

The CCWH Newsletter

The Newsletter for the Coordinating Council for Women in History

Volume 39, Issue 1

Spring 2008

MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENT: CAROLYN BROWN

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I'm sure that you all are as glad as I am to be nearing the end of the term. And what an exciting school term this was. Our sessions at the AHA meeting in Washington D. C. were quite successful. Additionally we welcome our new co-president, Kathleen Berkeley, Director, Center for Faculty Leadership and Development & Professor of History University of North Carolina, Wilmington. Kathleen has 'hit the ground running' and has already been an enthusiastic member of the Executive Board.

Additionally, we were very proud of the recipients of our awards, both professors and graduate students, whose scholarship contributes to the field of women's history. The CCWH/Berkshire Conference on Women Historians Award winner is Amanda M. Lopez from the University of Arizona, whose dissertation is "Living with the Dead in Revolutionary Mexico, 1910-1930." The CCWH/Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Award winner is Reena N. Goldthree from Duke University, whose dissertation is on "Shifting Loyalties: War and the Gendered Politics of Patriotism in the British Caribbean, 1900-1938." Ann Marie Wilson has been awarded the tenth annual CCWH-Prelinger Scholarship Award of \$20,000. Ms. Wilson is a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University and will use the Prelinger Award to complete her dissertation on, "Taking Liberties Abroad: Americans and International Humanitarianism, 1880-1920."

Thank you to the board members whose terms expired in the last year. Since last summer, there were three graduate student representatives who have since moved on after

completing their degrees: Carolyn Herbst Lewis, Jill Massino, and Pamela Lach. Carol Gold completed her service as chair of the Prelinger Prize. Last spring, Karol Weaver completed her term as newsletter editor. Thank you to all the board members and award committee members who make the organization run.

Now, we look forward to next year. It's the 40th Anniversary (!!!!) of CCWH under its various permutations and we're planning panels, a reception and a special presentation to honor our history. We thought that there is no better way to celebrate than to recall the history of both the CCWH and the status of women in the profession over the last few decades. These decades have proven to be a period of radical change both in the field of women and gender history as well as in the presence of women in the profession. We will celebrate with a series of great programs for the AHA. We are very pleased to have Alice Kessler-Harris, R. Gordon Hoxie Professor of History, Columbia University who will deliver the address - "Women, History, and the History of Women in History"

In June, we will be participating in the 14th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, June 12-15, 2008. We look forward to this historic conference and the opportunity for historians to meet and present the most current research on women and gender.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you all in New York in January 2009 to celebrate our anniversary.

CCWH NEWS

Newsletter by Email

For the Spring 2007 issue, members had the option of requesting an email copy of their newsletter rather than a paper copy. If you would like to request to receive an email copy of the newsletter, just email newsletter@theccwh.org. If you have signed up for an email newsletter, please add newsletter@theccwh.org to your email address book so you won't miss an issue.

The Coordinating Council for Women in History now advertises job announcements (\$25.00 per ad) on its website.

Please send ad copy to newsletter@theccwh.org

Deadline for submissions for the Fall 2008 newsletter is October 15, 2008.
Send information to newsletter@theccwh.org

Next AHA Annual Meeting:
January 2-5, 2009 New York City, New York

CCWH MEMBER NEWS

Carolyn Brown received two grants for next year. One is a Fulbright Distinguished Lecturing Chair at York University where she will be conducting research on the memory of the slave trade in southeastern Nigeria at the Harriett Tubman Institute for the Global Migrations of African Peoples in Fall 2008. Then in Spring 2009 and Fall 2009, she will be a Schomburg Scholar in Residence, NEH grant for the project "'Militant Mineworkers, Respectable Clerks ad Unruly Youth: Honor and Urban Masculinity in the Radicalization of Enugu, Nigeria 1939-1955.'" The project uses identities based on race, class and gender to examine how these groups played a key role in shaping the anti-colonial struggle in a town that became known as 'Red' Enugu, for the presence of militant nationalists and communists.

Kathleen Berkeley will take a new position at University of North Carolina, Wilmington beginning July 1, 2008, as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Eileen Boris became the chair of the Women's Studies Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in the Fall 2007. With S.J. Kleinberg and Vicki Ruiz, she edited *The Practice of U.S. Women's History: Narratives, Intersections, and Dialogues* (Rutgers University Press, 2007). Among her other recent publications is "On Cowboys and Welfare Queens: Independence, Dependence, and Interdependence at Home and Abroad," *Journal of American Studies*, 47 (December 2007), 599-621 and with J. Klein, "'We Were the Invisible Workforce': Unionizing Home Care," in D.S. Cobble, *The Sex of Class* (Cornell, 2007), 177-93.

Nupur Chaudhuri attended a colloquium on "Homes and Homecomings" in Nottingham, U.K., sponsored by Gender and History and University of Nottingham in March 2008 presenting her paper, "Creating a British Home in Nineteenth-Century India, 1810-1890." Her article "Nellie is Beginning to Talk, But Nearly All Hindusthani": Life of British Infants and Children in Nineteenth-century India," was published in *Publication Du Groupe de Recherches Anglo-Americaines de Tours* (Equipe d'Accueil #2113:36).

Amy Essington presented "Beyond the Baseball Diamond: Racial Integration in Professional Basketball, Football, and Hockey" at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting (January 2008) and "Including African Americans and Latinos in the Pacific Coast League: West Coast Baseball Integrates," at the Organization for American Historians Annual Meeting (March 2008).

Submit your members news for the next issue. Do you have a new book, article, conference presentation, graduation, recent promotion, service, teaching award, or other professional news to share with the CCWH membership?
Send it to newsletter@theccwh.org for publication in the next newsletter.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In January of 2008, the CCWH again made its presence felt at the annual meeting of the AHA. From our board meeting to our graduate student drop-in room, from our reception to our luncheon, and from one CCWH session to another, we felt the energy of our members. Thank you to those who participated. For those who were unable to join us, I'll tell you a bit about the conference.

At our board meeting we had the opportunity to express our immense gratitude to Eileen Boris, who completed her term as CCWH co-president. Her deliberate, energetic, and caring approach to the myriad professional and personal issues CCWH addresses has been an enormous gift. Thank you, Eileen—but don't think we won't be calling on you again! We also had the opportunity to welcome our incoming co-president, Kathleen Berkeley, who came to the first board meeting with ideas and excitement about the organization and its mission. She joins Carolyn Brown in the office, and the board looks forward to the guidance our two co-presidents will provide.

You will read, in various parts of this newsletter, further descriptions of some of the sessions we sponsored or co-sponsored at the AHA. One of the most memorable was the 10th anniversary celebration of the CCWH Catherine Prelinger Award. Five of the ten winners spoke about their nontraditional career trajectories, about the directions they were able to take with the support of the Prelinger, and about the work they are now doing. We hear one thing consistently about the Prelinger and the graduate student awards: those

selected appreciate the financial support for their work; they also appreciate the validation that the work they have chosen to pursue matters in a larger intellectual context.

This year's luncheon speaker, Marilyn Young of New York University, presented "The War Machine," and engaged her audience with the history and political consequences of the war in Iraq. The board received a great deal of positive feedback afterwards about our engagement, in this address, with issues both historical and contemporary, including the implications of Professor Young's talk for the current presidential race.

The 2009 AHA will mark the 40th anniversary of the CCWH (and its predecessor organizations). The board discussed several ideas for marking that milestone, and I hope you will join us at next year's meeting, in New York City, to participate in those (more info on that in the fall newsletter!)

Finally, I want to say thank you to those of you who have volunteered to serve the CCWH. We draw on some of you each year to represent the CCWH at the AHA's annual "Interviewing for the Job Market in the 21st Century" session. Others of you have volunteered to serve as graduate representatives, as website coordinator, and as needed, and we are in contact with some of you as we work through board openings. We greatly appreciate your support!

—Jen Scanlon

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The CCWH remains active and strong with nearly 350 members. Together, we continuously make substantial contributions to the field of history inside and outside of academia, both within the United States and beyond its borders. CCWH members come from all dimensions of the profession including award-winning independent scholars, graduate students, full-time academics, public historians, emeriti faculty, and secondary teachers. We are particularly excited to see the increasing number of new graduate students. For those of you who have graduate students currently working with you, please

consider giving a gift of membership for a year as they move into the profession.

As the membership coordinator, I'd like to express how very much the CCWH appreciates the loyal support of so many members. The majority of the CCWH membership has been with the organization for years. At the same time, we are equally excited to welcome new members and know how important you are to bringing new energy and new ideas into the organization. For any questions about membership please contact me at jag63@psu.edu.

—Julie Gallagher

MEMBERSHIP YEAR CHANGE

At its annual meeting in January 2008, the CCWH board voted to change the membership timeline from a yearly basis for each member to a calendar year for the entire membership. Currently, for example, when someone sends in a renewal form on March 1, 2008, her membership expires on March 1, 2009. This method has created a different

renewal date for each member, and it can be difficult for members to remember their renewal date between newsletters. The board decided to make the annual AHA meeting in January the renewal date for all CCWH members. In the switch over to the new membership timeline, the following will occur. All members who join or renew

between January 2008 and July 2008 will need to renew their membership again in January 2009. Members who join or renew between August 2008 and December 2008, will have their membership dues applied to the 2009 calendar year. By January 2009, we will all be on the same renewal cycle. In the future, if a person joins the CCWH at any

time during the year, her or his membership will need to be renewed in January, regardless of when during that year she or he became a member. The board wishes to thank the CCWH membership for its continued support. Please feel free to contact the Membership Coordinator, Julie Gallagher with any questions.

WEBSITE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

In 2007, the organization was able to consolidate management of various aspects of its web presence, and to move its website to a commercial host. This offers more continuity of service than we had experienced in the past as well as greater technical potential. The change has already enabled the newsletter editor to use mailing lists for newsletter distribution, and we will explore further ways to expand web services for members in the coming year. Since newsletters are now distributed to many members via email, PDF versions will be archived on the website once a year in the spring following the year of publication. New issues of the IFRWH newsletter are now available on the site via the affiliates page, and a project is underway to expand CCWH archives on the web. Send suggestions and general postings to web@theccwh.org, and conference and job announcements to newsletter@theccwh.org.

—Rebecca Nedostup

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

The newsletter is the means of communication across the organization. It has changed over the years as the internet and email has facilitated the means of communication. While its purpose may have changed over the years, the newsletter still plays an important role in the organization. I see the CCWH newsletter as a place to find information about the CCWH, but also general information on women historians and women's history, and as a centralized place for information about other regional/specialized groups and international organizations. The CCWH is the coordinating body among different groups of women historians and of women's history.

In 2007, the both issues of the newsletter were sent by email to the members who selected this option. The creation of an emailed newsletter required coordination between the newsletter editor, membership coordinator, and the web coordinator. Beginning with the Spring 2008 newsletter, only current members will receive the newsletter. A grace period will be extended if their membership expired since receipt of the last newsletter. On the last two issues, members have been given warnings. A change to a calendar year will improve the rate of membership renewal since all members will know their expiration date without seeing the newsletter. This change is important to facilitate the distribution of newsletters by email. The newsletter as an email attachment does not carry the expiration date to remind members it is time to renew. With the universal expiration date, the newsletter will not have to be the means of reminding members that it is time to renew.

Do you have suggestions for future newsletter? Please send ideas or submission to newsletter@theccwh.org.

—Amy Essington

NEW BOARD MEMBER: GRADUATE STUDENT REP

Reena Goldthree is a Ph.D. Candidate in History and African & African American Studies at Duke University. Her research explores race, gender, and nationalism in twentieth-century Latin America and the Caribbean. She is currently conducting archival research in Jamaica for her dissertation, "Shifting Loyalties: War and the Gendered Politics of Patriotism in the British Caribbean, 1900-1938." Her dissertation examines how the dislocations of World War I transformed colonial identity and imperial policy in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Reena has served as the Chair of Duke's History Graduate Student Association as well as the graduate student co-coordinator of the Afro-Latin American Issues and Perspectives Working Group. She looks forward to enhancing the role of graduate students in the CCWH and encourages student members to contact her with their suggestions.

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

Executive Director: The executive director shall issue notices of all board and members' meetings and shall attend and keep the minutes of the same; shall have oversight of the organization's finances and membership activities; shall keep or archive the records and papers of the organization; shall have the authority to sign written contracts on behalf of the organization; shall be responsible for communication among board members; and shall perform all such others duties as are incident to the office. The position is a three-year term.

Amy Essington will switch from newsletter editor to the web coordinator position this summer. The newsletter position will be open beginning with the Fall issue.

Newsletter Editor: The newsletter editor shall produce timely and professionally attractive newsletters; shall produce at least two newsletters per year on a predictable schedule; and shall seek the most economical and efficient way to maintain communication with members through the newsletter. The position is a three-year term.

Contact Executive Director Jen Scanlon if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

AWARDS COMMITTEE'S REPORT

This year's CCWH graduate awards were advertised through mailings to the chairpersons of Ph.D. granting history departments and the editors of various newsletters pertinent to women's history and gender studies, as well as the CCWH Website. We received sixteen applications. These were read and ranked by the committee members as in the past, in three rounds. The Committee's choice to receive the CCWH/Berkshire Conference on Women Historians Award was Amanda M. Lopez from the University of Arizona, whose dissertation is on "Living with the Dead in Revolutionary Mexico, 1910-1930." The Committee's choice to receive the CCWH/Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Award was Reena N. Goldthree from Duke University, whose dissertation is on "Shifting Loyalties: War and the Gendered Politics of Patriotism in the British Caribbean, 1900-1938." Janie Saunders has retired from Roanoke College and is no longer able to serve on the Graduate Awards Committee. I have received several suggestions for her replacement and will have someone specializing in African history join the committee for the 2008 rankings. I would also suggest that in the future we add an American historian to the committee as either an additional reader or as the next replacement regardless of field. Currently the fields represented on the Awards committee are as follows: Early Modern Britain/European Women's; France/Modern Europe; Africa/Environmental History; Early Modern European/Germany/Intellectual History; Medieval and Early Modern France/Historical Anthropology; South Asia; and Latin America.

—Whitney Leeson

PRELINGER PRIZE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

There were sixteen applicants for the Prelinger award and all of them were of very high quality. Ann Marie Wilson has been awarded the tenth annual CCWH-Prelinger Scholarship \$20,000. Ms. Wilson is a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University and will use the Prelinger Award to complete her dissertation on, "Taking Liberties Abroad: Americans and International Humanitarianism, 1880-1920."

Ms. Wilson's project is "an investigation into the origins of modern American human rights activism." She is looking at how "traditions, tropes and memories of mid-nineteenth century Christian missionary and anti-slavery movements" shaped a civil rights movement in the 1920's and the role played by humanitarian activists, especially women, in shaping American foreign policy. She will be concentrating on three specific "causes"—the massacres of Armenians in Turkey, the Siberian exile system in Russia, and slave labor policies in the Congo Free State. Wilson's work highlights women, both in terms of the American women activists and of the foreign women who were the focus of American humanitarian activities. The Award Committee was particularly impressed by Wilson's interest in understanding trans-Atlantic networks and in putting American history into a larger trans-Atlantic framework.

Ms. Wilson started graduate school at the age of thirty. After completing her B.A. in 1994, she spent several years in San Francisco working freelance jobs in the technology industry, alternating with teaching English, citizenship and history to recent immigrants. Active in the women's movement, she helped organize a Student Forum on Gender and Sexuality at San Francisco State University, where she was a part-time student, co-edited the History Department's graduate student journal, and served on the program committee for the Western Association of Women Historians in 2003. At Harvard, she also worked as co-coordinator of the Gender History Workshop. During this time, she has also been struggling to overcome health problems. The Prelinger Award Committee was impressed with Ms. Wilson's activism and believes she is a good example of the non-traditional academic career path which the award was established to honor.

—Nupur Chaudhuri

2008 CCWH AWARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Prelinger Committee

Nupur Chaudhuri, Chair, (Texas Southern University)
 Cindy Little (Atwater Kent Museum)
 Francesca Miller (University of California, Davis)
 Lynn Weiner (Roosevelt University)

2007-2008 Awards Committee

Whitney Leeson, Chair, (Roanoke College)
 Kolleen Guy (University of Texas at San Antonio)
 Ann Le Bar (Eastern Washington University)
 Rosa Maria Pegueros (University of Rhode Island)
 Janice M. Saunders (Roanoke College)
 Hilda Smith (University of Cincinnati)
 Rachel Sturman (Bowdoin College)

CONGRATULATIONS CCWH AWARD WINNERS

The Committee's choice to receive the CCWH/Berkshire Conference on Women Historians Award was Amanda M. Lopez from the University of Arizona, whose dissertation is on "Living with the Dead in Revolutionary Mexico, 1910-1930."

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SAWH CALL FOR PAPERS

The Southern Association for Women Historians invites proposals for the Seventh Southern Conference on Women's History, to be held June 4-6, 2009, on the campus of the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. The conference provides a stimulating and congenial forum for the discussion of all aspects of women's history. Its program seeks to reflect the best in recent scholarship, especially by young scholars and graduate students. The program also wishes to reflect the diversity of women's historical experiences and to explore the histories of women from a wide range of racial, class, and ethnic backgrounds. Proposals in Public History are especially welcome.

The Program Committee solicits proposals for complete panels and individual papers, as well as roundtable sessions. *Proposals for panels or sessions* should include the following: a) a cover sheet with the session title, paper titles, and name, address, affiliation, and email addresses of the chair, panelists, and commentator, b) a 300 word summary of the panel or session as a whole, c) a 300 word proposal for each paper or presentation, and d) a brief (one page) curriculum vitae for each participant. *Individual paper proposals* should include the following: a) a cover sheet with the paper title, and name address, affiliation, and email address of the panelist b) a 300 word proposal, and c) a brief (one page) curriculum vitae. Those interested in chairing a session or commenting are also invited to send a c.v. to the Program Committee.

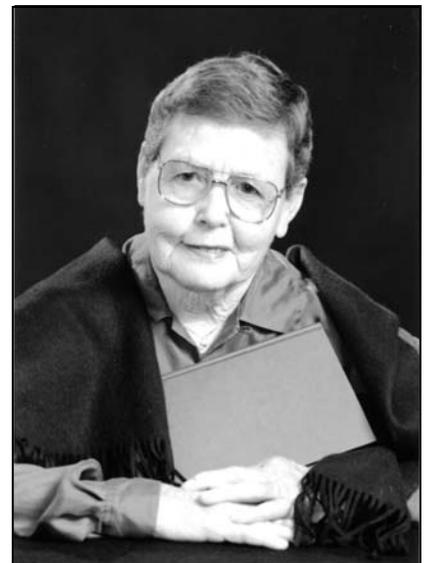
All materials and attachments should be emailed to the program committee at SAWH2009@gmail.com. The body of your email should include your name, affiliation, phone and email address; please send the supporting materials (cover sheet, proposal and cv) in a Microsoft word attachment. (Email inquiries may be directed to committee co-chairs Joan Johnson at joanmjohanson@comcast.net or Allison Sneider at sneider@rice.edu.)

The deadline for receipt of all materials is **August 1, 2008**. www.h-net.org/~sawh

REMEMBERING DONNA BOUTELLE

On January 16, 2008, Donna Boutelle passed away. She was a medieval historian at California State University, Long Beach. I was a student of hers as an undergraduate and, in recent years, a colleague. After earning her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees at the University of California, Berkeley, Donna taught at CSULB for forty years, until her retirement in fall 2004. A strong-willed person, and as a student, Donna could be your best friend or your worst enemy. She cared deeply for those in whom she saw intellectual potential and shepherded them into academia.

An activist feminist, Donna played an important role in the early years of the CCWH and was president of Western Association of Woman Historians from 1971 to 1972.



THE CCWH CATHERINE PRELINGER AWARD

The CCWH will award \$20,000 to a scholar, with a Ph.D. or A.B.D., who has not followed a traditional academic path of uninterrupted and completed secondary, undergraduate, and graduate degrees leading to a tenure-track faculty position. Although the recipient's degrees do not have to be in history, the recipient's work should clearly be historical in nature. In accordance with the general goals of CCWH, the award is intended to recognize or to enhance the ability of the recipient to contribute significantly to women in history, whether in the profession in the present or in the study of women in the past. It is not intended that there be any significant restrictions placed on how a given recipient shall spend the award as long as it advances the recipient's scholarship goals and purposes. All recipients will be required to submit a final paper to CCWH on how the award was expended and summarizing the scholarly work completed.

DEADLINE for receipt of applications: **March 26, 2008**

Winner Announced: July 1, 2008

Award Formally Announced at the CCWH Luncheon at the AHA Meeting: January 2009

Application available online at <http://www.theccwh.org>

Send applications to: Nupur Chaudhuri, 2210 Dorrington St., #202, Houston, TX 77030

E-mail for information only: nupurc@earthlink.net (e-mailed submissions will not be accepted)

For membership information, contact Julie Gallagher, Department of History, Penn State University, Delaware County, 25 Yearsley Mill Road, Media, PA 19063, 610-892-1464, jag63@psu.edu

ELIGIBILITY for the CCWH Catherine Prelinger Award:

The applicant:

1. must be a member in good standing of the Coordinating Council for Women in History. For membership information contact Julie Gallagher, address given above.
2. must hold either A.B.D. status or the Ph.D. at the time of application.
3. shall be actively engaged in scholarship that is historical in nature, although the degree may be in related fields.
4. shall have already contributed or show potential for contributing significantly to women in history, whether in the profession in the present or in the study of women in the past.
5. has not followed a traditional academic path of uninterrupted and completed secondary, undergraduate, and graduate degrees leading to a tenure-track faculty position.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE for the CCWH Catherine Prelinger Award:

The applicant must submit, in hard copy format only:

1. 5 copies of the completed application form.
2. signature of an appropriate departmental or institutional official to verify that A.B.D. status has been achieved, if applicant has not yet completed the Ph.D.
3. 5 copies of the curriculum vita (limited to 4 pages).
4. 5 copies of a personal statement of the applicant's non-traditional career path and contributions to women in the profession. (Statement limited to one page.)
5. 5 copies of the project statement which
 - a. establishes the work the applicant intends to complete with this award
 - b. outlines the schedule the applicant has developed to complete this work
 - c. states the sources the applicant intends to use to complete this work
 - d. demonstrates the contribution the applicant's work will make to women in history. (Statement limited to 3 pages.)
6. Applicants who are ABD are requested to submit 5 copies of a writing sample, preferably a chapter of the dissertation or the dissertation prospectus.
7. 2 letters of recommendation in separate and sealed envelopes which are signed across the back. Each envelope should contain 5 copies of each letter of recommendation.
8. a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
9. a self-addressed postcard, with the statement, "Your application for the CCWH Catherine Prelinger Award has been received."
10. 1 copy of a statement, which grants or denies the CCWH permission to add the application to the official CCWH archives at the Schlesinger Library. Please note: a decision not to grant this permission will be known only by the chair and NOT by the committee members and will in no way prejudice the application.

AHA SESSION: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN'S DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENT SESSION COMMENT BY EILEEN BORIS

Note: The following are the comments Eileen Boris made at the AHA session “Global Perspectives on Women’s Domestic Employment.” Participants included: chair: Marc Stern, York University; Swapna M. Banerjee, Brooklyn College of CUNY, “A Life Less Ordinary and Uneven: Developments in the Life of Women Domestic in India”; Premilla Nadasen, Queens College of CUNY “African-American Domestic Workers and Popular Mobilization in the Post-War United States”; Nara Milanich, Barnard College, “Criaditos: Child Domestic Servants in Latin America”; and Liz Hutchison, University of New Mexico, “Shifting Solidarities: The Politics of Domestic Service Workers in Chile, 1960-1990”.

Writing in 1973, the U.S. sociologist Lewis Coser designated domestic service worldwide an obsolete “occupational role,” a residue of the pre-modern. Against this earlier scholarship that presented a progressive story of women moving from the home to other workplaces, a non-linear one has emerged that tells of the re-privatization of reproductive labor under neo-liberal restructuring, the devolution of welfare states, and the pain of uneven and unequal development dependent on racialized gendered divisions of labor and ideology. In identifying the home as a site of labor, women’s historians of the United States initially forged a parallel narrative of domestic service in which African Americans trade living-in for living-out, immigrants move to better jobs, and their predominantly white employers turn to house-

hold appliances. But housework, as we all know, never withered away nor did men—despite the radical feminist critique of the politics of housework—take up the slack. Instead, a burgeoning service sector emerged at the same time as new transnational migrants entered homes to cook, clean, and care, especially for dual career families. The familiar narrative of domestic service also assumes that household labor was unorganizable, as if state policies and private markets did not organize the labor, setting the framework in which workers joined together in associations and unions, albeit with less success than struggles involving more concentrated workplaces.

These papers remind us to ask, can labor in the home be reduced to a contract or market social relations? Is personalism merely exploitation with a maternalist or paternalist face? Is domestic service in the capitalist world system but not of it, a formulation that some US historians often have used in discussing chattel slavery, the legacy of which domestic workers struggled against in 1960s and 1970s Atlanta, as panelist Premilla Nadasen shows, and continue to confront in their search for recognition and respect. We need to differentiate our terms of analysis carework, social reproduction, and domestic labor from each other not only theoretically but historically, a differentiation that these fine papers do in such a way that highlights the necessity of multiple research strategies to recover those who were to be “invisible,” present but not heard.

It is crucial to situate do-

mestic employment in the historical forms of gender relations, class relations, and the organization of both production and social reproduction. Nara Milanich considers Chilean *hacien*-*das* in the late 19th century; Premilla Nadasen looks at Atlanta Georgia during the civil rights struggle of the 1960s; and Swapna Banerjee analyzes West Bengal and New Delhi in the last third of the 20th century. Despite location specific histories, however, domestic employment shares certain characteristics—foremost of which is its exclusion from legal rights and labor standards stemming from the conflation of paid and unpaid home labors and the ideology of the home as a place of domesticity, not labor. But servants, as Premilla and Swapna particularly emphasize, rebel against that domination, dependency, and inequality. So the history of domestic employment, we must emphasize, is not only one of servitude but also one of survival and resistance, whether through the weapons of the weak—fleeing to another household or job; placing out a child, malingering - or those of organization, public demonstrations, and seizing the means of representation and definition, whether through writing an autobiography or creating forms of public recognition, such as Maids Honor Day.

Elements of the particularly Indian version comes through in Swapna’s reading of *A Life Less Ordinary*, the extraordinary text translated from the Bengali and Hindi that lays out Baby Halder’s struggle for survival. Lack of male protection that long had pushed women to domestic service here operated to lead Baby to employment in an occu-

pation that by the middle of the 20th century had shifted from male to female dominated. Indeed, the gender of service can not be taken as given: the male retainer, the use of certain caste men for cooking and other caste men and women for “untouchable” labors, like dish washing and toilet cleaning, uncouples womanhood and domestic labor, as much as the interchangeability of boys and girls farmed out in Chile.

Swapna suggests that we can use this narrative of the late 20th century to uncover the subjectivity, trauma, and interpersonal relations of earlier times. I’d like her to elaborate why she thinks that the present can capture the past and what methods are best to conduct an archeology of servitude among the subaltern. I also wonder about the politics of translation: whose representation is it? What is picked up in translation: from a subaltern woman’s experience going through her more privileged male employer and his consciousness of a literary tradition of women’s autobiography through additional circulation in English in this political moment?

Baby’s narrative of “denied childhood” in which the fate of the child depends on the fate of the mother underscores Nara’s argument for linking the history of children and women to illuminate aspects of both. Her analysis of child circulation as a condition for and consequence of domestic employment names a pattern common among the popular classes, found in 18th century Europe with its use of wet nurses and early 20th c US when single mothers placed their children in orphanages—

(Continued on page 11)

AHA SESSION: NON-TRADITIONAL HISTORIANS BY KATHLEEN SHELDON

Note: Kathleen Column is about the AHA session, “Non-traditional Stories: Women in the Historical Profession—Roundtable.”

Chaired by Jennifer Scanlon, Bowdoin College, the panelists included: Lisa DiCaprio, Boston College, Linda Rupert, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Kathleen Sheldon, University of California at Los Angeles, Rickie Solinger, Independent Scholar, and Pamela Stewart, Arizona State University.

To mark the tenth anniversary of the Catherine Prelinger Award, the Coordinating Council for Women in History sponsored a panel at the American Historical Association in January 2008 that featured non-traditional women’s historians. The award is given annually to a “contemporary scholar whose academic path has not followed the traditional path of uninterrupted study, moving from completed secondary, to undergraduate, then graduate degrees, followed by a tenure-track faculty position” with the intention of furthering the CCWH goals of “exploring women’s history, encouraging opportunities for women in the historical profession, and in educating young women to pursue careers” in history (for further information see <http://www.theccwh.org/>).

The panel, made up of five of the ten past winners of the Prelinger award, was chaired by Jennifer Scanlon, the CCWH executive director, and it showcased the varied routes that scholars can take. The session was slated on the first afternoon of the AHA conference, before many meeting attendees had

even arrived in Washington, D.C. following the winter break, but there was a lively audience of around fifteen who were very interested in learning about the various strategies of the panel presenters.

The panel members illustrated several variations of non-traditional careers, with just one of us following a more conventional route from college to graduate school, while the others had detours before returning to school and completing their Ph.D.s in history. Two are now working as independent scholars, while three are teaching in universities or colleges.

The most dramatic story was Pamela Stewart’s, which she characterized as a path from “Mormon wife to lesbian feminist life.” Now teaching in the history department at Arizona State University, she had converted to Mormonism in her teens, married, and had five children. In an abusive marriage for many years, she was the primary breadwinner, earning a meager income doing child care, sewing, and similar jobs. When she was able to return to school, she focused on the safe goal of becoming a teacher. Her marriage subsequently broke up, and she was forced to relinquish custody of her children because she did not have the funds to fight the crucial legal battle to keep them. Her children are now grown, and some have returned to be with her. Her dissertation research focused on working women in the 1871 Paris Commune, and she teaches courses on European and women’s history, such as a recent offering on Women and War in Modern Europe. Her personal experiences emphasized the importance of women’s history, as the

first women’s history courses she found as a student opened up a new world of possibilities as she charted her own future.

After she finished college Linda Rupert lived for several years in Peru, where she worked in local grassroots community development organizations with a focus on educating and empowering women. After returning briefly to the U.S. to obtain a graduate degree in sociology, she moved to the Caribbean island of Curaçao, where she first worked as program director for the local women’s center and later founded and directed a text-writing company while raising two children. As the spouse of the director of the island’s Cultural Ministry, she became concerned about silences in official narratives of the island’s history. When the Curaçao Chamber of Commerce commissioned her to write an island history focusing on Dutch merchants, her research found a much larger, more vibrant, and untold story that documented the role of seafarers of African descent, women market vendors, and small-scale Sephardic Jewish merchants. That project inspired her to return to graduate school, and eventually became her dissertation and book manuscript, “Creolization and Contraband: Curaçao in the Early Modern Atlantic World.” She now teaches Atlantic and Caribbean history at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and maintains close ties to Curaçao. The Curaçao museum is developing an exhibit based on her research, which will premier in early 2008. Her extensive experience outside of the United States has shaped her entire approach to researching, teaching, and writing history.

In the 1980s, Lisa DiCaprio was a freelance journalist and working as a carpenter as a member of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners in Chicago. She co-founded Chicago Women in Trades, an advocacy group for women in the construction trades. At one point she asked the editors of the *Women’s Review of Books* if she could review a new book about women in the building trades, thinking they would appreciate the perspective of a woman who actually worked in that field. She was told that she would need to find an academic co-author; that was her “aha” moment, as she realized she could *become* that scholar. Her dissertation on the spinning workshops that were established for indigent women during the French Revolution has been published as *The Origins of the Welfare State: Women, Work and the French Revolution* (University of Illinois Press, 2007). She became involved in organizing photographic exhibits focused on human rights, including one sponsored by Amnesty International on missing persons in Chile. Her current concentration is on Bosnia and the 1995 massacre at Srebrenica, and has resulted in the photo exhibit, “The Betrayal of Srebrenica: A Ten Year Commemoration.” She is currently a visiting assistant professor of history at Boston College.

Rickie Solinger also curates traveling exhibits, and both Solinger and DiCaprio extolled the virtues of visual displays as a way to reach students with important historical information. Solinger returned to graduate school in her thirties, after many years of non-academic work. She realized she was not inter-

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10 TIPS TO SURVIVING THE JOB MARKET

BY CAROLYN HERBST LEWIS

2007-2008 was my second year on the market. As I perused the listings, submitted my query letters, and waiting for the phone to ring, I began to notice some changes in my attitude from the previous year. By the time I walked into my first AHA interview of the year, I definitely was a much different candidate than I had been the year before. I was more confident, better prepared, and less willing to compromise. A few weeks later, I signed a contract with a large state university in my primary field.

The academic job market is a tricky one. Reports in various trade magazines insist that there are more jobs and fewer new PhDs, but we all know that there are legions of PhDs working in community colleges, as visiting professors, or at postdocs who also are on the market every year. They not only have more teaching experience, but also may have more publications than a newly-minted PhD. Then there are people who want to leave their current tenure-track or tenured appointments in search of greener pastures. Plus, the AHA cycle puts the main round of conference interviews and campus visits right in the middle of the academic year, when many PhD candidates still have a few chapters to finish. They are competing against people who not only are done, but who may have started their careers. Add in factors such as a department's commitment to improving diversity among its faculty, an undetected inside candidate, a last-minute spousal hire, or personal biases for or against certain schools or mentors, and your chances of landing a particular job might be further improved or hindered. In sum, the candidate pool is hardly equal. I often found myself pondering the parallels between looking for a job and dating, but, in truth, trying to land an academic appointment might be more of a crapshoot than anything else.

That said, I think it would be a mistake to throw your hands in the air and give up. There is much that you can do to improve your potential as a candidate -- building your cv and honing your communication skills are, in my opinion, the two more important steps you can take to catch and keep the attention of a search committee. But rather than offering a litany of things you ought to do (you should get that advice from your graduate mentors), I'd like to share with you some of the things I learned along the way these last two years. I'm not saying that following this advice is what got me the job, but it certainly helped to keep me sane.

1. Try to keep some perspective. Yes, there is a lot at stake financially and otherwise, but your worth as a person and as a scholar is not dependent on getting a tenure-track position. Spending several years on the market is becoming the norm, and there are increasing numbers of non-academic jobs that are seeking PhDs. You do have other options to explore if you don't land your dream job.

2. It's not all about you. Even if you have what seems to be the perfect resume, even if you are witty and charming, even if the search committee clearly likes you, you still might not get the job. There are things you cannot know and cannot predict, such as inside candidates, departmental and university politics, or personal pet peeves of the provost. You may not be able to overcome these factors, no matter how qualified and prepared you are.

3. Be yourself. By the time you get to the AHA interview phase, the search committee should be familiar with your cv and convinced of your credentials. Now they want to meet you to see if they can imagine

working with you for the next five years and beyond. Of course, they want to make sure you are professional, that you are capable of coherently discussing your work and teaching, and that you are interested in their department and school. But the bottom line is whether or not they can envision you as a colleague. That said, if you do not get invited to a campus visit, it does not mean that they didn't like you. This is where many of those unknown factors come into play. So be yourself, but don't take it personally if they don't hire you.

4. Remember that you do have some power in the interview. Even if deep down you know that you'll accept any job anywhere, they don't know that. Search committees might spend a great deal of time trying to sell you on their program. Moreover, you want to accept a position at a school where you not only will receive a salary and benefits, but also where you will be happy, professionally and personally. The members of the search committee will be your colleagues, probably even your friends. Try to imagine yourself getting along with them on a long-term basis. Ask them what they think the best and worst things are about where they work. You might be surprised by their answers.

5. You will feel more empowered and confident if you stop thinking of yourself as a graduate student and start envisioning yourself as a faculty member. The members of the search committee are not the members of your dissertation committee. They are your potential colleagues and peers, not your instructors. Keep this attitude in mind, even as they ask you to describe your dissertation in sixty seconds or less for the ten-millionth time.

6. Use the campus visit to

imagine yourself there as a faculty member. At this point they already have decided that they are willing to risk having you around for a while. So if you have been having a difficult time thinking of yourself as anything but a graduate student masquerading as a professor, now is the time to get over that.

7. Be prepared for the unexpected. I have had cell phones go off during conference interviews; flight times canceled and delayed; interview times changed but I didn't get the message so I stood knocking on a hotel door with no answer for ten minutes. I have heard horror stories of lost luggage, hostile interviewers, and runny noses that just wouldn't stop. Bad things do happen to good candidates. Don't let it freak you out.

8. Most importantly, try to keep a sense of humor about it all. Nearly everyone who has accepted an academic appointment has had to go through this process. It's brutal. But like course work, qualifying exams, writing your dissertation, and the defense, this, too, shall pass. Keeping upbeat and retaining the ability to laugh at yourself will make it a little bit easier.

9. Try to keep the competition friendly. We're all in the same miserable boat. There is no need to make things harder for each other, and being friendly with your competition can make things much easier. For example, on my way to the AHA, I started chatting with a woman at the airport who noticed my conference catalog. Long story short, we soon figured out we were finalists for the same position. In the end, neither of us got the job, but we were able to keep each other posted on the status of the search.

10. When you do get an offer, take the time to think it

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AHA SESSION: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN'S DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENT CONTINUED

(Continued from page 8)

creating a class of half-orphans--to they could go out to work, often but not always as domestics, a practice replaced by maintaining families through public assistance rather than child saving by removing children and sending them off to work as domestics to assimilate them, whether those children be Native Americans removed from reservations to boarding schools (and then placed out) or Irish Catholics taken on "orphan trains" to the Midwest or upstate New York. The sending of black girls into the big house first under slavery and then Jim Crow to labor as child minders and perform housework along with other women kin, including migration North, represents other forms of child circulation for family economies connected to maternal labor.

Like Ann Blum for Mexico, Nara documents how state and church institutions subsidized the cost of social reproduction through the taking in of women's children, freeing them for service, then the placement of children with *inquilina* nurses, helping to sustain *hacienda* economies both through foster care payment and the children's own unpaid labors. She attends to variation by social class and position, how the taking in of a child to rear as a servant could signify class standing—a culture of benevolence—or represent the only mecha-

nism to gain needed labor power. In this matrix of unequal relations, where webs of patronage created slave like conditions, especially for children, the respectability of dependents reflect on the respectability of the household, layering inequality in the intimate or the realm of the sexual onto other forms of extraction. The equation of wet nursing to home based piecework represents a traveling concept, one that applies to other forms of foster caretaking. Nara illuminates how the biological becomes the social in charting the connection between reproductive and productive labors. This paper, however, provides little clue into either subjectivities of the various groups involved or of contestation—between servants and masters, Church and state, political groups, or others whose differing interests and positions jostled against each other to shape this particular culture of servitude. So my question to Nara is: in a post-colonial setting, what factors put the household and social reproductive into public debate and what factors obscured its centrality to class and gender formation? Where there reformers? Feminists? Revolutionary parties? What did they say about the household, plebian mothers, child labor?

Premilla provides us of a time and place when those who were lowly sought to redefine their position. She underscores

the diverse strategies that activists like Dorothy Bolden undertook to win respectability as well as rights, tactics that brought the home into the public square through places of congregation as sites of organizing, through public forms of recognition, and through gaining coverage under the labor law. Professionalization represented a claim to the skill involved in housework, a reframing of service labors as worthy work and a mechanism to challenge the culture of servitude. Rather than reproduce distinctions, they sought to blur boundaries. Rather than seeking to end domestic employment, household workers fought for pay, [legal] protection, and professionalization—for mutual respect and cooperation as well as living wages and benefits. Their campaigns offered a model for a new unionism rooted in the civil rights struggle and social movements. I'd like Premilla to address the effectiveness of Bolden's strategies, rooted as they were in the culture of working-class black women, and their translatability to other communities of women. What were the alternatives at that time? How does the study of organic intellectuals like Bolden reframe feminist or activist thought? As with Baby Halder, new perspectives on respectability, feminism, and women's liberation come from the domestic workers movement of the civil rights era—and our

own.

Is there something about labor in the home that encourages cooperation over confrontation, generates empathy as much as resentment, which reduces the mighty to their humanness? For every example of this, we have counter examples of the cruelty of mistresses toward maids, of those with less power mistreating those with even lesser, of the privileges of class or race over the disabilities of gender. I suspect that domestic employment always gains its meaning through culture, so that going on one's hands and knees to clean even if the only way to remove dirt is no labor of love but a sign of servitude when performed by the despised other and even a mark of lesser status when done by the housewife for her own home and family. In unpacking the structures of domestic employment globally, we might expose how reproductive labors have structured inequalities within households and between them in the past into the present. By considering the perspective of those who have performed such labors we might just provide useable pasts for those who would transform domestic employment into valued work.

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AHA SESSION: NON-TRADITIONAL HISTORIANS CONTINUED

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ested in teaching and has only worked as an independent scholar. She has written widely on reproductive rights in the United States, including the award-winning *Wake Up Little Susie: Single Pregnancy and Race Before Roe v. Wade* (1992), *Beggars and Choosers: How the Politics of Choice Shapes Adoption, Abortion and Welfare in the U.S.* (2001) and most recently *Pregnancy and Power: A Short History of Reproductive Politics in America* (2007). She is now writing a book about the first welfare case ever heard by the Supreme Court in 1967. Her exhibits, including "Interrupted Life: Incarcerated Mothers in the U.S." and "Beggars and Choosers: Motherhood is Not a Class Privilege in America," were related to the issues of class, race, gender, and sexuality in America that were raised in her books, and have been seen in over one hundred university galleries and museums. One of

her current curatorial projects, "Reimagining the Distaff Toolkit," brings together art pieces based on women's domestic tools; it opens this spring at the Bennington Museum and will then travel to ten other venues over the next two years. She is simultaneously working on curatorial projects about the legacies of the Roosevelts and about the Holocaust.

My own research has focused on the history of women in Africa, particularly in Mozambique. Initially I moved along a familiar route from college to graduate school, where did my research and wrote my dissertation. Though I expected to find a tenure-track position, I was committed to southern California for family reasons, and I was limited to adjunct teaching which I did for ten years before deciding to stop. On the panel, I spoke about the importance of supportive organizations and networks. I have been able to pursue my own research and writing as an

independent scholar for the past decade due to the assistance of my husband, the affiliation I have as a Research Scholar at the UCLA Center for the Study of Women. I also discussed my involvement with professional organizations such as the Western Association of Women Historians, the African Studies Association, and the National Coalition of Independent Scholars, which is a key source of recognition and support for scholars working without academic employment. When I felt the need for stronger connections between scholars who do work on the Portuguese-speaking African countries (including Mozambique), I was the catalyst for organizing the Lusophone African Studies Organization, and I also serve as an on-line editor for an H-Net listserv on Portuguese-speaking Africa. Though I am an independent scholar, I have been able to develop networks that help me in my academic work and alleviate the isolation

of working alone, allowing me to publish *Pounders of Grain: A History of Women, Work, and Politics in Mozambique* (2002) and a *Historical Dictionary of Women in Sub-Saharan Africa* (2007), the first comprehensive reference work on African women.

All five of the women on the panel have accomplished many important goals, and the examples of our varied careers were inspiring to those in attendance. By pursuing other occupations for years and sometimes decades before returning to complete a graduate degree, turning to independent scholarship rather than seeking employment in academia, publishing history books and articles, and curating exhibitions to bring women's history to a wider audience, the five panelists demonstrated some of the options available to those wishing to make contributions to women's history.

10 TIPS TO SURVIVING THE JOB MARKET CONTINUED

(Continued from page 10)

over, even if you know you will accept it. And try to negotiate. I felt rather cheeky doing this, but in the end, it made a difference in my starting salary, which will make a difference for salary increases down the road. Women professionals in academia and other fields often hurt themselves by not wanting to ask for more. The worst that can

happen is the dean or provost will say no. Even if that is the case, you'll still be left with a good offer to consider and possibly accept!

There are loads of resources out there to help you prepare for the job market. I recommend three in particular. First, [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) online has a number of articles on professional issues archived and available for free.

Two scholars who wrote for [The Chronicle](#), Mary Morris Heiberger and Julia Miller Vick, have co-authored a short volume called *The Academic Job Search Handbook* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001) that includes basic information on everything from writing a resume to accepting an offer. Finally, if ever there was a time when you needed a mentor, this is it. If your dissertation chair is

not helpful on job-hunting issues, find someone who is. The academic job market can be a frightening and overwhelming place. But with the support and guidance of mentors, peers, families, and friends, it is possible not only to survive, but to triumph as well! Best of luck to you all!

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