



The State of Our Society, the State of Our Profession: What Can Women Historians Do?

Barbara Molony, Co-President, CCWH

Every day, we are besieged with new examples of political corruption, of attacks of cynical ideologues on our social and democratic institutions, and of cyber threats to our foundational institutions by foreign antagonists. All of these, to our horror, are tolerated (perpetuated?) by influential people in the government and in some sectors of the media industry who, for a variety of self-interested reasons, have allowed these actions to undermine the social contracts that bind us. Thank goodness, most of the fourth estate is still working to deliver honest information to sustain our communities of citizens. The continuing assault to our sense of well-being and social progress by the tidal wave of corruption can be very numbing. Who doesn't wish, at times, to roll up in a co-

coon and keep the horrors outside? But we all know we can't afford to do that. Fortunately, our research and teaching of history are useful tools against the growing tyranny in our country and other countries at this time.

As I wrote in the last newsletter, we appear to be finally making sexual harassment an issue that can no longer be ignored. Let us hope our sense of being "woke" will continue and that we will not allow another generation of women to be denied their full human rights. Of course, the perpetrators must be stopped, and we Sisters of a Certain Age must help our younger colleagues facing sexual and racial discrimination and harassment by speaking out in ways we feared we could not, without com-

mitting career suicide, when we were younger. We can and must do so now. Support of women in the history profession is a part of our mission in the CCWH.

In the last few weeks, we have had to suffer the debilitating sadness of yet another mass shooting of innocent young people. But, remarkably, the current actions of high school students against gun violence seem to be gaining more traction than even the highly admirable efforts of grieving parents of child victims of gun atrocities or of supporters of Black Lives Matter in the recent past. It is still too early to tell whether the efforts of thousands of engaged students – and, hopefully, this will grow to millions in the next few weeks – will succeed in changing how American policy makers relate to guns and those who use them against

innocent people. But it is tremendously heartening that these students appear to have the energy, urgency, and determination to persevere that we haven't seen among youth since the civil rights women's, and anti-war movements of the 1950s-1970s. Today's students' eloquent and mature articulation of demands and aspirations is embedded in a sense both of this moment and of history. I know I speak for many of our colleagues when I say that I'm thrilled to meet this cohort of undergraduates dedicated to reform that we will see in our classes in the next few years.

This is an important moment. As educators, we wish to use the tools at our disposal to support these young women and men in their attempts to change the minds of politicians as well as average people. Here is where a report on the state of the humanities – of which history is a part in many universities – released by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on February 7, 2018, may give us some encouragement in this time of uncertainty and turbulence. How, you might wonder, is a report on the state of the humanities linked to our urgent need to protect our democratic system from the challenges it is currently facing and to the promising political actions by women against gendered abuse and by young people against the heretofore intractable scourge of gun violence? Are there ways that we can use what we do as women historians to help to bind up our

fraying civic community?

It may be preaching to the choir to underscore the critical importance of the humanities and social sciences at this critical moment. But this column calls on me to preach, and I hope that some of my comments can be used to help persuade our university administrators as well as students and parents that they must not shun these areas in favor of the admittedly very important new “shiny thing” – STEM programs. I was a math major as an undergraduate before becoming a historian, my father was a professor of engineering, and most of my siblings and in-laws are in medical or engineering professions, so I am not in the slightest biased against these fields. But, it is humanities and social science courses where students are generally exposed, as undergraduates, to ideas that cause them to see the world as diverse, paradoxical, different, and ambiguous. Of course, pre-professional training at the undergraduate level doesn't preclude students from taking courses in the humanities. Some critics have argued that studies in the humanities are a luxury only important to the elite, and that other students should either be directed into vocational training at the high school level or pre-professional training in college without “wasting” time in courses in history, English, anthropology, political science, arts, or even more “wasteful,” women's and gender studies or ethnic studies. That, to me, is elitist thinking; all members of a democratic society share the bond of citizenship when our studies analyze the differences



Barbara Molony

among us through viewing ourselves in the contexts of diverse cultures across time and space, the heart of the historical enterprise.

The women in the mass marches of the past fifteen months and in the more recent “MeToo” movement, as well as the young people in the Black Lives Matter movement in the past five years, and the high school students continuing since early February to rise against the forces promoting gun violence in America are part of the quest for expanding democracy and civil responsibility. As women historians, we must join the movement for a better democracy through our work as researchers and educators. We can easily be ready for a new generation of awakened and energized students, if we have the opportunity to work with them. But unless we have students who take our courses, we fail. If government pressure to sideline the humanities and social sciences convinces universities to do so, we fail. If parents and students are afraid that humanities majors or even a preponderance of humanities courses on one's transcript will make students less employable, we fail.

And, here is where the American Academy of Arts and Sciences report on “The State of the Humanities 2018: Graduates in the Workforce and Beyond” can give us support (https://www.amacad.org/multimedia/pdfs/publications/researchpapersmonographs/HI_Workforce-2018.pdf).

The report’s introduction notes the decline in the number of humanities majors (some of the data in the report addresses the social sciences, but the humanities data is more central to the report). It also has excellent statistics showing salary levels of recent graduates, broken down by those with an advanced degree and those without a post-BA degree, in a variety of engineering, natural science, medical science, behavioral and social science humanities, life science arts, and education disciplines, as well as those with an associate’s degree or high school diploma. As one might expect, individuals with those terminal degrees in the humanities make slightly less than the average for all graduates, and those with engineering degrees make considerably more, with graduates in other fields making either more or less than humanities graduates. Pay gaps narrow over time, as 60 percent of humanities graduates eventually end up in supervisory positions, a percentage comparable to graduates in other fields.

These data are not surprising. But what is important to emphasize is that the level of career satisfaction, the sense that one is satisfied with one’s

salary, that one is applying what one has learned (even if not, say, as a professional in one’s college major), that one has the opportunity to advance, that one has benefits, job security, and the ability to find a job where one wishes to are all fairly similar across all college majors. The report indicates that those with engineering degrees are slightly happier with their salaries, those with education degrees are slightly happier with their job location, and those with degrees in medical sciences are slightly happier with their job security than most of the other graduates, but the differences are generally slight. Only 4.3 percent of humanities majors were unemployed in 2015, and those who had advanced degrees saw only three percent unemployment. Though almost all were employed, fewer humanities graduates had jobs in their specific fields of study than graduates in many of the other fields, but that was because many humanities students use their majors to develop critical thinking skills and ways of analyzing a complex world, helpful tools in the business and other professional areas they entered.

All in all, the report shows that the misfortunate state of the humanities is a myth. Graduates are employed, and though they earn less than graduates in some other fields, they tend to have similar career satisfaction with those in other fields in all the areas measured for the report. Our task is to make a persuasive argument about the data in this report, for we must not let the humanities and social sciences,

so critical to our democracy, be diminished. And we must lead like it really matters.

Job Posting

The Department of History at the United States Naval Academy is seeking applicants to fill a tenure track position at the Assistant Professor level in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Western European History. Successful candidates will be expected to teach the Naval Academy’s core comparative civilization sequence, as well as upper level courses in their areas of specialty. The teaching load is 3-3. Appointment will begin in August 2018, by which time successful candidates should anticipate having a Ph.D. in History or closely related field in hand. The department is seeking teacher-scholar-mentors committed to inclusive pedagogy, with the experience and expertise to work effectively with a diverse student body and faculty, and who have the potential to produce significant peer-reviewed scholarly publications.

Interested candidates can review the full job announcement at the following link: <https://www.usna.edu/HRO/jobinfo/AsstProfHistory-18.php>.



Notes from the Executive Director

Sandra Trudgen Dawson
Executive Director, CCWH

Dear CCWH Members and Friends,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018!

Those of you who joined us at the CCWH Annual Awards Luncheon will remember a truly remarkable talk by Ula Taylor about the promise of patriarchy for the women of the Nation of Islam. Like much of history – women's, African American, Islamic, and religious – it is a complex story that Ula was able to tease out and share with us.

The luncheon was also a celebration of the scholarship that the CCWH supports through its various awards and prizes. Four of the five prize winners were able to attend with their families and friends. There was barely a dry eye in the room when Charlene Fletcher introduced her grandmother as her mentor and role model. Charlene will use the Prelinger Award money to pay her rent this year so that she can give up her three jobs and concentrate on writing her dissertation. I believe the CCWH has changed another woman's life this year. Thank you.

Our awards exist because of you – the members of the CCWH.

As an organization, we are committed to supporting emergent scholarship as well as celebrating the achievements of more senior scholars. We also want to recognize those who mentor and support junior scholars as well as serve the profession in a variety of ways. In the next few weeks, we will be announcing the Rachel Fuchs Memorial award for Mentorship and Service. The first Fuchs award will be part of the CCWH's 50th Anniversary celebrations at the AHA in Chicago in January 2019. We are planning a number of roundtables and panels at the AHA that will showcase the last 50 years of the CCWH and discuss where we go as an organization in the future. Please join us!

Part of the future of the CCWH involves funding for our awards. I am thrilled to tell you that the CCWH now has an endowment fund that we hope will secure the organization and our awards into the future. We have been able to place a modest amount of money into the fund, but the endowment needs to grow to secure the future of our awards.

One of the ways that this can happen is to grow our membership. Please encourage grad students, junior, and senior colleagues to join the CCWH not simply for the awards, but for the conversations and support we give each other.

Membership fees go toward the day-to-day running of the



Sandra Trudgen Dawson

organization. Everyone who works for the CCWH is a volunteer and so we are able to support our annual awards plus other organizations like the International Federation for Research in Women's History, the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, graduate students at the OAH luncheon, and a women's breakfast at the SHAFR conference.

Please know that we are very diligent stewards of your membership dues and donations. I am so happy to be a part of an organization that promotes women's history and supports women in the historical profession!

Sincerely yours,

Sandra



Membership Programs & Opportunities

Ilaria Scaglia
Membership Coordinator

Under the Shade of Oak Trees

In a garden, old trees provide shade, character, and the sense that one is in a space that has long been designated for meditation. Our profession is not unlike a garden full of trees. I find that the presence of senior women scholars does very much the same thing to provide protection and serenity. When I am surrounded by them, I feel nurtured, inspired, and drawn to thinking about the meaning of what we do. I want to use this space in our newsletter to make it explicit to senior women scholars how much they matter. It is their long-standing presence in academia that makes my presence seem logical and needed. It is their words of wisdom that encouraged me to keep applying for jobs when I thought I would never find one. Senior women scholars showed me how to stand by and present my own work without feeling like I was "selling myself." They urged me to say "yes" to opportunity and "no" to excessive service. Most importantly, senior women scholars asked me to pay forward any help I received and to lock arms with other CCWH members in order to build a bet-



Ilaria Scaglia

ter future for all of us.

To any senior woman scholar who is reading these lines, I hope you will feel the warmth of my gratitude. I also hope that regardless of your situation, if in a senior position or retired, you will drop me a line to volunteer to speak at one of our CCWH e-mentorship sessions and/or to mentor a junior person. Under the shade of oak trees are fertile land and precious seeds. May their sight make you feel that our common garden is a budding place. May all of us have one more chance to say thank you.



New CCWH Affiliate Organization

The CCWH is pleased to welcome the Office of the University of Wisconsin System Gender and Women's Studies Librarian as a new CCWH Affiliate Organization.

Created in 1977, the Office of the UW System Gender and Women's Studies Librarian (GWSL) is one of the premier resources for support of gender, women's studies, and LGBT studies scholarship and librarianship. The GWS Librarian provides bibliographic and curriculum support, inter-institutional cooperation, information sharing, and advocacy related to the fields of women's gender, and LGBT studies and to gender-focused scholarship in the traditional disciplines.

The GWSL values and affirms the role that libraries and other information services play in the empowerment of people in our community and beyond. Through local, national, and international partnerships, we aim to provide relevant resources, skills, and support to those researching and working to improve the lives of women and girls throughout the world.

For more information about the GWSL see <http://www.library.wisc.edu/gwslibrarian/>. The current Gender and Women's Studies Librarian is Karla Strand who has written an informative article about her work, the history of the GWSL, and the importance of associated archives and libraries of the GWSL which begins on page 22 of this newsletter. Welcome!

Public History Forum

Elyssa Ford

Public History Coordinator

The National Council of Public History is the professional organization for public historians. Though first formed in 1980 for public historians, its membership includes historical consultants, archivists, historic preservationists, oral historians, film and media producers, and academics, to name just a few of the represented fields. The goal of the NCPH is to make “the past useful in the present and to encourage collaboration between historians and their publics.” The organization is centered on “the belief that historical understanding is of essential value in society.” As historians – even if not public historians – we in the CCWH know that this is why we do what we do. History matters!

This column presents an overview of the NCPH and the resources it offers. The column also provides ways to stay abreast of public history news, projects, and scholarships, and it presents the current push by the NCPH to develop a five-year plan for the organization.

The NCPH establishes ethical standards for the field, studies and then promotes best practices, and facilitates networking and community among public historians. There are multiple ways to connect with the NCPH and other public historians. The annual NCPH conference is one of the best ways to quickly engage in a deep dive in-

to the public history field, to meet current practitioners and academics, and to be exposed to many of the most innovative projects. It will be held April 18-21 in Las Vegas, and the summer installment of this column will be a summary of that meeting.

The Public Historian is the field’s premier scholarly journal (<http://tph.ucpress.edu>). It was established in 1978 and is published quarterly. The journal regularly includes articles, special highlights on public history internationally, and exhibit and digital project reviews, in addition to the standard set of book reviews. A special virtual issue on “Monuments, Memory, Politics, and Our Publics” collected past articles on the historiography of the on-going monument debate. Printed special issues since 2014 have discussed deindustrialization and representation of identity, auditory history, reimagining the historic house museum, and historians as expert witnesses.

The NCPH also features shorter pieces more regularly on their blog History@Work, which was established in 2012 as a way to “blend scholarly, professional, and civic discourse” related to public history. This is where you can find calls for papers and presentations, grants, and other announcements from around the field, in addition to features from *The Public Historian* (TPH), project showcases, a teaching series on using TPH articles in the classroom, analyses on the organization itself, and guides for academics



Elyssa Ford

and professionals on topics such as promotion, tenure, and the evaluation of public history scholarship.

A recent History@Work post highlights the NCPH Long Range Plan. Recently, the organization has begun to focus on how to assess the needs of its members and remain relevant to them, continue to promote the field of public history, and create a plan for the future. A committee has been tasked with reviewing the past five years’ work of the organization and establishing a new five-year plan for the group. Following membership queries, committee meetings and board consultations, six pillars of the long-range plan have been established:

- To develop and sustain a public history community
- To develop the most diverse community of practice, diversity of people, and diversity of activities possible
- To expand the professional skills and tools of all practitioners of public history
- To foster critical reflection on historical practice
- To publicly advocate for history and historians, and pub-

Public History Forum (cont.)

lic history as a field

- To ensure the ongoing stability of the NCPH.

Under each pillar is a set of activities, which are tied to timelines and will be assessed and discussed at biannual board meetings to ensure that the long-range plan will be implemented successfully. More details about the long-range plan can be accessed at <http://ncph.org/history-at-work/ncph-long-range-plan/>.

Some parts of the NCPH's five-year plan come out of the organization's financial viability and relevancy, but others are direct reflections of the changing and highly politicized environment in which we now find ourselves and our profession. It is encouraging to see the NCPH focus on increasing diversity within its organization, on promoting deeper relationships and more participation within local communities, and on committing to being on the forefront of advocacy for all historians and for history more broadly. The CCWH has a long history of the latter emphasis on advocacy, and we can stand with the NCPH and the public history field in a united push to support historical relevancy and value.



Job Posting

The Southeast Missouri State University Department of History and Anthropology seeks applicants for a tenure-track position in modern British (post-1688) history. Applicants should also have a second field in one or more of the following fields: East Asia, Middle East, South Asia, or Africa. The successful applicant will teach undergraduate and graduate courses, engage in research in area(s) of expertise, and perform departmental, college, and university service.

Required Qualifications:

- Ph.D. or ABD (Ph.D. complete by August 2018) in modern British (post-1688) History with a second field in one or more of the following areas: South Asia, Middle East, East Asia, and/or Africa. Degree must be from a regionally accredited or internationally accredited/government certified university.
- Willingness and demonstrated ability to deliver highly effective teaching including use of educational technology in both face-to-face and online courses.
- Demonstrated strong written and oral communication skills
- Demonstrated scholarly promise in relevant fields.
- Additional areas of teaching expertise to complement departmental strengths, including ability to teach Historiography.
- Demonstrated commitment to collegiality when interacting with others within the University community.
- Demonstrated commitment to a diverse work environment, including working with multi-cultural populations and an understanding of, and sensitivity to, issues affecting women and minorities.

Application Deadline: This position is available August 1, 2018, and will remain open until filled. To ensure full consideration, applications must be received by March 9, 2018.

Required information: To apply, submit the following items online by clicking <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/semoedu/default.cfm?promotionaljobs=1>.

- Letter of interest addressing all position required qualifications
- Statement of teaching philosophy
- Current curriculum vitae
- Unofficial copies of transcripts (official transcripts are required when offer of employment is accepted)
- Names, telephone numbers, addresses, and e-mail addresses of three professional references

Departmental information: Information regarding the Department of History and Anthropology can be found at <http://www.semo.edu/history>.

As a public regional university, with a graduate mission, Southeast seeks candidates with a commitment to excellent undergraduate and graduate education.

Graduate News

Kelly Midori McCormick
Graduate Representative

Learning from the #MeToo and Times Up Movements: Addressing the Culture of History Departments

As the #MeToo and Times Up movements call for women to share experiences of sexual assault and discrimination and confront systemic discrimination in hiring practices and brings the experiences of women in male-dominated workplaces to international attention, history departments can use this moment to reflect on strategies that have and have not worked to address these issues. I asked members of UCLA's History Department to share their thoughts, criticisms, and support for how we might also see this as an opportunity to reflect on the work that there is to do within our field.

Grace Ballor, PhD Candidate, UCLA Department of History

Movements to expose abuse are crucial to reforming the cultures of discrimination, sexism, racism, chauvinism, and bigotry that pervade our society. By some measures, the current iteration of the #MeToo movement has been incredibly successful, effectively deposing powerful people who had preyed on their subordinates and throwing wide the doors that had kept victims from sharing their stories. History of-

fer some cautionary lessons, though, about the intoxicating appeal and limited scope of destructive power. Moreover, we are confronted with the unfortunate reality that in the Academy, as in all industries and institutions predicated on hierarchies of power, abuse extends beyond sexual discrimination and sexual violence, which themselves require distinctive responses. Seeing these movements as the necessary beginning of the process of change, then, we must remain focused on the ultimate goal of structural reform. In order to eliminate all forms of abuse, we must give voice to victims beyond the Hollywood elite, universally cultivate the confidence and self-worth to demand equity and respect, cultivate allies, implement policies that reshape the power structures in which abuse has become so systemic, and harness the mightier, reformatory power needed to realize real change.

Lynn Hunt, Emeritus Faculty, UCLA Department of History

There are at least two issues: 1) sexual harassment and 2) parity, whether in salary or in numbers. As for the first, the history department has been ahead of the curve in some ways because of its own internal problems with harassment, that is, we are all very much aware of the problem even if there are differences about just how to handle it. Awareness does seem to be key as does open discussion especially among



Kelly Midori McCormick

the female graduate students and faculty themselves. I think it is pretty clear now that harassment will get you into big trouble if you are a perpetrator, but the issue in academia is more about what constitutes consent than just consent pure and simple. There is a long history of professors having affairs with their students (in our department and elsewhere), but these rarely (if ever) lead to complaints. People do not get into trouble for this, only for making "unwanted" advances. This seems to me to be highly problematic for all kinds of reasons. As for the second, history departments are in the process of backsliding on gender issues, both pay and numbers. At least, that's my sense of the statistics overall. At the very least, progress has stalled and there is still a considerable gap between the % women grad students in history and the % women faculty especially the % full professors at major research universities (and probably elsewhere as well).

Graduate News (cont.)

Sarah Abrevaya Stein, Professor, UCLA Department of History

Academia needs the #MeToo movement. Since December, Karen Kelsky's crowdsourced survey of sexual harassment in the academy has yielded more than 2,200 responses, while the "I am Student X" movement is gaining supporters, visibility, and steam. No campus and no discipline is untainted by sexual harassment – it is the rare woman academic who does not have a story to share. Academics must listen to and support survivors of harassment: we must continue to demand accountability and transparency. But there is more – sexual harassment in our industry is inevitably bound up with the prevalence of precarious contracts and the professional instability of so many adjuncts, lecturers, staff, and students. Sexual harassment does not respect rank, to be sure: but it is especially hard to battle if one is professionally vulnerable. This extends beyond contracts – in one study of the fields of astronomy and planetary science, women of color experienced the highest rates of negative workplace experience, including harassment and assault. In all this, historians and Departments of History (including the one in which I work), are, woefully, not unique.

Stefania Tutino, Professor, UCLA Department of History

I have been thrilled to see so many women (and men) willing (and increasingly more able) to speak up against inequalities of all kinds, and I do think that women in academia (and everywhere else, for that matter) should both participate and take advantage of this new culture in which denouncing abuses and making sure that the abusers are appropriately punished is not only accepted, but even encouraged. Having said that, while I certainly don't underestimate the benefits provided by a cultural shift toward a greater openness and acceptance of all attempts to denounce, expose, and punish abuses, I don't think that such cultural shift could, by itself, eliminate abuses. The reason is that all these forms of abuse are born and proliferate because of the imbalance between the money, power, and authority of men vis-à-vis those of women, and until that imbalance is corrected at a systemic level, we might make a lot of progress toward protecting victims and punishing individual perpetrators (which, don't get me wrong, is a very good thing), but we cannot extirpate the root of the problem. In other words, as long as we don't have more women producers, directors, executives, CEOs of tech companies, computer programmers, full professors, chairs of departments, deans, etc., I am afraid that we won't fix the im-

balance that breeds those kinds of inequalities in the first place, and I think that as we applaud all the women who stand up to their abusers, we should make more effort to change the system so that those abuses cannot happen again.

CCWH Executive Board Position Affiliate Outreach Coordinator

The CCWH is currently looking for an Affiliate Outreach Coordinator. Applicants should be a CCWH member with good communication skills. The position responsibilities include maintaining regular contact with all CCWH affiliates; communicating with affiliates about CCWH awards and news; communicating with the newsletter editor about affiliate events, conferences, awards, and celebrations; compiling CCWH and affiliate news for the International Federation for Research in Women's History's newsletter twice a year (June and December); sending the IFRWH newsletters to each affiliate twice a year, and, finally, writing an annual report for the CCWH business meeting in January at the AHA.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Sandra Dawson at execdir@theccwh.org.

CCWH 2018 Awards and Prizes

We encourage our members to apply for the various CCWH Awards and Prizes to be awarded this year.

CCWH Catherine Prelinger Memorial Award

The CCWH will award \$20,000 to a scholar, with a PhD or who has advanced to candidacy, 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 the 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 the CCWH on how the award was expended and summarizing the scholarly work completed. The deadline for the award is May 15, 2018. Please go to www.theccwh.org for membership and online application details.

CCWH Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Award

The CCWH Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Award is an annual \$1000 prize that recognizes the best first article published in the field of history by a CCWH member. Named to honor Nupur Chaudhuri, long-time CCWH board member, former executive director and co-president from 1995-1998, the winning article for 2018 must be published in a refereed journal in either 2016 or 2017. An article may only be submitted once. All fields of history will be considered, and articles must be submitted with fully scholarly apparatus. The deadline for the award is May 15, 2018. Please go to www.theccwh.org for membership and online application details.

CCWH/Berks Graduate Student Fellowship

The CCWH and the Berkshire Conference of Women's History Graduate Student Fellowship is a \$1000 award to a graduate student completing a dissertation in a History Department. The award is intended to support either a crucial stage of research or the final year of writing. The deadline for the award is May 15, 2018. Please go to www.theccwh.org for membership and online application details.

CCWH Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Fellowship

The CCWH's Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Fellowship is an annual award of \$1000 given to a graduate student working on a historical dissertation that interrogates race and gender, not necessarily in a history department. The award is intended to support either a crucial stage of research or the final year of writing. The deadline for the award is May 15, 2018. Please go to www.theccwh.org for membership and online application details.

Carol Gold Best Article Award for Associate Professors

The Carol Gold Best Article Award is named for longtime member, activist, and scholar, Carol Gold, whose life and work exemplify the dual mission of the CCWH – to promote women's history and to support women in the historical profession. Gold has written extensively on early modern European women's history and has mentored and supported students and peers during her long career. The Carol Gold Best Article Award is a \$500 prize given to the best article published in a peer-reviewed journal in the year prior to the award year (so in 2017 for the 2018 award). Applicants must have achieved the rank of Associate Professor at the time of publication and applicants must be current members of the CCWH at the time of application. The deadline for the award is May 15, 2018. Please go to www.theccwh.org for membership and online application details.

Author's Corner

*Editor's Note: As part of a continuing feature for Insights, we are interviewing authors of fiction and non-fiction books of interest to our membership. If you are an author, or would like to nominate an author to be interviewed, contact newsletter@theccwh.org. With this issue, Whitney Leeson interviews Beth Underdown about her latest work, *The Witchfinder's Sister*.*



Beth Underdown

Set in Essex, England in 1645, Beth Underdown's debut novel is inspired by the witchcraft persecutions associated with the notorious and self-proclaimed "Witchfinder General" Matthew Hopkins. With the help of his accomplice, John Stearne, Hopkins's personal reign of terror resulted in the deaths of approximately 300 women between 1644 and 1646.

How did you first learn about the notorious Witchfinder General Matthew Hopkins and what about his relentless pursuit of witches in East Anglia intrigued you the most?

I came to Matthew Hopkins via the seventeenth century in general – through the work of my great uncle, the historian, David Underdown. I was fin-

ishing an MA in Creative Writing and doing some work experience in midwifery at the same time, and happened to be reading a book about seventeenth-century midwifery when I came across Hopkins in a footnote. Initially, what intrigued me was the sheer number of his victims – roughly 300 women accused and 100 executed. I couldn't understand why there wasn't greater cultural awareness of the Hopkins witch hunts, and that's what got me started.

Why did you opt to tell his story through the eyes of a woman more generally and a sister more specifically?

I knew that I didn't want to talk about the witch hunts through Matthew's own eyes – I wanted the reader to bear him some sympathy, but not *that* much sympathy. I was interested in what this broad swathe of history would have been like to experience at a domestic level, and from the position of someone who was also potentially at risk from his activities. I was also interested in sibling relationships – how a brother or sister can have great knowledge of our pasts and insight into why we are the way we are, and yet not know us that well as adults. That's what made Alice the best kind of protagonist for this book.

In many ways, Alice, Matthew Hopkins's sister, comes across to the reader as very much an early-modern woman with an early-modern worldview. How difficult was it to give her a voice that stays true to her character, yet resonates with a modern audience?

Balancing Alice was incredibly difficult. I wanted her to be gutsy and forthright to a plausible extent (and perhaps rather more blunt in her thoughts in than in her speech). But I didn't want to dress some kind of twenty-first feminist hero in seventeenth-century clothing – not least, because as a strategy that didn't feel respectful to the women who really encountered Hopkins and had to deal with him within the constraints that bound them. Yet, I needed Alice's complicity not to alienate her from a mod-

Author's Corner (cont.)

ern audience. One way I tried to achieve this was by adopting a very close first person perspective. By giving the reader access to a lot of Alice's thoughts, I hoped to carry them along with her.

Can you describe the research strategy you adopted for putting yourself, and by extension us (the readers), in Essex in 1645? What types of sources did you find most useful in crafting a compelling sense of "authenticity" in *The Witchfinder's Sister*?

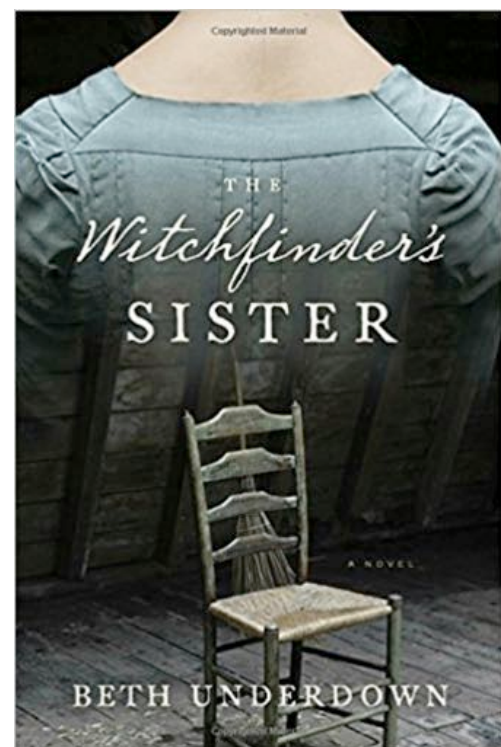
I spent time around Manningtree and the other parts of Essex and Suffolk visited by Hopkins. My writing is very much informed by a sense of place, and it was important to me to know what the view would be from a particular height of land near Alice's house – or how it felt to walk from the Thorn Inn to church, for example. The work of Malcolm Gaskill on the Hopkins witch hunts was invaluable to me in terms of the detail of the hunts themselves, including his collected reproductions of primary sources such as pamphlets, which obviated the need for a large amount of archival work. I also did a lot of research on seventeenth-century domesticity – everything from washing routines to foodstuffs to what was (and wasn't) deemed an acceptable gift. Not all of that research is visible in the book, but it felt important to understand the shape of Alice's daily life. Lastly, I came across a fabulous anthology of personal and religious writings from the seventeenth century – collected entries from daily books, love letters, family letters and so on. While I was writing, I tried to read a little of this every day, in the hope that something of seventeenth century cadence and usages would make its way into my writing.

Early-modern historians have spent a lot of time thinking and writing about the various motivating factors contributing to the rise of the witch-hunts as well as the most likely reasons why certain types of people found themselves accused of witchcraft. Which factors did you most want to explore as playing a part in the witch-hunt led by Matthew Hopkins? Why?

I was particularly interested in looking at how a person like Hopkins can seize a historical moment – how a person who in other political circumstances might never gain much traction can very quickly come to do an awful lot of damage. I was also interested in the complex economic and social factors which lay behind which women were chosen as victims – I was interested in these women's stories, and their complex humanity – including, often, their unlikability, and how that feels for us as readers.

Were there some factors or explanations for why witch-hunts occurred that you found too unwieldy to deal with in a first-person narrative format?

It was difficult initially to know how to deal with religion in the book. A lot of my modern readership is secular, and would find it hard to connect to religion as a governing motivation for a given action. Yet it would have been absolutely central to Alice's (and Matthew's) world view. In the end, I hope that religion is present in the book, but is heavily bolstered with other motivations.



Author's Corner (cont.)

What lessons can modern readers take away from reading about how women like Alice (Matthew's sister), Bridget (his neighbor), and Grace (his house maid) interact with a man like Matthew Hopkins in *The Witchfinder's Sister*?

I'm not sure that I want to prescribe what a reader should take away from the book. But the question does make me remember something my mum said once or twice when I was a child, which is that every woman should have a "running-away fund." I think that's pretty smart advice. Even in the seventeenth century, things might have been different for Alice, Bridget, or Grace if they'd been able to keep a little bit stashed away somewhere...

How do you balance the demands of working as a published author with your career as a professor of creative writing at Manchester?

I'm lucky, in that I work part-time at Manchester, and most of my teaching responsibilities are compressed into a relatively short period between September and December. The rest of the year, I'm largely free to write. This year, it was difficult at times to lay aside my current project and focus on my teaching – and it's been lovely to start writing again now the semester has ended. But I happen to be quite noisy and social (for a writer), and I really love the teaching itself, so that helps. And I've landed in a situation where I'm fortunate enough to be able to mostly alternate activities rather than combine them, which suits me really well. My department is also really supportive of me going to different bits of the country to do events and so on – they'll always help me make it work if they can.

What advice can you offer aspiring writers of historical fiction?

A couple of things spring to mind. I'd consider investing real time in developing a voice that feels right for your period – you could do worse than try something like what I describe above, and find some personal writing of the period to read for a few minutes every night as a kind of habit. Also, be care-

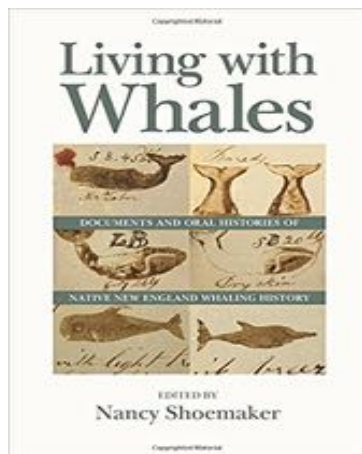
ful with detail – you'll do lots of research, and come across lots of details which feel like interesting gems. But that doesn't mean they all belong in your manuscript.

Can you tell us a bit about your next historical fiction project? And for your American fans, can we expect a sequel to *The Witchfinder's Sister* in the near future featuring our New England version of Matthew Hopkins witch-hunt?

Book Two is indeed historical fiction, but a much later period – it'll have, I hope, a similarly unsettling mood to *The Witchfinder's Sister*, but is basically a fictional mystery with a historical setting. That's as much as I feel I should say as yet – the shape is still emerging! I would *love* at some point to write a Salem book. But I think before I even consider doing so there's a huge amount of reading to do to figure out whether there's anything fresh I can bring to that subject – I feel I would owe that process of research and consideration a lot of diligence, particularly since the Salem witch hunts are so culturally present in the U.S. But maybe one day.



Book Reviews



Nancy Shoemaker, ed. *Living with Whales: Documents and Oral Histories of Native New England*. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 2014. 222 pp. ISBN 978-1-62534-081-8. \$21.95.

Samantha M. Williams
University of California,
Santa Cruz

Whales and the whaling industry have played a prominent, if ambivalent, role in the lives of the Native nations of Southern New England, writes historian Nancy Shoemaker, who traces this history from the seventeenth century to the present in a recent collection of short essays and primary sources. Historically, these Indigenous nations relied upon whales for subsistence, though the animals also maintained prominent roles in creation stories and spiritual practices. These communities' relationships with whales began to change, however, in the 1650s

when white settler communities moved into the region. Shoemaker describes this changing relationship as closely connected with the colonization of North America and illustrates how settlers who initially relied upon the whaling expertise of Indigenous peoples transformed whaling into an international enterprise over the course of two centuries. Though Shoemaker underscores that the whaling industry was built upon the exploitation of Native labor and lands, she also emphasizes Indigenous resilience and these communities' enduring connections to whaling.

Shoemaker skillfully utilizes primary sources throughout her text to demonstrate how the whaling industry in Southern New England changed during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The earliest sources she draws upon are those created by English colonists, who described the whaling practices of the Algonquian nation in detail and with admiration. These colonists learned from and emulated the Algonquian methods, and the colonists' written accounts help uncover the value Native peoples placed upon whales and items derived from them. As English settlers became increasingly adept whalers in the late seventeenth century, Shoemaker traces their establishment of commercial enterprises based on whaling and the employment of Native men in their companies. Concurrent to this development, English colonists also increasingly appropriated Native lands and resources and took

control of the tools and goods required for whaling work. The result was Indigenous financial debt and contract labor, which could be worked off by joining whaling crews. Shoemaker also points out, however, that even in this environment Native peoples worked to reassert their rights. The Unkechuag tribe, for example, presented a proposal in 1676 to form its own whaling company, in accordance with their "free liberty of fishing" (44). Whether the Unkechuag succeeded is unknown, though this effort illustrates Indigenous efforts to combat colonialism and maintain a degree of autonomy. Still, by the late eighteenth century, scores of Native men had joined English whaling crews and spent much of their lives at sea.

The rise of whaling as an international enterprise during the first half of the nineteenth century, and its impact on Native whalers, is also explored by Shoemaker. Demand for whale products precipitated the rapid expanse of the whaling industry during this period, and as local whale populations were depleted, crews moved to international waters in their efforts to catch and kill the animals. Shoemaker writes that Native men were highly sought after crew members for international whaling ships, for their expertise, professionalism, English language skills, and tolerance for this dangerous and difficult work. As such, Native men often rose to prominent positions on these ships, becoming first or second officers, though never captain, and earned

Book Reviews (cont.)

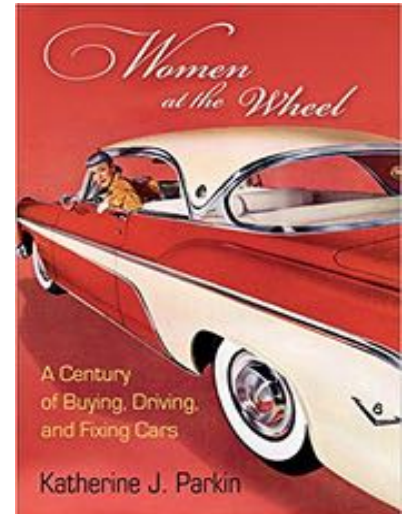
higher incomes than they might in other industries. The respect these men received was often exemplified in their obituaries, which detailed their abilities as whaling officers, as well as in local folklore, which also lauded their contributions.

Interestingly, Shoemaker also shares a story that illustrates both the international aspects of whaling and the connections between Indigenous whalers in New England and New Zealand. She recounts the life of Elisha Apes, a Pequot man born in Connecticut in 1815, who traveled to New Zealand aboard a whaling ship, deserted, and then married and started a family with a Maori woman. His sons became whalers as well, and his life and story continue to be celebrated by his descendants in New Zealand.

Perhaps the most important chapters in *Living with Whales* are those in which Shoemaker shares oral history interviews she conducted with Wampanoag and Shinnecock descendants of Southern New England whalers. Shoemaker acknowledges the importance of these sections of her book, and asserts the value of incorporating modern Indigenous perspectives into historical texts. Through these histories, she underscores the continued connections between Native New England nations with whales, as well as the extent to which knowledge of

whaling practices has been preserved and passed on to successive generations. Importantly, these chapters are also published without extensive commentary; Shoemaker allows these descendants to speak for themselves and in doing so emphasizes the connections between Native communities in the past and present. She further encourages scholars who engage with Native American studies to look beyond traditional archival materials, such as U.S. government or missionary reports, to examine sources “that make an Indian presence explicit,” or that detail the lives of Native figures as a means of gaining additional insights into Indigenous history (201).

Living with Whales is an important examination of the shared Indigenous and colonial American history of whaling in the Southern New England region. This is also a shared history of colonization, which Shoemaker inventively documents through her use of a variety of primary sources. In addition to oral histories, she evaluates letters, receipts, ledgers, obituaries, drawings, and whaling vessel logbooks, and in doing so constructs a comprehensive narrative of the social and economic history of whaling in New England. Her skill in this regard makes this a useful book both for historians and history majors, each of whom can learn from Shoemaker’s methods.



Katherine J. Parkin. *Women at the Wheel: A Century of Buying, Driving, and Fixing Cars*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017. 272 pages. ISBN 978-0812249538. \$34.95.

Patricia A. Schechter
Portland State University

Katherine Parkin has written a highly readable monograph on the theme of women and cars. Her thesis is straightforward. Despite the preceding century’s twin mythos of technological progress and increasing individual freedom, a distinct and hard-edged discourse about women’s incompetence as drivers, owners, and fixers of cars has endured to this day, virtually undented. In less polemical, antifeminist times, this book might be chided for its mile-wide/inch-deep approach, but I read Parkin’s argument with eager eyes.

With insights gleaned mostly from published sources like *Popular Mechanics*, *Ladies’ Home Journal*, and *Advertising Age*, Parkin hammers home her theme. While women have been encouraged to drive, buy, and

Book

Reviews (cont.)

repair cars they were also rigidly expected to “not be good at any of it” (xiv). Equally befuddling given increasing female economic power, the car industry’s “fundamental inclination was to ignore” women as consumers (xviii). Parkin’s purpose is to demonstrate the continuity of these bedrock assumptions as an antidote to historians’ usual focus on change or progress narratives, as in Virginia Scharff’s *Taking the Wheel: Women and the Coming of the Motor Age* (1992). Parkin’s is primarily a book about advertising and how-to discourses. It’s not a study of gender transgression or counter cultures nor about the legal and economic implications of the sexist lens through which women and driving have been viewed by the courts or banks. Readers looking for examples of women rebels on four wheels need to look elsewhere.

Like Scharff, Parkin implicitly views cars and driving as a screen onto which the gender identities and the gender tensions of white, middle-class Americans played out in the long twentieth century. But where Scharff highlighted women’s artful recasting of gendered social scripts by their use of cars in the suffrage fight and in entrepreneurship, Parkin emphasizes the heavy drumbeat of female vulnerability and female allure – the two are al-

most always phrased together – in car-related discourses, even when articulated by women. Like the movies and sports, car culture is a prominent location of gender socialization, especially for boys and young men. Whether it is 1910 or 1980, Parkin finds that car competence made women “unrecognizable and ungended” in the dominant heterosexual social scripts of marriageability and domesticity (123). Women’s successful work as mechanics and ambulance drivers during the world wars was temporary and stopgap, exceptions that proved the rule that women are bad drivers who have no business under the hood.

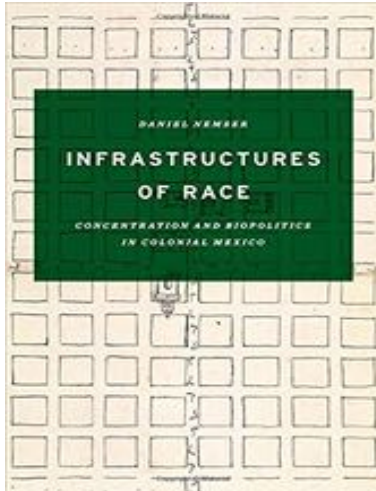
Parkin’s findings on female vulnerability reaches a crescendo in a section called “Police Predators” in which she discusses studies of police abuse of female drivers, especially teenaged girls (96-104). In these disturbing contemporary reports, police cars function as “the quintessential personification of law enforcement” in which male officers persistently took sexual advantage of females in their custody, including rape. Read in our current moment of intense public unrest over police brutality and the attention to racial issues in policing by Black Lives Matter, Parkin’s conclusion that women drivers faced institutional abuse by police “comparable” and “parallel” to that facing African Americans fell a little flat (99). The lack of intersectionality and the opportunity for a more searching examination of power relations is acute here. The book concludes: “The power of

cars is a largely heretofore unexamined force that has contributed to the polarizing of gender roles and the imbalance of power between men and women” (120). However, cars are not a “force” that exerts “power.” Cars are machines that can be instruments of power, as used by people and as the “predators” section demonstrates.

As a sharp-eyed feminist survey of (mostly) industry chatter about cars and gender, this book is a welcome antidote for the liberation and progress narratives typically privileged in treatments of the twentieth century United States. But, as a critique of genre and ideology, it falls short. This reader wanted Parkin to grapple more deeply with why male automotive supremacy has had to be advanced at all cost, defying evidence of female car competence, the market logic of profit, and women’s right to bodily safety. Surely, it has something to do with protecting race privileges and sex dominance in a period in which technologies flattened gendered labor and in which capitalism has a hard time keeping the average white male loyal to its shrinking returns on paid work. When the next cohort of feminist historians tackles these questions in an intersectional manner, they will have Parkin’s useful polemic at their side.



Book Reviews (cont.)



Daniel Nemser. *Infrastructures of Race: Concentration and Biopolitics in Colonial Mexico*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2017. 228 pp. ISBN 978-1-4773-1260-5. \$29.99.

Kathryn Evans
Ball State University

Infrastructures of Race necessarily takes a “new approach to race in colonial Latin America by shifting from epistemology to materiality, and from difference to domination. From this perspective, race no longer appears primarily as an attribute or property of a particular body but as an effect of the material practices of power”(9). Nemser demonstrates the way in which this process originates in the colonial period, highlighting the various ways in which Spanish priests endeavored to collect, confine, and convert local populations in colonial Mexico.

Beginning with the February 1896 disembarkation of Captain-General Valeriano Weyler y Nicolau in Havana and culminating in the legacy left by biopolitics as it appears in President Felipe Calderón’s 2009 speech in Chiapas, Nemser’s *Infrastructures of Race* boldly argues that the origins of institutionalized biopolitics began not with Weyler’s *reconcentración* policy, but much earlier with the sixteenth-century endeavors of Catholic priests.

Reconcentración, as Weyler carried it out, constituted the forced removal of local populations and their relocation in a consolidated area, which allowed colonial officials to better supervise the populations. As Nemser argues, this policy institutionalized racialized politics in the colonial Mexican government. In order to conflate perceptions of race and physical location, Nemser concentrates on the prominence of race in four areas: the religious congregation, Mestizo schools, urban neighborhoods, and the Crown’s private botanical gardens.

Within the final chapters, Nemser exceptionally demonstrates his grounding in relevant literature as he argues for a connection between botanical collections and biopolitics. As Spanish colonizers moved into seemingly empty territory in Latin America, they sought to collect the dispersed population into centralized settlements. For the Spanish, religious conversion operated as the easiest manner in which to con-

centrate the Latin American population into controllable groups. These groups, collected as if they were intriguing species of plants in the royal greenhouses, were comprised of both Native American and Mestizo populations; arguably, the Mestizo population became the most desired members of the collection as they were, metaphorically, akin to the botanical hybrids of the royal greenhouses. Congregation, Nemser notes, is primarily considered to have taken place in two phases: the first, a failure, from 1550-1564 and the second, a success, from 1598-1607. For the purposes of his argument, Nemser’s period wherein the Spanish emphasized congregation spans 1530-1635, though congregational efforts were often “intermittently and unevenly” carried out (28-9). While the congregation aimed to bring the Latin American population together, enclosure within schools and convents allowed colonial officials to constantly reinforce learned behavior. The principle place of enclosure that appears within Nemser’s work, *el Colegio de San Juan de Letrán*, concentrated upon the conversion of Mestizo boys. The school took two different approaches in molding the young boys: the first relied upon the Spanish father providing a worthy example on which the boys could model their own lives as they took their place in society as a new generation of low wage laborers while the second emphasized the Indian mother’s need of salvation, re-engaging

Book Reviews (cont.)

with the spiritual conquest of New Spain.

Using the Mexican Plebe as a case study, Nemser demonstrates the way in which class can be racialized, especially during colonial eras. It becomes less of a “mixed group” and more of a “collective embodiment of ‘mixture’ itself” (104). The orders of segregation which Nemser references through the chapter display the way in which colonial officials began to differentiate between demographics, employing the concept of *limpieza de sangre*. It is within this side-by-side examination of botany and racialization that readers of *Infrastructures of Race* gain a fuller understanding of the extent of biopolitics in colonial Mexico and the way in which racialized policies developed. The question should be raised, however, as to whether or not animal breeding should be introduced alongside the equivalences with Spain’s botanical endeavors. Would not including the application of *castas* – typically a hierarchical system applied to humans – to nonhuman animals enhance the already compelling parallels between the collection and refinement of nonhuman species and biopolitical control of colonial Mexico?



Karen A. McClintock. *My Father's Closet*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2017. 256 pp. ISBN 978-0-8142-1332-2. \$29.95.

Julie R. Enszer

Karen A. McClintock’s father was a closeted gay man during the second half of the twentieth century in the United States. *My Father’s Closet* is a post-humous exploration of his life. To piece together this family story, McClintock assembles a personal archive that includes interviews with her mother about her father’s life both before and during their marriage, her father’s journals, conversations with his friends, and historical research. From this archive, McClintock narrates both her father’s life and the life of his presumptive partner, Walther P. Michael. What emerges is an interesting, if idiosyncratic, narrative about the lives of these two men and a portrait of how they negotiated the constraints and opportunities provided to them mid-century.

Life stories of gay and bisexual men in the middle of the twentieth century are difficult to construct. Homosexual sex was illegal; men engaging in erotic behavior with other men were often arrested and publicly named creating an environment of shame and the potential to lose jobs and social connections. Profound homophobia and hostility to gay and bisexual men, as well as lesbians and bisexual women, marked the landscapes in the United States from the 1940s through the 1980s. Being openly gay or bisexual was risky, inviting negative consequences. In spite of these dangers, lesbians and gay men in the post-World War II period lived vibrant lives, leaving traces of how they flourished and struggled. *My Father’s Closet* enters a lively conversation about this period. Joining insights of historians and anthropologists like Esther Newton, George Chauncey, Elizabeth Kennedy, Madeline Davis, David E. Johnson, and John D’Emilio, *My Father’s Closet* illuminates the lives of two men making choices about how to build a life. In addition, the book joins a vibrant contemporary conversation about closeted gay parents, including Alison Bechdel’s *Fun Home*, originally a graphic novel that became a Broadway show, and Honor Moore’s *The Bishop’s Daughter*.

McClintock mines the rich archive of her father’s journals and first person narratives from her mother and his friends to assemble a story that is compelling and even, at times, grip-

Book

Reviews (cont.)

ping. The narrative, however, is expanded at times by imaginative speculation; for example, the author offers constructed conversations between her father and Walther during their travels together to New York City. In addition to these imaginative flights, two models frame McClintock's exploration of her father's life. First, she uses a framework from "a book on children of alcoholics." McClintock argues that the addiction model fits her family "because secrets foster similar symptoms in family" (68). Certainly, there were secrets in her family and dynamics that feel familiar to her, yet she fails to interrogate the consequences of using this model, primarily how it pathologizes homosexuality and situates closeted gay people as agents of sickness in families.

The other model that McClintock uses is Randy Shilts's *Conduct Unbecoming: Gays and Lesbians in the Military* (68). Shilts's comprehensive work on gays and lesbians in the military offers a way for McClintock to understand her father's relationships with other men in the military and to understand her father's lover's military service. Yet, McClintock does not delve into the homosociality that the military provided for all men, not just men who sought sexual comfort and sexual expression with other men. Rather, she flattens

Shilts's rich exploration of social and communal life in the military to provide an origin story for her father. Ultimately, both frameworks serve McClintock's narrative and the narrative of her mother without illuminating the life of her father or his lover.

McClintock characterizes her father's life as "closeted" and filled with shame. Early in the narrative, a gay male friend of McClintock's father tells her "He's your father; you have a right to know *everything* about your father." This sentence gave me pause when I read it and throughout the book. Do children have a right to know everything about their parents? Does being a parent mean that a person no longer has a right to a private interior life? For me, the answer to both questions is no. I appreciate the struggles of children seeking to know their parents, but wrestling with the unknowable about parents is much more artful in Moore and Bechdel's memoirs than this one.

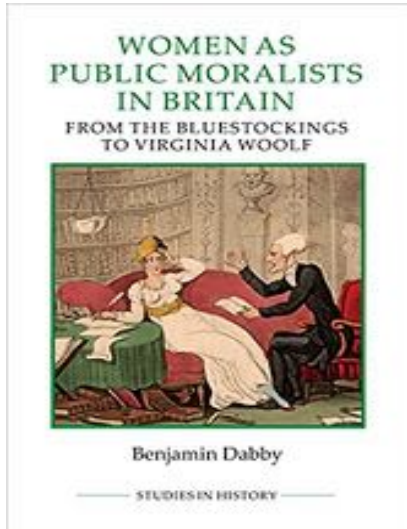
A central question of the book, that the author does not explore, is: what if there is dissonance between one's interior life and one's exterior life? Is the human quest to eliminate such a dissonance or is the human quest to manage that dissonance? McClintock argues for the elimination of dissonance through the now classic activist strategies of the LGBTQ communities, namely coming out and speaking honestly. Those strategies and the resolution of dissonance are laudable, but the complexity of people's lived experiences, what

memoirs and histories at their very best illuminate, can create more nuanced answers to these questions, lending insight not only to the past but to contemporary human conditions.

As an invested narrator, McClintock is never able to consider the mid-century complexities of homosexual desire, nor the constraints that they placed on men like her father and Michael. McClintock links her own integrity and sexuality to the choices that her parents made. She and her sister struggled with intimate relationships because of the lack of intimacy and honesty in her parent's marriage. While this thesis has merits, it also seems an incomplete answer that fails to recognize the constraints of her parents' experience. In her quest for integrity, McClintock valorizes her mother and unwittingly demonizes her father and fails to consider the possibilities that marriage offered to them both: companionship, stability, family-making. *My Father's Choice* illuminates the lives of two gay – or bisexual – men (though McClintock never considers the possibility of bisexuality or of sexual orientation as fluid), but through a warped lens. Sometimes invested narrators illuminate bright stories; in this instance, I ultimately wished the narrative was less vested and a bit more queer.



Book Reviews (cont.)



Benjamin Dabby. *Women as Public Moralists in Britain: From the Bluestocking to Virginia Woolf*. Suffolk: Boydell and Brewer, 2017. 288 pp. ISBN 978-0-86193-343-3. \$90.00.

Disha Acharya
University of Louisiana
at Lafayette

Benjamin Dabby places his book as part of a recovery project of the women of letters who shaped public moralism in Britain from the nineteenth century to the early part of the twentieth century. He argues that “throughout this period women of letters played a significant role in shaping the public moralism at the heart of Britain’s periodical culture by drawing out and debating with their contemporaries the lessons to be learned from history, literature and art” (1). This study

of public moralism and its shaping by female writers is an attempt to recover the female voice which gets lost in the chronicles of history, usually penned by men. Dabby’s worthy endeavor to “provide a gendered history of the different contexts in which women made varied and decisive contributions to British public moralism” (229) is welcome as it “provides an alternative to narratives of women’s political history” (6).

Public moralism was generally perceived to be a masculine domain as the betterment of society was seen as men’s responsibility. This is obvious from Stefan Collini’s *Public Moralists: Political Thought and Intellectual Life in Britain, 1830-1930*, which firmly locates moralism as part of a male tradition. Dabby uses Collini’s work as a springboard to offer his own understanding of public moralism in Britain, but also a rebuttal to Collini’s text which sees shaping of history and culture as intrinsically masculine. Dabby’s text firmly places women at the center of public debates about morality in Britain, as he argues, “Women moralists played a pivotal role in promoting altruistic tenets and the value of ‘disinterestedness’: a critical perspective free of ego and petty concerns” (2). His answering back to Collini’s book provides an alternate history to how public moralism was perceived in Britain and highlights how for most part of history, as Virginia Woolf, once famously remarked, anonymous was a

woman. The book also provides a unique glimpse into how “disinterestedness” was seen as an important political position by the female moralists as they believed that men’s pursuit of politics and public moralism had left them susceptible to ego and vanity and inept in seeing the power of literature, art, and history to shape culture in Britain.

Dabby singles out eight women of letters who he sees as central figures in shaping of public moralism in England. The book is devoted to Anna Jameson (1794-1860), Hannah Lawrance (1795-1875), Margaret Oliphant (1828-97), George Eliot (1819-80), Eliza Lynn Linton (1822-98), Beatrice Hastings (1879-1943), Rebecca West (1892-1983), and Virginia Woolf (1882-1941). The common premise that underlies all the chapters is that “women’s growing participation in the world of letters was due not only to the increasing size of the literary marketplace but also to the growing realization that gendered differences between men and women were more the product of education and social custom than that of nature” (4). This seems to be an exceptionally progressive stance as these women wrote about the nature of gender in a place in time when the term “feminism” did not yet exist. These women saw themselves as worthy successors of the bluestockings before them who were also engaged in cultural and moral issues. Dabby argues that the literary salons and the literary marketplace became the crucial

Book Reviews (cont.)

sites for the career of women moralists as they could freely express their ideas on gender and culture on such a platform.

The book is divided into three sections with three women moralists in each part who spoke from a historical, cultural, literary, artistic, and modernist standpoint. Section One begins with Jameson and her reformulation of femininity in terms of “disinterestedness,” where she imagined femininity to be active and assertive rather than passive and weak as society often labeled it. Hannah Lawrance, in the next chapter according to Dabby, derived her argument from a “scholarly appraisal of women’s history” (45). Lawrance argued that women were as capable as men in public occupations and saw medieval England as a model for women’s empowerment as she believed that there was evidence of women’s employment and education in those times. Margaret Oliphant praised the blue-stockings and earned her living through writing historical sketches. She argued that “gender was a product of nurture rather than nature,” (71) and Dabby describes her as a “disinterested historian” (72).

Part Two of the book returns to Jameson and Lawrance, but also goes into detail about Evans’s cultural criticism. Both Jameson and Lawrance believed in the power of art and

literature to educate and move society towards improvement, but Evans built a theory of moral realism arguing “women were in the historical position of being able to lead the way as cultural critics and public moralists” (168). Part Three deals with Linton who argued against female suffrage. Dabby argues that West and Hastings both initially supported the suffragette movement, but later distanced themselves from it as they cared more about women’s intellectual emancipation. The last chapter on Virginia Woolf focuses on her arguments on women’s economic independence and also that a writer should be free of ego and conceit.

Dabby does an excellent job of creating the corpus of female moralists in Britain at the turn of the century. His inclusion of lesser-known women of letters (such as Linton and Jameson) is exemplary as the book serves as a recovery project for these women moralists lost in the annals of history. However, Dabby does not mention any woman of color who was also a female moralist at the time and if there were none (given the history of female oppression), then these women moralists also did not talk about them. The current wave of feminism is intersectional and including women of color or issues of race and class would have been a more inclusive approach. Dabby’s argument that historical teleology has ignored female moralists in Britain is compelling and makes a case for rewriting the patriarchal nature of history.

Books Available for Review

Interested in reviewing one of the books below? Contact Whitney Leeson at wleeson@roanoke.edu.

Edward C. Atwater. *Women Medical Doctors in the United States before the Civil War: A Biographical Dictionary*. University of Rochester Press, 2016.

Ashley Baggett. *Intimate Partner Violence in New Orleans: Gender, Race, and Reform, 1840-1900*. University Press of Mississippi, 2017.

Elizabeth F. Fideler. *Margaret Pearmain Welch (1893-1984)*. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2017.

Fran Leadon. *BROADWAY: A History of New York City in Thirteen Miles*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Jenifer Parks. *The Olympic Games, the Soviet Sports Bureaucracy, and the Cold War*. Lexington Books, 2017.

Mary Ellen Pethel. *Athens of the New South: College Life and the Making of Modern Nashville*. University of Tennessee Press, 2017.



Archives of Interest

Editor's Note: As a continuing feature for Insights, we are looking at archives of interest to our membership. Some archives may be familiar and others may be hidden gems. If you are an archivist, or would like to suggest an archive for us to feature, contact newsletter@theccwh.org.

With this issue, we look at the Office of the Gender and Women's Studies Librarian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Office of the Gender and Women's Studies Librarian (GWSL)

University of Wisconsin – Madison

By Karla J. Strand, DPhil, MLIS
Gender & Women's Studies Librarian
Office of the Gender & Women's Studies
Librarian

The Office of the Gender and Women's Studies Librarian at the University of Wisconsin celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2017. Since 1977, this office has provided guidance and leadership to the evolving field of gender and women's studies. From piecing together lists of newly-published books and distributing comprehensive bibliographies to publishing academic journals and providing comprehensive virtual research consultations, the Office of the Gender and Women's Studies Librarian has led the way in providing research support services imperative to the success of scholars, students, and citizens throughout the world.

As women's studies grew as a field of academic study around the United States in the mid- to late-1970s, it became clear that there was a need for tracking, organizing, and disseminating information on new publications, research, and programs to interested scholars. In Wisconsin, faculty had been advocating for a librarian who was also an expert in women's studies to help accomplish these important tasks. After several years of pushing, the University of Wisconsin agreed to a two-year pilot program that would put a librarian in place to serve

The University of Wisconsin System

PLEASE POST

PROFESSIONAL VACANCY - NEW POSITION
LIBRARIAN-AT-LARGE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

Title: University of Wisconsin System Librarian-at-Large for Women's Studies

Classification: Specialist, 12-month Academic Staff Appointment

Appointment: As soon as possible, but no later than July 1, 1977

Salary: \$14,000 - \$15,000 dependent upon qualifications and experience

Fringe Benefits: Vacation, sick leave, group health and life insurance, state retirement; details available to applicants upon request

Duties: To provide comprehensive bibliographic and curriculum support services in Women's Studies to libraries and faculties of the University of Wisconsin System, including:

Assist System libraries in current and retrospective collection development; provide curricular services through compilation and distribution of bibliographies in subject areas; identify, develop and disseminate information about library resources necessary for supporting and expanding Women's Studies course offerings and research; provide liaison services for groups and individuals involved with Women's Studies, organize workshops and publish a newsletter.

Qualifications: MLS from ALA accredited library school; strong background in social sciences and humanities; reference experience, familiarity with teaching at the college level, ability to work easily with teaching faculty and library staff; verbal and written communication skills. Since this position represents a new effort at System cooperation, originality and creativity are desirable qualities. Extensive travel, primarily in-state, is required.

This position is a two-year pilot program funded by Central Administration of the University of Wisconsin System with the possibility of development into a permanent position. The Librarian-at-Large will be based in the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan Service (WILS), University of Wisconsin-Madison Memorial Library, and will be advised by a panel of librarians and Women's Studies Coordinators drawn from University of Wisconsin System institutions.

Letters of application, vita and the names of three references should be directed to: Gerhard Naeeth, Associate Director, Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 726 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 15, 1977.

THE LIBRARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER OPERATING UNDER AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN

Universities: Eau Claire, Green Bay, LaCrosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Parkside, Platteville, River Falls, Stevens Point, Stout, Superior, Wausau, University Center, Wausau, Wisconsin State University, Fond du Lac, Fox Valley, Manitowish County, Marathon County, Marinette County, Shawano County, Washburn County, Winnebago County, Wisconsin State University, Stevens Point, Stout, Superior, Wausau.

Job advertisement for Women's Studies Librarian position - 1977

all of the women's studies programs throughout the UW System.

In 1977, Esther Stineman was hired as the first Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large. Stineman worked to build a strong base for the position in a short amount of time. She created a union catalog of women's studies materials across the UW campuses, created reading lists on a variety of topics, and purchased the *History of Women* collection on microfilm. In addition, she published *Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography* with the office's first editor, Catherine Loeb. This guide contained nearly 2,000 books and periodicals considered essential for women's studies library collections at the time.

In 1978, after about 18 months of service, Stineman departed and Linda Parker took over the position until 1982. Parker wanted to make use of the latest technology and acquired the Office's first microcomputer. She also created topical reading lists, referred to as *Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies*, as well as what would become the Office's three flagship publications: *New Books on Women, Gender, and Feminism*; *Feminist Collections: A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources*; and *Feminist Periodicals: A Current List-*

Archives of Interest (cont.)

ing of Contents.

The next Women's Studies Librarian, Sue Searing, served from 1982 until 1991. Searing continued to grow the Office's publications and, with Loeb and Stineman, published another volume of *Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography* in 1987. Working closely with the newly-created UW System Women's Studies Consortium, a cooperative group of representatives from the women's studies departments across the UW System, Searing helped to solidify the position of the Office as one of the premier resources for women's studies research.

Phyllis Holman Weisbard became the Women's Studies Librarian in 1991. Dedicated to service, Weisbard participated in committees and conferences throughout the state and country and the collaborations she built continue to this day. She was committed to continuing the momentum of the Office and to develop its international profile as well. In 2003, she was invited to India as a visiting speaker, sponsored by the U.S. State Department American Centers. After receiving numerous awards and accolades for her over 20 years of service as the GWS Librarian, Weisbard retired in 2013.



Phyllis Holman Weisbard, 2012

That year, after a national search, Karla J. Strand became the fifth Gender and Women's Studies Librarian for the UW System. Strand has continued many of the original initiatives of the GWSL, but has worked to ensure they are evolving to meet the changing needs of those who seek their assistance. For instance, the office still publishes all three journals created during Linda Parker's tenure, but *Feminist Periodicals* is now online with an updated and searchable interface, *New Books* will be online in the near future, and *Feminist Collections* has a new name and a completely updated design. It's now *Resources for Gender and Women's Studies: A Feminist Review*. The Office's database of films, Women's AudioVisuals in English (WAVE) will also undergo an interface update in the next two years. All of the publications and services of the GWSL are sporting the new office logo, which was updated last year in celebration of the 40th anniversary.

The GWSL Office has also provided bibliographies and research guides on the website and by request. Because of the continued popularity of these bibliographies, Strand is now creating new ones to address the most requested current topics, including the upcoming women's suffrage centennial, Black feminism, Trans Studies, and Queer Studies. Strand continues to manage the GWS and LGBTQ collections in Memorial Library at UW-Madison. In addition, she has refocused attention on the development of the Office's in-house collection of core books in U.S. feminism. Strand continues to maintain imperative partnerships with the UW System GWS Consortium as well as the Gender and Women's Studies academic department at UW-Madison.

Several new digital projects have been created during Strand's tenure, including Wisconsin Women Making History (WWMH) and the International Women's Library (IWL). Wisconsin Women Making History is a partnership of the GWSL with Wisconsin Public Television, the Wisconsin Historical Society, and the UW System Women's Studies Consortium. The site was designed to fill a gap in knowledge of women's contributions in all aspects of Wisconsin history and culture. At present, some 85 women are featured, but many new profiles are being added this year, with a focus on women of color.

Archives of Interest (cont.)

The International Women's Library originally began as Women's Knowledge Digital Library in 2015 as a collaboration between the GWSL and Women's Knowledge International based in Madrid, Spain. Now with an updated, improved, and searchable interface, IWL continues its mission of providing information to support the equality of women everywhere, with a focus on those who may not have the network, time, funding, or skills to search for the valuable resources that could benefit their work. This broadening of the scope of the Office's services to women and girls in developing areas of the world stems from Strand's doctoral research in the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa, where she studied the role and (under)use of libraries and information in the alleviation of information poverty of rural citizens. Strand is dedicated to using the GWSL platform to uplift and support all women and girls fighting for justice and equality around the world.

The Office of the UW System Gender and Women's Studies Librarian remains one of the premier resources for support of gender, women's studies, and LGBT studies scholarship and librarianship. The GWS Librarian provides bibliographic and curriculum support, inter-institutional cooperation, information sharing, and advocacy related to the fields of women's, gender, and LGBT studies and to gender-focused scholarship in the traditional disciplines. While operating from a base at UW-Madison, the GWSL serves the UW System and beyond, so you are encouraged to contact the Office for assistance anytime.

Contacts:

- Bibliography, research guide, and research consultation requests can be directed to Karla Strand via email at karla.strand@wisc.edu.
- To learn more about GWSL publications and to subscribe, please see: <http://www.library.edu/gwslibrarian/publications/>.
- Questions regarding Wisconsin Women Making History can be sent to wwmh@library.wisc.edu.

- Suggestions for resources to include in International Women's Library can be sent to karla.strand@wisc.edu.

The following UW collections and information may be of interest to readers:

- Gay Peoples Union Collection
<https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/gpu/>
- Gender and Women's Studies Digital Collections
<https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/genderstudies/>
- History of Women at the University of Wisconsin
<https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/uw/uwwomen>
- History of the GWSL Office
<https://www.library.wisc.edu/gwslibrarian/about-gws/history-of-the-office/>
- International Women's Library
<http://intl womenslibrary.org/>
- Madison's LGBT Community Archive
<https://www.library.wisc.edu/archives/exhibits/madisons-lgbt-community-1960s-to-present/>
- Transforming Women's Education: The history of women's studies in the University of Wisconsin System (1999) available at
<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/UW.WomenEdu>
- Wisconsin Women Making History
<http://womeninwisconsin.org/>
- Women on Campus in the Eighties: Old struggles, new victories (1993) available at
<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/UW.EssaysStruggles>

GWSL

Announcements

Call for Papers International Journal of Military History and Historiography – Special Issue: Women and the Second World War

The *International Journal of Military History and Historiography* will commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the start of the Second World War with a special issue dedicated to the wartime experiences of women.

The literature of the Second World War has shifted from a narrow focus on political, military, and diplomatic interpretations of the origins and management of the war to a much wider assessment of events and actors. Indeed, the global nature of what has been termed “total war” mobilized entire populations of citizens and colonial subjects. Women were very much a part of this war of movement and the events that dislocated and traumatized civilians and combatants. To date, much of the literature focuses on women on home fronts as workers, as spies, and as consumers. Holocaust studies have revealed the scale of Nazi crimes against humanity, as well as strategies of survival. More recently, scholars have uncovered the sexual slavery experienced by Chinese, Korean, and Japanese women endorsed by the Japanese military. This special

issue of the *International Journal of Military History and Historiography* looks to extend this literature to interrogate and foreground the wartime experiences of women beyond the home front.

The journal is particularly interested in articles that foreground women as actors in national and transnational settings in the military and as partisans; as doctors, nurses, and midwives; as exiles and refugees; and as colonial subjects and occupied citizens.

Please send a 200-300 word paper abstract (or full article draft) and short CV by May 1, 2018 to Sandra Trudgen Dawson (dawsonssandra33@gmail.com). Full drafts of articles are due on September 1st, 2018. Articles may be up to 10,000 words, including notes. Please see http://www.brill.com/sites/default/files/ftp/authors_instructions/IJMH.pdf for a guide for authors.

Call for Papers Global Labor Migration: Past and Present

The Global Labor Migration Network seeks proposals for its international conference to take place June 20-22, 2019 at the International Institute for Social History in Amsterdam.

Labor migration is a vast, global, and highly fluid phenomenon in the 21st century, capturing public attention and driving political controversy. There are more labor migrants working in areas beyond their birth country or region than ever before. Although scattered

across the social ladder, migrant workers have always clustered, at least initially, in the bottom rungs of the working class. Even as cross-border or inter-regional movement may beckon as a source of hope and new opportunity, the experience for the migrants and their families is often fraught with peril. Labor migrants are vulnerable: they are exploited more easily by recruiters and employers, and are less likely to benefit from union representation. They often face arrest or deportation when attempt to fight for their rights, and are bound to special documents that limit their ability to change jobs.

The conference will include a range of presentation formats: brief papers, roundtables, and open conversations. Presentations on labor migration in Africa, Asia, and South America are particularly encouraged.

Applicants are encouraged to submit full panel proposals, including a chair, commentator, and no more than three papers; individual paper submissions will also be accepted.

The deadline for submitting proposals is July 1, 2018.

For more information about the conference, please visit <https://go.umd.edu/xmL>.

The Global Labor Migration Network welcomes proposals across disciplines on all places, periods, people, and topics. The Program Committee encourages proposals from all scholars, whatever their institutional affiliation or status.

Announcements

Call for Papers Society for the History of Women in the Americas Annual Conference


The Society for the History of Women in the Americas (SHAW) welcomes proposals for its annual conference, co-organized with The Women's Library at the London School of Economics.

We invite 250-word abstracts for 20-minute presentations on any topic, geographical period, chronological time, or theme related to the history of women in the Americas. We also welcome comparative papers between two countries in the Americas or one in the Americas and a country outside the region.

The conference welcomes papers from scholars at any stage of their career, especially graduate students.

The keynote lecture will be delivered by Dr. Kate Dossett (University of Leeds).

Please submit abstracts along with a 100-word biography to shawsociety@gmail.com by March 20th, 2018. Papers chosen for the conference may be selected for inclusion in a special issue of *History of Women in the Americas Journal*, subject to peer-review.




Call for Papers Law, the Body and Embodiment: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives

In a special journal issue, the CFP invites contributions that consider the following, but not exclusively: what is the relationship between law and the body, and law and embodiment? How does the law preclude, encourage, marginalize, or stratify particular kinds of embodiment, if at all – and how are particular kinds of embodiment gendered, sexed, classed, and/or racialized? What role does culture play in relation to law and the body, and vice-versa? What are the embodied consequences of particular legal decisions, and vice-versa, how might modes of embodied resistance lead to legal change? What are the multiple and varied relationships between the body and the law, and their mutually constitutive, interdependent relationship? How autonomous can we truly be in relation to our bodies, before the law steps in? What effects can the law directly or indirectly cause on the body?

Submission of abstracts is due by May 15, 2018.

For queries or the submission of abstracts, contact Dr. Linda Roland Danil at lindarolandd@gmail.com.



National Women's History Museum Issues New Report

The National Women's History Museum's recently released its new report, *Where are the Women? A Report on the Status of Women in the United States Social Studies Curriculum. Where are the Women?* examines the status of women's history in state-level social studies standards. It is the most complete, current evaluation of women's history integration in US public, K-12 education.

The report may be downloaded here: <https://womenshistory.org/social-studiesstandards>. The report discusses the ways that women's history is characterized in U.S. K-12 social studies standards and, by extension, in textbooks and public school classrooms. Interesting findings include:

- Names of 178 individual women named in state standards
- Most and least studied women's history topics
- Women's history marginalization in standards

The report includes the women's history standards for each state. Readers can see for themselves how women's unique history is presented state-by-state. Teachers and museum educators will have complete standards for each state to use in creating lessons and programs. Women's history scholars will see the expected knowledge base for incoming freshmen.

Visit www.womenshistory.org to learn more.

Announcements

New Open Access Book: Feminism and the Politics of Childhood: Friends or Foes?

University College London Press is delighted to announce a brand new open access book entitled *Feminism and the Politics of Childhood: Friends or Foes?* This is an innovative and critical exploration of perceived commonalities and conflicts between women and children and, more broadly, between various forms of feminism and the politics of childhood. This collection of eighteen chapters brings into dialogue authors from a range of geographical contexts, social science disciplines, activist organizations, and theoretical perspectives. Subjects include refugee camps, care labor, domestic violence, and childcare and education.

Chapter authors focus on local contexts as well as their global interconnections, and draw on diverse theoretical traditions such as poststructuralism, psychoanalysis, posthumanism, postcolonialism, political economy, and the ethics of care. Together, the contributions offer new ways to conceptualize relations between women and children, and to address injustices faced by both groups.

To download go to <https://goo.gl/qS5jmE>.

Call for Papers: 2018 International Academic Conference on Organized Crime and Gender

Organized crime has generated significant interest in academic, policy, and law enforcement circles, amid the spread of globalization and increasing transnational flows. Plenty of attention has also been paid to the emergence and development of organized criminal groups in specific locations around the world.

Despite their visibility and the abundance of literature on their activities and structures, organized criminal groups also constitute a contentious research subject. Empirical work on their dynamics is scant. Their representations through media and law enforcement, policy, and state discourses often convey problematic ethnic stereotypes and stigmatize communities. Most research on organized crime continues to showcase the perspectives of European and American academia and policy makers, while dialogue platforms remain often inaccessible to scholars from the Global South and their critiques of how organized crime impacts the security of their regions and their communities. Furthermore, the gender/ed dimensions of organized crime (including criminalization) have remained underexplored.

Seeking to bridge these gaps, to display innovative empirical and critical research on organized crime from the Global South

and its scholars, and to contribute to the crafting of legal and policy reform on crime, the Education for Justice initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute will convene an International Academic Conference on the gender and gendered dynamics of organized crime, including trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. The Conference will be held on July 11-13, 2018 in Florence, Italy.

The conference organizers welcome research from all disciplines. They are seeking abstracts that focus on the linkages between organized crime and gender. Abstracts describing critical, empirical work on organized crime and gender involving primary sources are especially encouraged.

Academic abstracts – not to exceed 250 words – should be written in English and be based on original and unpublished work. Please send abstracts no later than March 9, 2018 to crimegender2018@gmail.com.

Questions about the event can be directed to gabriella.sanchez@eui.edu.

You will be notified by April 13, 2018 of the selection committee's decision. Should you be accepted, your paper will be due by June 8, 2018.

A number of papers will be published in an edited volume with a high-ranking academic journal. Selected contributions must be original and not be under editorial consideration elsewhere.

Annual Business Meeting

Pursuant to the CCWH's governing charter, the CCWH holds a business meeting annually to conduct business on behalf of the organization. The minutes from the most recently meeting held in January 2018 are as follows:

CCWH Business Meeting
January 4, 2018
Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, D.C.
McKinley Room

Present: Sandra Dawson, Natnaya Duncan, Takkara Brunson, Cherisse Jones-Banch, Ilaria Scaglia, Eileen Boris, Nupur Chaudhuri, Pamela Stewart, and Whitney Leeson. A quorum was present.

I. Welcome and Introductions

The Meeting commenced at 5:00 p.m. with a welcome and announcement that Barbara Molony is stuck in Boston and the plan is for her to take a train tomorrow to D.C. In addition, our new incoming co-president, Sasha Turner, is also late to the AHA because of the snow.

Written reports from Board members given to each member present.

II. Executive Director's Report

2017-2018 has been a great year for the CCWH. There's been a lot of enthusiasm for organizing women especially in the current political climate. We've received more donations from our members this year than in years past. There are a number of people retiring off the board, but many new people coming on the board. Kim Todt has done a marvelous job brining the newsletter back from the brink.

III. Report from the International Federation for Research in Women's History

Eileen Boris, President of IFRWH, reported on the upcoming conference and thanked the CCWH for our support as the primary U.S. affiliate for the organization. The conference was supposed to take place in Santa Barbara, but because of travel bans enacted by the Trump Ad-

ministration, it was deemed necessary to move the conference to Vancouver. Unfortunately, such a move resulted in loss of funding from UC Santa Barbara and IFRWH is looking to raise \$17,000 to offset those costs and particularly to help presenters from the global south (e.g., Bangladesh and Nigeria) travel to the conference. There will be panels on such issues as indigenous feminism, transnational issues, migration and women's struggles, immigration, etc. She asks for our financial support.

IV. Report on Collaboration with Other Women's Organizations

Sandra Dawson tells everyone that a goal this year was to reach out and collaborate more significantly with women of color. She is proud to announce that Sasha Turner is our new incoming co-president, a Caribbeanist. Additionally, an Association of Black Women Historians member has won the Prelinger Award – our flagship award of \$20,000. Sandra is also hopeful that we will be able to collaborate more with historians from other organizations.

We have also made a concerted effort to make sure that women of color are represented on our awards committees. LaShawn Harris is co-chair of the Prelinger Award, Lori Flores is chair of the Wells Award, Natanya Duncan has just stepped down as chair of the Wells Award, and Lynette Jackson is a member of the Gold Award.

Natanya Duncan has agreed to co-chair the Rachel Fuchs Award, a \$500 award to the person who most exemplifies what Rachel stood for. Susan Yohn of the Berks will also serve on the committee. We would like representation from a community college, an adjunct, and a graduate student. Please send Sandra any nominees.

V. Report on Endowment Account for CCWH Awards

Last year, we started to set up an endowment account through TIACREFF. However, they merged with another bank and now only take accounts of \$1 million or more.

Sandra met with the folks at Stralem in Manhattan last year for the Berks. Stralem have agreed to open an endowment account for the CCWH. This will involve placing the money for

Annual Business Meeting

all our awards into one investment account in the hopes that investment growth will eventually endow all the awards.

Motion to pursue an endowment account with Stralem. Seconded by Ilaria Scaglia. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Discussion on Financial Support for the IFRWH Conference, 2018

As fundraiser for the International Federation for Research in Women's History, Nupur suggests a donation of \$1,000 as she does not want to drain our accounts in light of our ongoing efforts to raise money for the Prelinger Award.

A discussion ensued about the most effective way to assist IFRWH.

Motion to give IFRWH up to \$3,000 by absorbing the Eventbrite and Paypal fees. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report discussed. The CCWH is financially OK, but with the move to an endowment account our finances might be tight this coming year.

Costs for paper newsletters last year were approximately \$1,200. Sandra will contact the institutions to see if they will accept electronic versions to cut down our costs. Discussion ensued about ways to decrease copying costs.

Nupur reminds the group that next year is the 50th Anniversary of the CCWH and we need to have some cash ready to allocate to the festivities in Chicago.

Sandra tells the group that Barbara has recommended that we form a group of past and current co-presidents and executive directors to come up with ideas. We want to have a big presence at the AHA including a photo book for sale. It would be a small print run of perhaps 10 with all other copies being printed on demand.

Discussion followed about who best to invite as a keynote for the awards luncheon. We would like Michelle Obama, but would need assistance from the University of Chicago and Northwestern to be able to afford her fees.

The deadline for the AHA is February 15th. Everyone is encouraged to organize panels and roundtables for the Chicago AHA in 2019.

VIII. Membership Coordinator Report

Ilaria reports that in the past year we did well in organizing the base. We could use a bigger presence at the Historic Black Colleges, but on the positive side we have increased our members at international institutions from 2 to 7.

41% of our members make less than \$25,000, but there are an increasing number of assistant and associate professors, which bodes well for the future.

The e-mentorship calls were very well received and there are requests for more such sessions on topics such as negotiating contracts and spousal hires.

There is some concern that some award applicants do not feel valued once they have not won the award. Ilaria suggests that the awards committee chair send out a note to all applicants thanking them for their application and that perhaps we can make note of honorable mention award winners in the newsletter. Even if there is no monetary award, the recognition would be valuable to those individuals.

Ilaria is also in need of speakers for e-mentorship calls and asks everyone to send her names of women who have had experiences as deans in particular. Ilaria also asks the board to sign a card for Vickie Barnett Wood who has done tremendous work this past year helping with membership duties.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. with an invitation to all to join for dinner at the Lebanese Taverna restaurant nearby.

CCWH Board Members

Co-Presidents

Barbara Molony
2016-2019

Sasha Turner
2018-2021

Executive Director

Sandra Trudgen Dawson
2017-2020

Treasurer

Pamela Stewart
2016-2019

Membership Outreach Committee Chair

Ilaria Scaglia
2015-2019

Newsletter Editor

Kim Todt
2016-2019

Outreach Coordinator

Vacant Position

Website Coordinators

Erin Bush
2016-2019

Graduate Student Representatives

Kelli McCormick
2017-2020

Jasmin Young
2017-2020

Book Review Editor

Whitney Leeson

Public History Coordinator

Elyssa Ford
2017-2020

Fundraising Coordinator

Nupur Chaudhuri

Prelinger Award Co-Chairs, 2018

LaShawn Harris
Stephanie Schreiner-McBride

CCWH/Berks Award Chair, 2018

Leandra Zarnow

Ida B. Wells Award Chair, 2018

Lori Flores

Gold Award Chair, 2018

Vacant Position

Chaudhuri Award Chair, 2018

Elizabeth Everton

Membership Outreach Programs

1. Membership Assistant

Vicki Barnett-Woods

2. Mentorship Program

Einav Rabinovich-Fox

3. University Representatives

Fatemeh Hosseini

4. Conference Liaisons

Tiffany Gonzalez

5. Host Program

Bridget Keown

6. Twitter Account

Alexi Garrett

Coordinating Council for Women in History

Membership Form

1) ___ new membership 2) ___ membership renewal 3) ___ gift membership

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

This is a (circle one) HOME or WORK address

Telephone: _____ Email address: _____

Do you wish to receive emails from the CCWH membership email list? (circle one) YES or NO

Current position and institutional affiliation, or independent scholar _____

Research and professional fields (up to three): _____

___ I am willing to serve on CCWH committees or the CCWH Board.

Membership in the CCWH runs from 1 January to 31 December each calendar year

Dues	Membership Level	Donation Amount	Donation Designation
\$ ____	\$20 income under \$25,000	\$ ____	CCWH Catherine Prelinger Award
\$ ____	\$30 income \$25-50,000	\$ ____	CCWH Carol Gold Associate Professor Best Article Award
\$ ____	\$50 income \$50-75,000 \$140 three years	\$ ____	CCWH Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Prize
\$ ____	\$75 income \$75-100,000 \$215 three years	\$ ____	CCWH Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Fellowship
\$ ____	\$90 income over \$100,000 \$250 three years	\$ ____	CCWH/Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Graduate Student Fellowship
\$ ____	\$80 institutional membership	\$ ____	Joan Kelly Memorial Prize in Women's History (CCWH Sponsored, AHA administered)
Please make check or money order (in U.S. funds) payable to CCWH. Print and mail to: Dr. Pamela Stewart College of Integrative Sciences and Arts Arizona State University 455 N. 3rd St Suite 380 Phoenix, AZ 85004-1601		\$ ____	Peggy Pascoe Memorial Fund (at the University of Oregon)
		\$ ____	Rachel Fuchs Memorial Award for Service and Mentorship
		\$ ____	Donation where most needed
\$ ____ TOTAL PAYMENT			

Insights: Notes from the CCWH is published four times a year. Our publication dates are Spring (March 1st), Summer (June 1st), Fall (September 1st), and Winter (December 1st).

We invite members of the CCWH to share your professional news with colleagues. Submit announcements about recent awards, appointments, achievements, publications, and other news. If you wish to submit material for inclusion in the newsletter, please send material to the Newsletter Editor no later than two weeks prior to publication (e.g., for the Spring issue, no later than February 15th). Material should be sent to newsletter@theccwh.org. If you have any questions about whether material would be appropriate for the newsletter please email the editor.



“If you just set out to be liked, you would be prepared to compromise on anything at any time, and you would achieve nothing.” - Margaret Thatcher

INSIGHTS: NOTES FROM THE CCWH

6042 Blue Point Court
Clarksville, MD 21209