

**Sylvia D. Torti**

www.sylviatorti.com

## **PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS**

2012- Dean, Honors College, University of Utah  
2012- Associate Director, Mapping Meaning ([www.mappingmeaning.org](http://www.mappingmeaning.org))  
2009-11 Associate Director, Rio Mesa Center, University of Utah  
2016- Associate Professor (Lecturer), Honors College and Adjunct Professor,  
Department of Biology, University of Utah  
2003-15 Research Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, University of Utah  
2008 Sustainability Consultant, Rowland Hall-St. Marks  
2008 Lecturer, Westminster College. Salt Lake City, Utah  
2005-06 President, Writers at Work, non-profit organization. Salt Lake City, Utah  
2003-04 Vice-President, Writers at Work. Salt Lake City, Utah  
2001-03 Plant Conservation Biologist, Red Butte Garden, Salt Lake City, Utah

## **EDUCATION**

1998 Ph.D. University of Utah, Department of Biology  
1992 B.A. Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

HERS Institute 2015-16

## **SHORT BIOGRAPHY**

Torti holds a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Utah and a bachelor of arts from Earlham College. She is dean of the Honors College at the University of Utah, and has previously held a variety of progressive administrative positions wherein she has effectively integrated vision and strategic budgeting in order to achieve ambitious goals. She is committed to higher education and student success through both academic and personal growth.

She conducted her graduate work in tropical biology in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Panama, Mexico and Trinidad resulting in scientific publications as well as subject matter for her first novel, *The Scorpion's Tail* (Curbstone Press, 2005), which won the Miguel Mármol Award for best debut Latina fiction. Her second novel, *CAGES* (Schaffner Press, 2017) won the Nicholas Schaffner Award for music in literature. Her stories and essays have been widely published. She has lived for extensive periods in Denmark, Spain, Argentina and Congo, and is bilingual in Spanish and fluent in Danish.

## PHILANTHROPIC DEVELOPMENT

2009-2012 for Rio Mesa Center, University of Utah: \$160,000

2012-2016 for Honors College, University of Utah:

Foundation gift \$2.1M for top scholar's program

Revitalized a national advisory board which now enjoys 100% giving

Moved annual giving from \$90,000-\$190,000/year

Secured 4 new scholarship endowments

Secured 1 significant planned gift

## PUBLICATIONS: LITERARY—NOVELS

2017 *Cages*, Schaffner Press.

2005 *The Scorpion's Tail*, Curbstone Press.

## PUBLICATIONS: LITERARY—SHORT STORIES, ESSAYS, REVIEWS

2017 *Weight (Creative Nonfiction Essay)* Edited Volume, forthcoming.

2016 *Siguiendo a Kenge (Creative Nonfiction Essay)*, La Gaceta, Cuba.

2014 *The Darien (Creative Nonfiction Essay)*, Saltfront

2014 *Evaporation (Creative Nonfiction Essay)*, *Utah Reflections*

2012 *Measuring light in a Congo rainforest (Essay)*. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, January

2011 *Bread and Stone (Short Story)*, *Fish*, Anthology, Cork, Ireland

2009 *Plastic Trust (Creative Nonfiction Essay)* in *Are We Feeling Better Yet?*

Edited Volume. PenUltimate Press, St. Louis, MO

2008 *Words Mountains Speak (Book Review)* of *Contact* by Jeffrey M. McCarthy. *High Country News*

2008 *The Space Around a Heart (Short Story)* *Wasatch Journal*. April

2007 *Why We Run (Essay)* *City Weekly*. June

2006 *Reduction (Monologue)* Performed by Brande Balken. Pygmalion Theater, Salt Lake City. Utah Pride Center Production

2006 *Canopy Shyness (Short Story)* *SEED Magazine*. June issue

2004 *Experimenting with Birds (Short Story)* *River City*

2000 *January 1 (Short Story)*. *City Weekly*

## PUBLICATIONS: PEDAGOGY

2016 Torti, S.D. and M. Bradley-Evans. *Praxis Labs: Theory + Action as a Foundation of a Modern Honors Education*, in *Honors Education in Transition, Volume 2 Continuity and Innovation in Honors College Curricula*, Rob Glover and Katharine O'Flaherty, Editors. Rowman and Littlefield.

## **PUBLICATIONS: SCIENCE** (\*non-peer reviewed)

- 2016 *Interdisciplinary, Inspiring and Invaluable: Field Stations of the University of Utah*. Ehleringer, Daniel, Torti, Bowen and Parks.\*
- 2011 Torti, S.D. *Primula maguirei*: Final Report, US Forest Service.\*
- 2010 *Primula maguirei*: evaluation of interaction of recreational climbers and plants, (US Forest Service).\*
- 2009 Torti, S.D. and G. Schen. *Primula maguirei*, US Forest Service.\*
- 2008 Torti, S.D. *Primula maguirei*: long-term monitoring protocol, US Forest Service.\*
- 2004 Goller, F., M. J. Mallinkrodt, S. D. Torti. Beak gape dynamics during song in the zebra finch. *Journal of Neurobiology* 59:289-303.
- 2003 Torti, S.D. Conservation Plan for three, federally listed rare plant species of Southern Utah, Bureau of Land Management.\*
- 2003 Torti, S.D. Conservation Plan for four sensitive and rare species of northeastern Utah, Bureau of Land Management.\*
- 2002 Torti, S.D. and A. Cachelin. Succession after fire in Gambel oak habitat: native versus non-native species, US Forest Service.\*
- 2001 Torti, S.D., P.D. Coley and T.A. Kursar. Causes and consequences of monodominance in tropical lowland forests. *American Naturalist* 134:141-153.
- 2000 Gross, N.D., S.D. Torti, P.D. Coley and D.H. Feener Jr. Tropical monodominance: is reduced herbivory important? *Biotropica*: 32:430-439.
- 1999 Torti, S.D. and P.D. Coley. Tropical monodominance: a preliminary test of the ectomycorrhizal hypothesis. *Biotropica* 31:220-228.
- 1997 Torti, S.D., P.D. Coley and D.A. Janos. Vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizae in two tropical monodominant tree species. *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 13:623-629.
- 1995 Torti, S.D., M.D. Dearing and T.A. Kursar. A new method of tannin extraction from leaves. *Journal of Chemical Ecology* 11:233-237.

## **TEACHING**

- 2016-17 *Ecology of Residence*. Environmental Humanities. Taft-Nicholson Environmental Humanities and Education Center, Montana.
- 2016-17 Honors 2060 & 2061: *Science and Storytelling* with F. Goller.
- 2015/17 *Honors Integrated Minor in Ecology & Legacy*: summer intensive to Montana, Great Salt Lake and Patagonia, Argentina.
- 2014-15 Honors 2060 & 2061: *Science and Storytelling* with F. Goller.
- 2013-14 UGS 2230: *Art and Science BlockU* with S. Hollenberg.
- 2012 Biology 3045: *Landscape Ecology* (with Landscape Painting) at Rio Mesa.
- 2010 Co-developed GMap: GIS/ecology/teacher-training field course at Rio Mesa.
- 2010 *Writing the Natural World*. Westminster College. Salt Lake City.
- 2009 Invited Instructor. Ocean State Writing Conference, U. of Rhode Island.
- 2008 *Explorations in Science and Society*. Westminster College.

- 2007 *Turning Memoir into Fiction*. Lifelong Learning. University of Utah.
- 2005 Biology 1000, Department of Biology. University of Utah.
- 2004 River of Words. National, nature-writing program. Red Butte Garden.
- 2002 *Biology 1000*, Department of Biology, University of Utah.
- 2001 *Connections*. Ecology for K-12 teachers and students. Red Butte Garden.
- 2000 *Biology 1000*. Department of Biology, University of Utah.
- 2000 *Connections*. Ecology for K-12 teachers and students. Red Butte Garden.
- 1999 Biology 1000. Department of Biology, University of Utah.

**AWARDS/GRANTS/CONTRACTS: BIOLOGY**

- 2012 BLM Award to Rio Mesa Center
- 2011 BLM Award to Rio Mesa Center
- 2008-11 U.S. Forest Service contract to monitor *Primula maguirei*, a federally-listed species endemic to Logan Canyon, Utah
- 2005 Oxygen consumption and heart rate in white-crowned sparrows. University of Utah Seed Grant, awarded with Dr. Franz Goller
- 2002 BLM contract to collect and study seeds for “Seeds for Change” an international effort between Kew Gardens & BLM
- 2001 BLM contract to study *in situ* and *ex situ* ecology of six rare plant species
- 2001 U.S. Forest Service contract to determine the effects of fire on native and non-native plant regeneration in *Quercus gambelii* understory
- 1997 National Science Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant
- 1996 Sigma Xi Research Grant
- 1994 Organization for Tropical Studies Research Award
- 1994 NSF Pre-doctoral Fellowship (1994-1997)
- 1992 Phi Beta Kappa

**AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS: LITERARY**

- 2016 Winner, Nicolas Schaffner Award for Music in Literature for novel, *CAGES*
- 2016 Short-listed for novel, *CAGES*, Santa Fe Writers Project
- 2011 Runner-up. Fish Short Story Contest. *Bread and Stone*
- 2010-11 Selected novelist, Utah Humanities Council: Authors on Main Street
- 2009 Finalist, Cutthroat Short Story Contest. *Bread and Stone*
- 2007 Fellowship for residency. Center for Art and Science in Nature, Farrera, Spain
- 2005 Winner, Miguel Mármol Award for novel, *The Scorpion's Tail*
- 2004 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. River City Short Story Contest. *Experimenting with Birds*
- 2004 Finalist. Jack Dyer Fiction Prize. *Experimenting with Birds*
- 2003 Fellowship for residency plus travel. Sacatar, Itaparica, Brazil
- 2002 Fellowship for residency. Hedgebrook. Whidbey Island, Washington
- 2000 1<sup>st</sup> Place. *City Weekly* short story contest. *January 1, 1994*

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Serve on the Council of Academic Deans  
Serve on the Undergraduate Studies Leadership Team and chair subcommittees  
Global Changes and Sustainability Center Faculty Affiliate  
Board Member, Dolowitz Lecturer on Human Rights  
Rio Mesa Center Advisory Committee  
Range Creek Field Station Advisory Committee  
Taft-Nicholson Environmental Education Steering Committee  
Serve on Connect2Health Advisory Committee  
Search committee for HKR Departmental Chair search, College of Health (2015)  
Co-chair of Search for Dean of Marriott Library (2012-2013)  
Co-chair of Search Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences Search (2013-14)  
Search committee for Senior Science Writer for Marketing (2014, 2015)  
Search committee for Environmental Humanities Director (2013)  
Served on the Undergraduate Council (2012-2014)  
Served on the Infrastructure Portfolio IT Committee (2013- 2015)  
Ad-hoc member of external departmental review of Physics and Astronomy  
Member of internal departmental review of Film and Media  
Reviewer for Stockholm Medal graduate fellowship (2013-2015)  
Committee organizer, Tanner Center for Non-violent Human Rights Conference (2010)

## **LOCAL AND NATIONAL SERVICE**

2016-2018 Board Member, Organization for Biological Field Stations  
2017 Consultant to University of Maryland Honors College  
2017 Founding Fellow, Wheelhouse Institute  
2012-14 Board Member, Utah Humanities Council  
2013 Clemente Program with Utah Humanities Council and East High School  
2009 Initiated Utah Field Station Network (USFN), developed website and facilitated first two annual meetings. [www.utahfieldstations.org](http://www.utahfieldstations.org)  
2001 External reviewer, Creative Writing Senior Thesis, Westminster College.

## **GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE**

Committee member, Ms. Jacklyn Watterson. Department of English, Ph.D. 2015.  
Committee member for Mr. Josh Wennergren. Environmental Humanities. M.S. 2017  
Committee member for Ms. Kathleen Metcalf. Environmental Humanities M.S. 2017  
Committee member for Ms. Ajya Bounous. Environmental Humanities. M.S. 2017  
Committee member for Brooke Larsen. Environmental Humanities. M.S. expected 2018  
Committee member for Francesca Varela. Environmental Humanities. M.S. exp. 2018  
Committee member for Maya Silver. Environmental Humanities. M.S. expected 2018