



Building Feminist Alliances

Krista Comer, Rice University
Institute for Women Surfers
Oceania
February 2, 2019

Visibility, Respect, Action

- Why our theme?
- Visibility
 - Look of things (What one sees in mags, social media, film)
 - Status – a measure of importance (linked to respect and action)
- Berger & Ahmed Quotes
 - Ways of seeing are not simply woman behind camera, involve **how** one sees
 - "Archives of Walls" document lives and histories

What is an Ally?

- Involves way of thinking, more engaged than “friendship.”
 - In US models for allies #BLM Black Lives Matter and #NODAPL No Dakota Access Pipeline.
- Learning in IWS:
 - Publicize one another’s work
 - Don’t directly compete
 - Don’t publicize conflicts
 - Talk up Others’ Projects/Give of yourself. Be ally.
 - Produce New Archives: Document!

2014 Pilot, co-organized Cori Schumacher (Logos/Alliances LGBTQ Resource Center)



Alliances Across Differences



Allies Across Generations



Reimagining Relations between girls.

Project Wahine. Creating love of ocean & bonds between girls. (Monterrey, CA)



Building Movements



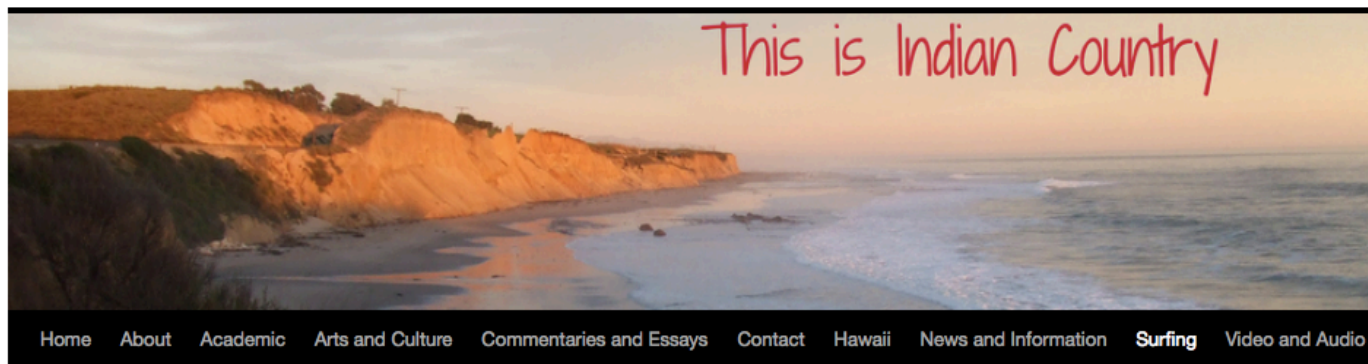
Institute for
Women Surfers

Storytelling, Sustainability, Building a Movement

**Brooks Institute
Ventura, California
November 6-8, 2015**

Decolonizing Surf Stories Recognize Ongoing Native Presence (Dina Gilio-Whitaker, RumiNative)

urban Native



Surfing



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Grassroots Political Education

“Issues of Access”

- Re: AB 1782 (Designates surfing as California’s official sport)
Sponsors Assemblymen Al Muratsuchi & Ian Calderon
EMAILS to: Brady.Mccarthy@asm.ca.gov (staffing for Mr. Muratsuchi)
-
- **ADD LANGUAGE** to this bill. Please contact the sponsors of AB 1782 to support:
 - Recognition that Indigenous people (40 coastal Native nations) historically occupied coastal regions in which surfing takes place today
 - Indigenous people continue to live their lives in California spaces that are ancestral homelands.
 - Surfing in California imported from Indigenous Hawaii
-
- **Background:** Surf commentators have only recently grappled with the history of mainland Indigenous dispossession. Particular Hawaiian surfers (the great Duke Kahanamoku for instance) have been featured in movies and popular histories, but there is less public consciousness about native histories in California including Indigenous surfing today.
- **Join us:** The Institute for Women Surfers (www.instituteforwomensurfers.org) is committed to building alliances. Workshops in contemporary surfing identify the issue of localism or territoriality as a form of settler colonial masculine power – a small group believes they “own” local waves and attempt to control who can surf them. Localism defies community values as well as the democratic charge of the California Coastal Act, which envisions access to all.
- **Take action:** By adding “legislative findings,” AB 1782 has a chance to create alliances between surfers and native people and educate the general public about Indigenous history and present-day Indigenous life.
- **Contact**
- Brady.Mccarthy@asm.ca.gov
- State Capitol
1303 Tenth Street
S

Dayla Soul, Director (IAP Films) Documentary: Women's Big Wave Movement 2016



Opening Night SF – The Crew!!





Institute for
Women Surfers 3rd Annual Meeting

Issues of Access

GRASSROOTS POLITICAL EDUCATION

October 6-8, 2017

Stanford University
Linda Mar, Pacifica (CA)



The Bill Lane Center
for the American West

Learning Surfing Activists
Artists Waterwomen Connections
Filmmakers Leaders Feminists

Workshops

#1 *Building Access/Building Movements with . . .*

DINA GILIO-WHITAKER

Center for World Indigenous Studies
"Surfing and Native Youth: Access to the Ocean and Brighter Futures"

BROWN GIRL SURF

COMMITTEE FOR EQUITY IN WOMEN'S SURFING

#2 *Affinity Groups & Strategic Allies (group activity)*

EDUCATORS, COMMUNITY WORKERS, VISUAL ARTISTS, PUBLISHING, & OTHERS

Skill-Shares

SHARKS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

DIGITAL MARKETING STRATEGIES

DING REPAIR AND FLAIR

WOMEN'S SURF MAGS

INSTITUTE "SOUTH" (AUSTRALIA/NZ, AOTEAROA)

FILM & VIDEO PROJECTS

MEXICAN AMERICAN SURFERS



For More Information
INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN SURFERS.ORG
WEST.STANFORD.EDU



IWS 2017 Training Stanford (Visiting Scholar) Major Opening w "Access" as Focus

"Issues of Access" – Mavericks and barriers to "**official access**" (subject to CCC intervention); as well as **unofficial** and intangible forms barriers to access

Bianca Valenti @ Mavericks Committee Equity in Women's Surfing (CEWS.org) 2016 -->



Bianca Valenti

“Those excuses don’t work anymore”
(IAP Films)



CALIFORNIA
COASTAL
COMMISSION



www.TITANSofMAVERICKS.com



WAVE OF SEXISM?

FAMED SURFING CONTEST CRITICIZED FOR NO WOMEN



San Mateo Harbor Commissioner Sabrina Brennan
CCC Hearing Nov 2016
November 2016 (IAP Films)



California Coastal Commission
Feminist Environmental Justice
Big Wave Women's Pro Surfing

the battle for Mavericks



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for the American West
Stanford University

Unofficial Access / Culture Change
Brown Girl Surf, (Oakland) Mira Manickam-
Shirley
Surf/Music/Environment/Community (2017)



Surfeminist Cypher, (BrownGirlSurf) Art3mis Prime, Ginger Cuevas



Culture Change in Pro African Surfing

Rhonda Harper, Entrepreneur



IWS Stanford 2017 (selected)



Geographies of Surfeminism. . . (Pepin Silva)

**Lyndsey Stoodley,
Institute Europe (Wales)**



**lisahunter
Institute Oceania (2019)**



Reimagining Water Cultures

“Sharks,” Cristine Blanco

(Brown Girl Surf postcard)



Immediate Impacts

Language of "Access"

- Reach to IWS participants from
 - Surfrider Foundation
 - Save the Wave Coalition (sponsors of World Surfing Reserves, MPAs, or Marine Protected Areas)
 - Green California Summit
 - Coastal Conservancy (Brown Girl Surf, Sacred Spaces)
 - This Way to Sustainability (City Surf Project)
 - Nick Galbadon Day (kc/IWS/Critical Surf Study)
 - San Onofre Park Foundation (kc)

1. Group: Surfrider, City Surf Project, Brown Girl Surf, Institute for Women Surfers, Project Wahine

Jennifer Savage, Olivia VanDamme, Marley Reynosa, Krista Comer, Dionne Ybarra



Photo Op: Senate Chambers



Equity and Coastal Access – Overcoming the Intangible Barriers to California's Coast (Jennifer Savage)

- Despite the guarantee of “maximum access” in the Coastal Act, coastline is the tipping point of being out of reach for many Californians
- Efforts to open physical access ways have been largely successful, but challenges continue re: more diverse and inclusive educational and recreational opportunities for underserved populations \
- Panel participants strive (through culture change orgs) to overcome barriers, amplify voices women of color
- Address intangible barriers with determination used to fight physical access challenges (ie gates, eroding beaches).

Both tangible & intangible barriers to access “Beaches as Spaces of Democracy” Stanford University, . . . & *the West Blog*



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News

- All News and Blog Posts
- ... & the West Blog
- Out West Student Blog

Beaches as Spaces of Democracy: Center Hosts Women Surfers Conference

DEC 15 2017
POSTED IN: HAPPENINGS



Critical Surf Studies/Scholars Changing Culture Public History. Nick Gabaldón Day. Annenberg Community Beach House (Santa Monica, CA); Black Surfers Collective (2018)



Institute for Women Surfers shared an event.

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Check out this great event coming in early June -- I am pleased to contribute to it with other great speakers. Thanks to [Alison Rose Jefferson](#) and [Black Surfers Collective](#), among many others for putting it together!



JUN
3

Beach=Culture: Critical Surf Studies; ...
Sun 3 PM PDT · Annenberg Community Beach...
Free tickets available · 342 people

★ Interested

Alliances & Culture Change

- New ways of seeing and doing (art, music, events)
- New communities
- Respect Difference, don't normalize it
- Collaboration and alliance between organizations (in lieu of competition for piece of surf industry pie)
- Place-based, geographically located activisms
- Projects engaged in movement/curriculum, **not** surf charities or beach-for-a-day projects
- Institute's role: hold the space, support, contribute conceptual labor, **knowledge belongs to group.**

Surfeminism as Alliance Building Institute for Women Surfers 2017 Commemorative, by Cristine Blanco

