learning about America from Starbucks* (University of California Press, 2009).

**REBECCA SOLNIT** has authored thirteen books about art, landscape, and community, most recently *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities that Arise in Disaster*. She received a Guggenheim and the National Book Critics Circle Award in criticism for *River of Shadows, Eadweard Muybridge and the Technological Wild West*.

**SUSAN STRAIGHT** is a professor of creative writing at the University of California, Riverside. Her novel *Highwire Moon* (Anchor, 2002) won the Gold Medal from the Commonwealth Club of California and was a National Book Award finalist. She has written about California for *The New York Times* and other publications.

**LOUIS WARREN** is co-editor of *Boom* and W. Turrentine Jackson Professor of Western U.S. History at UC Davis. His most recent book is *Buffalo Bill's America: William Cody and the Wild West Show* (2005). Professor Warren's current research focuses on the environmental and social history of the Ghost Dance of 1890.

**MICHAEL ZISER** is associate professor of English at the University of California, Davis, and inaugural director of its Environmental Humanities research supercluster, which brings together faculty and graduate students from different disciplines to discuss environment-related work. His research addresses questions about ecocriticism, agrarianism, ecophenomenology, and bioregionalist thought and practice.