Laura Hager  
Denise Grollmus  
English 131   
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 SA4: Annotated Bibliography for Cascadia Research

Aarsand, Ingeborg H. Imagining Cascadia: Bioregionalism as Environmental Culture in the

Pacific Northwest. Thesis, University of Oslo. 2013.   
In her detailed and well-organized thesis, Aarsand explores bioregionalism and its application to Cascadia in great depth. She begins her thesis by delineating general concerns first: bioregionalism, its definition and application in the Pacific Northwest, and some of its fringe groups. Aarsand then analyzes a few works of importance to the Cascadia community—Ernest Callenbach’s *Ecotopia,* the 2012 documentary *Occupied Cascadia,* and Cascadian black metal. She uses these to understand how the Cascadia movement is imagining itself and its goals as a bioregion. Aarsand also asks a series of important questions, such as whether Cascadian bioregionalism is booming because of urbanization, and whether bioregionalism is just a post-nationalism utopia. To support her claims, Aarsand employs close to 100 sources, one of which includes Lawrence Buell, a leading scholar in American Cultural Studies. She also cites Gary Snyder, a scholar also referenced by Henkel in my next citation. Her research provides useful questions examples of Cascadian culture and history that easily prompt further investigation.

Henkel, William B. “Cascadia: A State of (Various) Mind(s).” *Chicago Review* 9.¾ (1993):

110-118. *JSTOR*. ­Web. 16 February 2015.

Henkel’s article, published in the Chicago review in the Division of Humanities of the University of Chicago, provides a brief overview of the Cascadia movement and the origin of Cascadian bioregionalism. Henkel clearly outlines the definition of bioregionalism and its roots in environmentalism, and highlights a few different ‘types’ of Cascadians—those with environmental interests in mind, others with economic hopes, and some with both. Henkel also interviews a bioregionalist from Whatcom County and then illuminates the discrepancies between the business-oriented perspective of Cascadia and the bioregionalist, environmentally-focused viewpoint. Despite the informal tone, Henkel effectively puts a large history of a movement into a short series of a few important snapshots. The article cites several primary as well as scholarly sources, including quotes from David McClosekey, who first began to examine the concept of Cascadia as a professor of Sociology at Seattle University in the 1970’s.

Neyt, Dimitri. “West Coast Ecotopias*.*”Diss. Ghent University, 2013. Print.

Like Aarsand and Henkel, Neyt references Lawrence Buell, Gary Snyder and Ernest Callenbach in his dissertation on West Coast ecotopias. Although his primary focus is close-readings of ecotopian literature, Neyt approaches bioregionalism in an objective way and points out its benefits and its shortcomings. He also analyzes ecotopian literature that bears close connections to bioregionalism’s origins and then explores how culture in the Pacific Northwest has contributed toward this growing sense of unity and bioregionalism. Neyt points out the striking observation that while non-West Coast authors have written ecotopian literature about the West Coast, the reverse is anything but true for other regions. In this way, the Pacific Northwest stands apart from other bioregions. Overall, Neyt helps to clarify why our bioregion has been the center of multiple ecotopian works of literature.

Williams, Raymond. *Marxism and literature*. Vol. 1. Oxford University Press, 1977.

Williams’ book *Marxism and Literature* is an oft-cited cornerstone for cultural studies by a central voice in the field. Chapter 8 is the portion that I am using, and it deals with the mechanisms behind cultural change. Williams claims that culture has three components: the dominant or mainstream, the residual, and the emergent. The residual beliefs and perspectives are those that linger from an earlier time, and while possibly useful, the residual can seem vestigial. The emergent aspect of culture is that which is alternative or sometimes oppositional to the dominant. Over time, emergent cultures can flow into the mainstream culture and parts of the residual can be lost, resulting in cultural change. I am using this as a lens through which I can ask questions about the Cascadia movement and understand the causes behind Cascadia’s origin and its subgroups.

Extraordinary work, Laura! This is really top notch academic writing. Thank you!

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|  | Outstanding | Strong | Good | Acceptable | Inadequate |
| Follows the conventions of the genre, particularly in terms of MLA formatting | X |  |  |  |  |
| Summarizes the findings, arguments and main points of each paper effectively | X |  |  |  |  |
| Effectively synthesizes those findings and discusses how they will be used for the author’s purposes. |  | X—I did want you to discuss this a bit more in your first two annotations, thought they were excellent even without this bit. |  |  |  |
| Concise writing | X |  |  |  |  |
| Appropriate language and tone for academic audience | X |  |  |  |  |
| Precise and Specific | X |  |  |  |  |
| Grammar and Mechanics | X |  |  |  |  |