



Leanne Trapedo Sims was born in Johannesburg, South Africa where her commitment to social justice was fermented. She joins Stockton University as the 2018-2019 Dr. Vera King Farris Fellow and Activist in Residence.

Dr. Sims received her PhD in American Studies from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2017. From 2012-2016 she worked as a feminist ethnographer and creative writing instructor at the sole women's prison in Hawai'i, Women's Correctional Community Center, that warehouses 300 women of mixed security levels. Dr. Sims research grows out of that experience, as she adopts an intersectional lens in interrogating social justice failures in the contemporary carceral archipelago. Her dissertation and book project is a pioneer exploration of native Hawaiian women's prison writing that has been neglected and traverses the fields of Women's and Gender Studies, American Studies, and Critical Prison Studies with an emphasis on the intersections of gender, indigeneity, and state power in the colonized zone of Hawai'i.

Trapedo Sims was awarded an American Association of University Women dissertation fellowship for 2016-17, as well as an appointment as a Visiting Scholar in the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program at Northeastern University.

Her intellectual formation includes a certificate in Women's Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Wisconsin, an MA in Performance Studies from New York University, and a PhD in American Studies from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

While writing her dissertation, Trapedo Sims continued to write creatively and was honored to win the 2015 Ian MacMillan Writing competition in Creative Nonfiction. Trapedo Sims has presented her research at national conferences and recently gave a public lecture on her work for the Brudnick Center on Violence and Conflict at Northeastern University. In the summer of 2015, she received funding to attend the Walls to Bridges Prison Facilitator program in Kitchener, Ontario with indigenous activists at a woman's multi-level security federal prison. The Walls to Bridges training utilizes a circle pedagogy that includes indigenous epistemologies and collaborative dialogue intended to foster egalitarian and collective learning.

Dr. Sims poem, "Exilic Landscape or the Body in Rapture," and essay "Love Letters: Performative and Biological Families," are forthcoming as part of *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies'* 2018 special issue, "Mapping Gendered Violence: Contemplating Conflict and Crisis in Contemporary Societal Struggles."