

SPRING 2025

# CCWH NEWSLETTER



## Co-Presidents' Column: Finding Hope in Turbulent Times

BY JESSICA PILEY, TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY AND NIMISHA BARTON, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

As the constitutional order continues to be undermined and the study of women and gender comes under more direct attack, things can feel rather gloomy. But in these troubled times, we at the CCWH wish to encourage you to resist the all-too natural slide towards pessimism. Rather, we enjoin you to remain active and proactive against the daily assaults on human dignity that we and our communities face. In that spirit, the CCWH signed on to the [AHA-OAH statement](#) advocating for the honest telling of our collective and individual histories. Please know that we will continue to demonstrate our commitment to the ongoing struggle for human rights.

In these dark times, the vibrant and necessary work of our graduate student members and prize winners was one bright spot. At the annual meeting of the American Historical Meeting in New York City in January of this year, the CCWH organized two round tables featuring nine graduate students who shared their research with one another and received feedback from senior scholars. Of note, these were the only graduate-student focused panels on the entire AHA program. As such, they are a reminder of our organization's commitment to showcasing the exciting work being undertaken by our next generation of historians.

Similarly, the CCWH held its annual award ceremony in January and we both walked away from the ceremony feeling deeply grateful and hopeful about the state of the field of women's and gender history. Simply put, the work celebrated by our prize committees is vibrant, diverse, and necessary.

## In this issue:

Co-Presidents' column

PAGE 01

Executive Director column

PAGE 03

IFRWH Conference Reports

PAGE 04

2024 CCWH Award Winners

PAGE 08

Winner of the Prelinger Award

PAGE 09

Winner of the Fuchs Award

PAGE 11

Time to Renew

PAGE 12

Book reviews

PAGE 13

Call for book reviews

PAGE 17

BlueSky Announcement

PAGE 19

General Announcements

PAGE 20



Two graduate students received the Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Award: Hannah Olsen (Michigan State University) for her work examining discourses surrounding family planning in France from 1975 to 2000 and Chloe Proche (University of Virginia) for her work examining how African American women historicized emancipation during Jim Crow. You Lan (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) won the CCWH/Berks Graduate Student Award for her transnational research on the changing gender ideologies in the Chinese diaspora in the early twentieth century. These graduate students are producing dynamic work that centers questions of gender performance, reproductive rights, and political activism. Nothing could be more timely.

The winners of the CCWH scholarly article prizes are similarly ambitious in their theoretical sophistication, temporal scope, and regional diversity. We urge everyone to set aside the time to read these articles. The Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Prize was awarded to Jiya Pandya (Princeton University). Her article, "Crip Life Amidst Debilitation: Medicalization, Survival, and the Bhopal Gas Leak," uses a critical disability lens to explore the ways that victims of 1984's Bhopal Gas Leak understood their own embodied vulnerability to mobilize resources and ensure multiple forms of what she calls crip survival. The committee awarded Hayley Negrin (University of Illinois-Chicago) honorable mention for her article "Cockacoeske's Rebellion: Nathan Bacon, Indigenous Slavery, and Sovereignty in Early Virginia." The article focuses on Cockacoeske, a Powhatan weroansqua, who successfully defended her people from indigenous slavery by claiming and using English forms of political authority.

The Carol Gold Article Award was awarded to Jennifer Robin Terry and an honorable mention was given to Sarah Balakrishnan. Jennifer Robin Terry's (University of California, Berkeley) "Niños por la causa: Child Activists and the United Farm Workers Movement, 1965 - 1975," showcases the centrality of children as symbols and the agency of children as participants who joined Cesar Chavez and the striking campesinos in California. Sarah Balakrishnan's (Duke University) "Prison of the Womb: Gender, Incarceration and Capitalism on the Gold Coast of West Africa, c. 1500 - 1957" offers a provocative and necessary intervention in carceral studies, which tends to center the male experience of incarceration and to focus on Europe or North America. Instead, Balakrishnan shows how penal institutions in colonial Gold Coast (southern Ghana) manipulated the menstruation, impregnation, and birthing of women incarcerated for ransom. Congratulations to our fantastic winners!

Finally, our last newsletter was devoted to paying tribute to the life of our beloved friend Susan Trudgeon Dawson. We announced that the CCWH was fundraising for a Susan Trudgeon Dawson Award for Service, Scholarship, and Teaching. We are excited to announce that we hit our initial benchmark of raising \$5,000 and are now assembling a committee that will develop the call for applications, evaluation criteria, and award committee. As a reminder, the award is open to CCWH members whose careers have not followed the traditional tenure-track path. In the spirit of Sandra's pragmatism and her dedication to concrete aid to anyone who asked, we will not restrict the use of this award; it can be used for travel costs, necessary materials, research expenses, or care labor. We are hoping to continue to raise funds to meet our next benchmark of \$10,000 so that we can offer more than one Dawson prize a year. Thanks to all who donated, and if you missed the opportunity to do so, please visit this [site](#). Otherwise, please keep your eyes peeled for the new Dawson Prize application this summer!



## Executive Director Column

BY ELIZABETH EVERTON

Hello everyone,

The past few months have been difficult ones for scholars, and particularly scholars of the history of women, gender, and sexuality. For over 50 years, the CCWH has been dedicated to helping women historians and promoting women's and gender history. From our founding in 1969, the CCWH has taken a stand against discrimination against women in the historical profession, the exclusion of women from professional spaces, and the marginalization of women's and gender history. In the decades since, we have expanded to embrace women working in history at all career stages and in different career paths, from tenure-track academics to public historians and independent scholars, through events, mentoring, and financial support in the form of awards. We are committed to pursuing this mission even in the face of hardship, and we depend upon you, our members, to stand alongside us to uphold our common values.

Our six annual prizes support the important work being done by members at all stages of their careers, from graduate students to scholar-mentors giving generously of their time and support. I am delighted to announce that we have met our initial fundraising goal to create a seventh award, the Sandra Trudgen Dawson Award for Service, Scholarship, and Teaching. This award honors our beloved late Executive Director, member, and friend—Sandra Trudgen Dawson, whose tireless work in the service of women's history we wish to recognize and honor. This award will support CCWH members whose career has not followed the traditional tenure-track path with travel costs, necessary materials, research expenses, or care labor. Sandra was a dynamic scholar, indefatigable activist, and inspiration to many; we hope that this award can do her memory justice.

Despite having met our initial goal, we are still actively seeking support for this and our other six awards. The financial support we give and the activities we offer depend upon the generosity of members and friends. Last year, we launched fundraising drives to support both the Dawson Prize and our flagship award, the Catherine Prelinger Prize, the most prestigious funding source in the field of Women's and Gender History, a \$20,000 award given to support the work of a scholar who has not followed the traditional path of uninterrupted study from high school to college to graduate school. The scholars who have won this prize are as diverse as the history of the women they write about, and they have overcome extraordinary challenges. The impact of the prize on the individual scholars who have been recipients cannot be overstated.

To learn more about the Prelinger Prize and our other awards, please visit <https://theccwh.org/awards>. To make a donation, please visit <https://theccwh.org/donate>. Our CCWH community has withstood storms before; we must come together in solidarity to meet, manage, and triumph over present-day attacks on our shared work.





## International Federation for Research in Women's History 2024 Conference: Unpacking the Historiographies of Fifty Years of Japanese Women's History Inside and Outside of the Academy

SENDAGAYA CAMPUS, TSUDA UNIVERSITY, TOKYO, JAPAN, AUGUST 7-10, 2024  
BY DR. ELYSSA FAISOON, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

The IFRWH tri-annual conference took place from August 7- 10, 2024, at Tsuda University in Tokyo, Japan. The conference hosted 262 participants from 39 countries, including 115 from Japan. The theme of the conference was "Reflections on Major Issues in Women's History: Gender Equality, Gender Division of Labor, Political Participation, Sexuality, Family, and Society." In her opening remarks, IFRWH President and President of Tsuda University Yuko Takahashi noted that the conference begins one day after the commemoration of the August 6 atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, and would be ongoing during the August 9 commemoration of the bombing of Nagasaki. "This is a time and place," she said, "to think about peace."

The opening keynote lecture came from three scholars who reflected on the development of women's history in Japan. Yuriko Yokoyama of the National Museum of Japanese History (Rekihaku), used the museum as a focal point of her discussion of the development of Japanese women's history. Founded in 1981 as an inter-university research consortium by people who had experienced the trauma of war, Rekihaku focused on common people; but because the founders were all men, "common people" did not at first include women. In 2016 the museum hosted a collaborative research project focusing on women that led to an exhibition on "Gendered Japanese History" in 2020. The exhibition examined, among other topics, how Japan's family registration system (kōseki) distinguished men and women for purposes of taxation, and how those labels (and understandings of gender) changed over time from the eighth through the nineteenth centuries. The exhibition was immensely popular and made a significant intervention in public understandings of gender and gender history.

Linda Grove, Sophia University (Tokyo) emerita professor of Chinese history, discussed Japanese research on Chinese women's history, noting that Japanese historians of China are "partial insiders" having a shared language and shared historical patterns of family and society. Japan became a transmission space of new knowledge from the West to China in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Japanese historians of China have made important contributions to our understanding of Chinese women's history. For example, the Japanese historian Kazuko Ono's *Chinese Women in a Century of Revolution, 1850-1950* was first published in Japan in 1978 and was released in English translation to great acclaim in 1988. Among more recent projects are the edited volume *Gender History in China*, first published in Japanese and now available in both English and Chinese, and the American historian Susan Mann's book *The Talented Daughters of the Zhang Family*, which has now been translated into Japanese.

Finally, Kumie Inose of Konan University (Japan) discussed recent trends in Japanese research on European gender history. Her address highlighted noteworthy publications, including translations, that have moved beyond Eurocentrism and the nation-state in their considerations of gender. These include the recent (2024) publication in Japanese of *The Gender Encyclopedia* (Jenda jiten), edited



by Yuko Matsumoto; the 3-volume edited collection *World History of Gender* (in Japanese, 2023-2024); and the 2011 Japanese translation of American historian Lynn Hunt's *Inventing Human Rights*, among many others.

What these keynote addresses and the conference as a whole bear out is the critical importance of the work of translation in creating international, translation, and global histories of women and gender.



Barbara Molony (Santa Clara) Elyssa Faison (U Oklahoma), Carolyn Eichner (Board member, Wisconsin Milwaukee). EB (past President, UCSB). Clare Midgley (Past President, Sheffield Hattem)





## International Federation for Research in Women's History 2024 Conference: Conference Report

SENDAGAYA CAMPUS, TSUDA UNIVERSITY, TOKYO, JAPAN, AUGUST 7-10, 2024  
BY DR. ASHA ISLAM NAYEEM, UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA, BANGLADESH

There were 68 sessions at the 2024 Tokyo Conference of IFRWH held at Tsuda University over four days from August 7 to August 10. Choosing which sessions to go to was a daunting task as simultaneous sessions had presentations that had alluring themes. The theme of Session 18, which took place on August 8, was "Hidden in Textiles: Clothing in Japan, Egypt, and the United States," chaired by Tomoko Ozawa of Musashino Art University. Professor Rie Mori of Japan Women's University presented the first paper titled "Transcultural Aspects of Clothing Among Hokkaido Ainu People in the Late 19th Century." The treatment of the Ainu people is still a contentious issue in Japan's national politics. The Japanization policy after colonization in 1869 which began with changing the island's name from Ezo to Hokkaido and subsequent cultural subjugation beginning from clothing to language came up in this paper. However, it glossed over the nuanced undercurrent of political tension with the central government.

The second paper titled "Unveiling Egyptian Feminists: Identity Politics and Dress in the Early 20th Century" presented by Emi Goto of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies was illuminating. The paper was based on the life and work of Egypt's most celebrated feminist Huda Sha'arawi (1879-1947) who founded the Egyptian Feminist Union in 1923. Along with two other feminists Nabawiyya Musa and Saiza Nabarawi, she represented Egyptian women in the 9th Conference of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Rome in 1923. The audience engaged in a lively question and answer session.

The third paper cast a gloom on the audience as Keio University professor Yukako Otori presented a poignant picture of transatlantic migrations to the US and the plight of the Italian, Slovak, Greek, Finnish, and Hungarian immigrants who landed on Ellis Island. Women and young girls alike wore head and body scarves which, besides being a cultural item, were used as a tool of concealment of skin conditions that would guarantee deportation if discovered. The most common skin disease found on the skull was Favus. Particularly painful to hear was the story of a woman who was using the cultural practice of covering the body to conceal the corpse of her dead child who had died during the passage and who she couldn't bring herself to throw into the ocean as required.

For Session 29 of the Tokyo Conference, Session Chair Dr. Asha Islam Nayeem presided over two interesting presentations. The first presentation was given by Miwa Yokoyama of Tsuru University, Japan, titled "The Politics of Birth Control in the New Deal Era," and the second presentation was delivered by Bulkhia U. Panalondong of Central Mindanao University, the Philippines, titled "#MeToo Movement in East Asia: Exploring the Impact of the Feminist Movement and Post-Covid-19 Societal Changes on Women's History." The title of the first paper is paradoxical as it uses "birth control" as a key word instead of "abortion" while narrating the politics of abortion that uses the high-flying rhetoric of "human rights" or "right to life." Scientifically speaking, birth control and abortion are two different things. This fundamental paradox is exposed as Father John A. Ryan, an Irish Catholic who is against abortion but recommends the Ogino method of birth control. The speaker discussed



Margaret Sanger's work and her life-long fight with the Catholic Church. The second paper evoked highly charged emotions from the audience as the presenter discussed the impact of feminist advocacy, amplified gender inequalities, reevaluation of gender roles, the role of media, policy and legal reforms, internal feminist discourses and challenges for future directions of the movement. The paper was informative and a lengthy discussion followed.

There was a very interesting paper from Iceland in Session 51, chaired by Dr. Asha Islam Nayeem. Thamar Heijstra and Gyoa Margret from the University of Iceland talked about "Resilient Voices: Feminist Academics in Iceland from Past to Present." They put forward the concepts of the ivory basement as opposed to the ivory tower. They also talked about the concept of cruel optimism where women aspire to reach the pinnacles of their careers but are bound to languish in the basement of the metaphorical ivory tower because gender bias operates as a barrier to the top. Finally, a joint research done by Yuko Takahashi, IFRWH President and President of Tsuda University, and Dianne Rodriguez-Kiino of California Lutheran University on STEM Education in Japan: Examining the Pipeline for Female Leadership came up with the conclusion that longer hours in the laboratory, chauvinistic work environment, and huge societal expectations on women prohibit more women from joining STEM fields. The post-presentation question-answer session was very animated as both the papers touched a very sensitive chord. All in all, the Tokyo conference left a lasting impression on the attendees from 39 countries not only because of the enlightened academic experience but also because it was an opportunity to explore Japan.



Justine Modica (Cornell) with Estelle Friedman (Stanford, her dissertation advisor!)



## 2024 CCWH Award Winners

### **Catherine Prelinger Award**

Winner: Briana Royster, *Of Our Stock and Blood: Black Missionaries, the Guianas, and Global Racial Progress, 1838-1945*.

Award Committee:

Chair: Leisa Meyer (2023-2025)

Cherisse Jones-Branch (2022-2024)

Felicity Turner (2023-2025)

Ashley Baggett (2023-2025)

Alicia Gutierrez-Romine (2024-2026)

### **Carol Gold Article Award**

Winner: Jennifer Robin Terry, "Niños por la causa: Child Activists and the United Farm Worker Movement, 1965-1975," *Pacific Historical Review* 92, no. 2 (Spring 2023): 227-259.

Honorable Mention: Sarah Balakrishnan, "Prison of the Womb: Gender, Incarceration and Capitalism on the Gold Coast of West Africa, c. 1500-1957," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 65.2 (2023), 296-320.

Award Committee:

Chair: Tina Kibbe (2022-2024)

Jacqueline-Bethel Mougoue (2023-2025)

Lisa Arrastia (2022-2024)

### **Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Prize**

Winner: Jiya Pandya, "Crip Life Amidst Debilitation: Medicalization, Survival, and the Bhopal Gas Leak" *Disability Studies Quarterly (DSQ)* 43.1 (Fall 2023).

Honorable Mention: Hayley Negrin "Cockacoeske's Rebellion: Nathaniel Bacon, Indigenous Slavery, and Sovereignty in Early Virginia," *William and Mary Quarterly* 80, no. 1 (2023): 49-86.

Award Committee:

Chair: Erin Bush (2022-2024)

Sandrine Sanos (2023-2025)

Emily Tai (2022-2024)

### **CCWH/Berks Graduate Student Fellowship**

Winner: You Lan (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), "The Chinese Diaspora in the Reinvention of Heteronormativity in California and Guangdong, 1900s-1940s"

Award Committee:

Chair: Meg Gudgeirsson (2022-2024)

Nicole Bauer (2023-2025)

Elyssa Ford (2024-2026)





### **Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Fellowship**

Co-Winner: Hannah Olsen, "Toujours un drame" ? : Narratives of Family Planning in France, 1975-2000"

Co-Winner: Chloe Porche, "Slavery's Ghost, and the Spirit of Resistance: Black Women Look Back on Emancipation in the Age of Jim Crow, 1865-1925.

### **Rachel Fuchs Memorial Award for Excellence in Mentorship and Service to Women/LGBTQ in the Profession**

Winner: Susan Burch, Middlebury College

Ida B. Wells and Rachel Fuchs Award Committee:

Chair: Alison Kibler (2022-2024)

Evan Hart (2023-2025)

Pam Stewart (2024-2026)

## **Prelinger Award: Bryanna Aldine Royster 's Study of African American Missionaries in Guyana Weaves Histories of Empire, Religion, and Black Nationalism**

BY LEISA MEYER, COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY, FOR THE COMMITTEE

After a harrowing and traumatic start to her educational journey Dr. Royster left the University of Alabama and worked for ten years in Tuscaloosa before deciding to return to college. She notes that one of the main prompts for her return was her grandmother who was a storyteller and shared details of her life experiences as a black woman living in rural Alabama. Dr. Royster moved from her start as a chemical engineering student to a history major and began her search for ways to capture other histories, like those shared by her grandmother, and document the lived experiences of black women in the rural south. Drawing inspiration from her own life as well her focus became "... exploring the lives of other Black women trying to make do in a world that tried to delimit and undermine them." After she received her bachelor's degree she moved to NYU and the doctoral program in African Diaspora History.

Her dissertation, now book manuscript in progress, is the project for which she sought funding in applying for the Prelinger Award. This project, "'Of Our Stock and Blood': Black Missionaries, the Guianas, and Global Racial Progress, 1838-1945" is focused on black missionaries in Guyana and Suriname. She particularly concentrates on missionaries from the two largest African American Christian denominations— the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the National Baptist Convention. Her work considers questions of how and why Black missionaries chose sites in South America for their missions and analyzes how gender, race, and questions of empire shaped missionaries' sense of themselves and those they encountered at mission sites. As she notes in her application, her book "draws on interdisciplinary frameworks from Africana and gender studies" and she argues that "as the United States emerged as an imperial power during the late nineteenth century" these missionaries of African descent worked within African Methodist Episcopal (AME) and National Baptist Conventions, USA, Inc. (NBC) churches in (formerly) British Guiana and Dutch Guiana" and through these connections "drew upon their own notions of empire and race to leverage power in both South America and the United States."



Her book project offers a remarkably nuanced picture of how black women participated within these missions that were often framed by masculinist logics and rhetoric and whose most visible leaders were black men. She draws a picture of a movement that was both liberationist, imperial, and *nationalist*. The “nation” being “built” through these missions was both ideological and transatlantic and although usually such efforts downplay the work of women, the experiences of black female missionaries undercuts this “typical” portrait.

In her questions, analysis, and approach to this project Dr. Royster does not shy away from the realities of black missionary work as in line with broader imperialist efforts of the U.S. and other countries. As one of her recommenders comments, Dr. Royster “explicitly considers Afro-diasporic connections as part of a larger project of empire that depended and at times flourished through Black women’s labor.” Yet, within that context, Dr. Royster characterizes missions to promote Black Christian solidarity as both “conservative, but transformative.” This same recommender concludes “The morally complicated positions and perspectives of the central actors in her story are precisely what makes this study so fascinating.”

As another of her recommenders summarizes “the book, once published, will make a highly significant contribution to the history of the African Diaspora and Black Nationalism, and especially to understanding the relationship between African American religious institutions in the Caribbean, Black masculinities, Black women’s religious labor, changing notions of gender and power, and hemispheric imperial projects.”

As impressive as her book manuscript promises to be, is the fact that Dr. Royster as a graduate student and current junior faculty member has consistently worked to mentor and aid black female undergraduate and graduate students in all their educational work. She was chosen by the NYU African Diaspora history department to serve as the graduate student representative to their Diversity Committee. Her work on behalf of marginalized women while occupying this position led to her nomination and selection for the Patricia M. Carey Changemaker Award, a campus-wide prize recognizing a student who has advocated for the betterment of communities across difference.

Last, after receiving her PhD, Dr. Royster chose to take a position as an Assistant Professor of History in the Department of Gender and Race Studies at the site of some of her most intense challenges, her undergraduate alma mater the University of Alabama. And as during her graduate student years (and before and beyond) she has continued her work to support and mentor black and/or economically disadvantaged women on campus to navigate the everyday challenges they face. As she notes in her application, she “returned” to The University of Alabama “because of my personal and intellectual commitments to Black women in the South.” Those commitments are abundantly apparent in her trajectory and successes as an advisor and a mentor as well as in what each of her recommenders considers a vitally important and interventionist book project. We applaud Dr. Royster’s courage, her significant scholarship, and her mentorship and support of black female peers, colleagues, and students.



## CCWH Honors Dr. Susan Burch, A Pathbreaking Mentor in Disability Studies

BY JESSICA PILEY, TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

The CCWH has awarded Dr. Susan Burch the 2024 Rachel Fuchs Memorial Award for Excellence in Mentorship and Service to Women/LGBTQ in the Profession. Dr. Burch is a groundbreaking scholar of U.S. disability history based in the American Studies program at Middlebury College. In her body of work, she recovers forgotten and neglected stories of people with disabilities while carefully attending to the ways that racial exclusion and class ideologies shaped the institutions that people labeled as “disabled” encounters.

Dr. Burch is the author of three award-winning books: 2002’s *Signs of Resistance: American Deaf Cultural History, 1900-1942*, 2007’s *Unspeakable: The Story of Junius Wilson*, and 2021’s *Committed: Remembering Native Kinship In and Beyond Institutions*. She has co-edited a number of anthologies that have shaped the fields of disability history and disability studies, including *Disability Histories* (with Michael Rembis, University of Illinois Press, 2014), *Deaf and Disability Studies* (with Alison Kafer, Gallaudet University Press, 2010), and *Women and Deafness: Double Visions* (with Brenda Brueggemann, Gallaudet University Press, 2006). She is also the author of numerous articles about disability history and settler colonialism; women, deaf culture, and history; the state of disability history and gender; and accessible pedagogy and advising. Though the impact of her scholarship on the field of disability history has been profound, I would argue that her more significant legacy has been her mentorship of a generation of students and colleagues who are moving disability history from a tiny field with only a handful of scholars to a dynamic field of inquiry that poses questions and challenges that aim at the heart of US political economy.

Though Middlebury College, as a private liberal arts institution, does not offer graduate education, Dr. Burch has tirelessly advised an entire generation of PhD students pursuing disability history and disability studies. She has served on five MA thesis committees and 12 dissertation committees for students from programs that range from Yale University to Ghent University to SUNY-Stonybrook. But Dr. Burch’s generosity extends beyond students who she formally advised. As Audra Jennings (Western Kentucky University) observes: “Although I was not her graduate student or a student at her institution, she helped me to make connections to organize my first conference panel. Indeed, across the two decades that I have known her, Susan has connected me with numerous scholars. She has read drafts of book chapters and articles, offered support and encouragement, connected me with opportunities, written letters for me, and cheered my successes.”

Dr. Burch’s commitment to mentorship is also reflected in her service profile. Since 2013 she has served as a member of the American Historical Association’s Advisory Committee on Disability Mentorship Program. She also regularly hosts webinars for the Disability History Association’s student group on professional development skills like composing job documents or writing blog posts about how to ask for letters of recommendation. All of these efforts have yielded impressive results for the individual scholars and for the field. “Her readiness to offer her time and support to younger, early career, and contingent scholars makes a very real difference in bolstering the relatively small field of Disability History,” notes Sarah Handley-Cousins (University of Toronto).



# Time to Renew!



## **DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025**

Renewing allows you to continue to be part of this vibrant community and enjoy the initiative and programs we are offering.

Renew your membership at <http://theccwh.org/membership/>

If you have questions, please contact [membership@theccwh.org](mailto:membership@theccwh.org)

As always, spread the word to friends, colleagues, and students who may be interested in our organization and its mission.



## **Dorothy Sue Cobble, *For the Many: American Feminists and the Global Fight for Democratic Equality*. Princeton University Press, 2021. 584 pp. ISBN: 978-0691156873.**

REVIEWED BY EINAV RABINOVITCH-FOX, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

The transnational turn has been a mainstay in U.S. history for quite some time now, but in recent years, feminist scholars have joined the trend. From globalizing the suffrage movement and examining the work of international organizations to exploring global networks around issues of reproductive rights, sex trafficking, and civil rights, new studies have placed U.S. feminism in a broader international context, offering a more complex understanding of the interconnectedness of feminist struggles and campaigns around the world. Dorothy Cobble's *For the Many: American Feminists and the Global Fight for Democratic Equality* adds to this critical scholarship by highlighting the role of American working-class women and women of color as they fought to advance social justice and equality for all.

Cobble has written extensively on the centrality of working-class women and labor feminism in shaping the feminist movement in the U.S. Yet, by shifting her perspective beyond the U.S., *For the Many* grounds the contributions of labor feminists to world politics. The focus on working women allows Cobble to tell a story that challenges traditional periodizations and understandings of American feminism, offering a narrative that stretches over most of the twentieth century and points to the continuity of women's struggle for equal rights and democracy. This periodization also allows Cobble to amplify less familiar actors such as Rose Schneiderman, Mary McLeod Bethune, Mary Anderson, Frieda Miller, Maida Springer, and Esther Peterson and to reclaim their rightful place in the movement.

Cobble labels the women in her book as "full rights feminists" as a way to "foreground their desire for the full array of rights and their belief that civil and political rights are intertwined with social and economic" (3). She expands the definition of feminism, showing that it is not limited to a narrow vision of gender equality but is an encompassing ideology that seeks to better all people's lives and to promote economic justice. Indeed, the fight for economic justice—through unions, equal pay, and international organizations such as the United Nations and the International Labor Organization (ILO)—is central to the book.

One of the book's most intriguing aspects is Cobble's decision to focus on the Women's Trade Union League (WTUL) as the exemplar of full rights feminist internationalism. Founded in 1903, WTUL was a mixed-class group of labor organizers and social reformers who prioritized the interests of working-class women. Whereas U.S. women's historians would be familiar with WTUL's activity around suffrage and labor organizing, Cobble convincingly argues for its international focus and scope. She situates the League as an important player in global politics, especially before and after World War I, most notably the Women's Labor Congress and the first ILO's International Labor Conference (ILC) in 1919.



Cobble acknowledges the limitation of women's power on the world stage, and much of her book is a story of partial successes, missed opportunities, and sometimes outright failure. Many of the organizations these women founded were short-lived, and global and national politics often prevented women from enacting meaningful change. One example is the WTUL's failure to introduce its "working women's charter" in Versailles, arriving after the Labor Commission had adjourned. Full rights feminists managed to gain more success in the 1930s, as their vision for social democracy garnered more influence in the Roosevelt administration and in shaping New Deal programs. By 1937 and 1938, this influence translated to the ILO's adoption of the Women's Rights Resolution and the Lima Declaration of Equal Rights, putting the full rights feminist agenda on the global stage. However, it was only after World War II, when a new generation of full rights feminists entered the world stage, that their vision of equal democracy took hold, promoting a new understanding that saw women's rights as human rights, as articulated in the UN Charter and its Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Despite Cobble's attempts to highlight Black American women's crucial international work, she also acknowledges that Black and white women's internationalism ran parallel but separate (56). Whereas WTUL was not a segregationist organization per se, the politics of women's activism throughout much of the twentieth century makes the argument of multiracial coalition less compelling. Additionally, the international networks these women formed were also separate. While Black activists were at the forefront of Pan-Africanism, WTUL's networks were primarily based in the European and Anglo-speaking world, again showing the difficulties of creating a genuinely global, multiracial, multiethnic social democratic women's movement. Some Black women appear in the book; however, Asian, Latina, Native American and other women of marginalized groups are almost entirely absent. Cobble is much more successful in pointing to the cross-class solidarities that full rights feminists promoted and the long-lasting relationships they fostered among working-class women worldwide.

Moreover, although *For the Many* aims to tell a transnational and even international story, the book is more about American women and their global networks and how they shaped and influenced the fight for social democracy in the U.S. than the development of international feminism. Cobble is correct in arguing that the U.S. was not always a model for or a leader of global feminism and that U.S. feminists often turned to places like Latin America and Scandinavia for inspiration. Indeed, one of the book's biggest strengths is decentralizing the American perspective and hegemony in advancing women's equality, showing that, more often, the "United States had as much to learn as to teach" (222).

Cobble excels in threading the local with the global, giving attention not only to tensions among American feminists and their international peers but also to internal debates among U.S. feminists and their competing visions. She tells this complicated and continuously changing story without losing the reader's attention. Her beautiful and clear prose makes it easy to follow the multiple actors and organizations across time and space. A list of abbreviations at the end also facilitates the reading and keeping up with the many acronyms in the book. Although the history that Cobble delineates is not a celebratory one of "upward progress" (10), she aptly argues for the importance and relevancy of full-rights feminism. Her epilogue reminds the readers of the lessons we can take from the feminists of the last century, providing a hopeful and useful model for feminism today.





## **Ann Youngblood Mulhearn, *Social Justice from Outside the Walls: Catholic Women in Memphis, 1950-1970*. Lexington Books, 2024. 234 pp. ISBN: 978-1666922288.**

REVIEWED BY MARY M. BÁTHORY VIDAVER, UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

In the various marches that marked the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s, the sight of a priest's collar or nun's habit in a photograph does not surprise us. We have long associated religion and this movement in the accepted narrative. Too frequently, however, we might assume that Catholic participation was white and Northern. In her new monograph, *Social Justice from Outside the Walls: Catholic Women in Memphis, 1950-1970*, Ann Youngblood Mulhearn demonstrates the flaws in both assumptions. She also provides a useful study of intersectionality and how Catholic women in Memphis experienced and linked the upheavals related to civil rights, women's rights, and Vatican II.

Mulhearn anchors her study in the lives of six Memphis women—three Black and three white, born between 1917 and 1929. All three white women and one African American woman were 'cradle Catholics,' born into the church, while the other two were adult converts. All of the women were college-educated and worked before they married. One woman took religious vows; the others raised children—though several worked concurrently by choice rather than need. All were firmly ensconced in the middle class. Tracing their lives, Mulhearn demonstrates the breadth of Black and white Catholicism in terms of numbers and institutions across the region.

Mulhearn also explores the women's spiritual journeys as they negotiated the cognitive gap created by the Catholic church's stated belief in race equality versus the reality of life in the South from the circumscribed role of Catholic womanhood. This involves a deep dive into the theological currents of interwar and post-war Catholicism in which these women came to adulthood and, later, Vatican II. She does this in a way that is both doctrinally precise and accessible to non-Catholics. Interestingly, a key influence on four of the women was Dorothy Day and her Catholic Worker Movement. Two of the women worked directly with Day's organization, leading to the brief existence of a Memphis home styled on the Catholic Worker house in New York.

What emerges from these profiles placed in their historical and theological context is an understanding of the double set of fences faced by white Catholic women, the triple set faced by African Americans, and the spiritual commitment required to hold a mirror of faith up to white Christians—Catholics and Protestants—in Memphis. None of these women and their allies emerged unscathed—one left Memphis for California, another, one of the most visible and mystically inclined, ultimately joined her husband's Presbyterian church. Yet, they persisted in integrating the state's Catholic schools and forging a "municipal housekeeping" public role for Catholic women. They welcomed and marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. before his death and played an instrumental role in providing the sanitation workers union with a meaningful victory the following year.

Overall, this book adds to a growing corpus of work on Southern Catholics—Black and white—and the role of women in the region's social movements. However, there were a couple of places where I



wish Mulhearn had dived a bit deeper into her historiography. First, her reliance on a text from 1964 extends a narrative of Southern Catholic marginalization currently under challenge by such scholars as Andrew H. M. Stern and James M. Woods. In their narratives, the experience of Southern Catholics before and after the Civil War looked very different from the Catholic experience in Boston or New York City. My own dissertation research concurs that until the Americanism movements of the 1920s, whiteness counted more than religion—a priority resumed by the white Protestant majority in the face of the Civil Rights Movement. Secondly, Mulhearn gives no cognizance to parallel strands of theology within Protestantism during this period, concluding that Catholic women preceded Protestant women in their racial justice activism. For white Protestants, there may be some truth to this claim for white women. However, I would also point to the various iterations of social Christianity permeating the Young Women’s Christian Association throughout the 20th century.

These gaps notwithstanding, Mulhearn’s book provides a fine, well-written account that should encourage further work on the impact of race, religion, and gender at the local level within larger social movements. These six women had numerous peers across the region, particularly in the Catholic strongholds of Kentucky, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Virginia. In Richmond, the former capital of the Confederacy, Catholic women’s church groups were some of the earliest organized challengers to Massive Resistance—the Byrd Organization strategy to prevent public school integration—a hidden narrative that bears resurrection. This book provides a framework for that future scholarship.



## Call for Reviewers and Books for Review

KARLA J. STRAND, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, REVIEWS EDITOR

Have you been thinking about writing a book review? Now's your chance!  
The CCWH wants you to contribute a review of a recently published book in women's history.

Reviews are usually 600 to 800 words, and deadlines are flexible. I will provide you with a copy of the book from the publisher. Reviews are published in the upcoming newsletter and online. I'd like to call attention to several books published by members of The CCWH that we'd like to have reviewed:

- *An Efficient Womanhood: Women and the Making of the Universal Negro Improvement Association*, by Natanya Duncan, UNC Press, 2025.
- *Soong Mayling and Wartime China, 1937-1945: Deploying Words as Weapons*, by Esther T. Hu, Lexington Books, 2024.
- *Gender, Separatist Politics, and Embodied Nationalism in Cameroon*, by Jacqueline-Bethel Tchouta Mougoue, University of Michigan Press, 2020.
- *Music for the Kingdom of Shadows: Cinema Accompaniment in the Age of Spiritualism*, by Kendra Preston Leonard, 2019.

Additional suggestions of recent books to choose from:

- *Abortion Pills: US History and Politics*, by Carrie N. Baker, Amherst College Press, 2025.
- *Amish Women and the Great Depression*, by Katherine Jellison and Steven D. Reschly, Johns Hopkins UP, 2023.
- *Becoming Catawba: Catawba Indian Women and Nation-Building, 1540-1840*, by Brooke M. Bauer, University of Alabama Press, 2022.
- *Blackbirds Singing: Inspiring Black Women's Speeches from the Civil War to the Twenty-first Century*, by Janet Stewart Bell, The New Press, 2024.
- *Black Woman on Board: Claudia Hampton, the California State University, and the Fight to Save Affirmative Action*, by Donna J. Nicol, University of Rochester Press, 2024.
- *Black Women Taught Us: An Intimate History of Black Feminism*, by Jenn M. Jackson, Random House, 2024.
- *A Body of One's Own: A Trans History of Argentina*, by Patricio Simonetto, University of Texas Press, 2024.
- *Chicana Liberation: Women and Mexican American Politics in Los Angeles, 1945-1981*, by Marisela R Chavez, University of Illinois Press, 2024.
- *Coerced Liberation: Muslim Women in Soviet Tajikistan*, by Zamira Abman, University of Toronto Press, 2024.
- *Embodied Histories: New Womanhood in Vienna, 1894-1934*, by Katya Motyl, Univ. of Chicago Press, 2024.
- *The Future Is Feminist: Women and Social Change in Interwar Algeria*, by Sara Rahnama, Cornell University Press, 2023.
- *Have You Got Good Religion? Black Women's Faith, Courage, and Moral Leadership in the Civil Rights Movement*, by Annemarie Mingo, University of Illinois Press, 2024.





- *In the Shadow of Liberty: The Invisible History of Immigrant Detention in the United States*, by Ana Raquel Minian, Viking, 2024.
- *Looking Through the Speculum: Examining the Women's Health Movement*, by Judith A. Houck, Univ. of Chicago Press, 2024.
- *Mae Mallory, the Monroe Defense Committee, and World Revolutions: African American Women Radical Activists*, by Paula Marie Seniors, University of Georgia Press, 2024.
- *Merze Tate: The Global Odyssey of a Black Woman Scholar*, by Barbara D. Savage, Yale University Press, 2023.
- *The Missing Thread: A Women's History of the Ancient World*, by Daisy Dunn, Viking, 2024.
- *Night Flyer: Harriet Tubman and the Faith Dreams of a Free People*, by Tiya Miles, Penguin, 2024.
- *The Rise and Fall of the Second American Republic: Reconstruction, 1860-1920*, by Manisha Sinha, Liveright, 2024.
- *The Rocks Will Echo Our Sorrow: The Forced Displacement of the Northern Sami*, by Elin Anna Labba, University of Minnesota Press, 2024.
- *Schooling the Nation: The Success of the Canterbury Academy for Black Women*, by Jennifer Rycenga, Univ. of Illinois Press, 2025.
- *A Seat at the Table: Black Women Public Intellectuals in US History and Culture*, edited by Hettie Williams and Melissa Ziobro, Univ. Press of Mississippi, 2023.
- *A Short History of Trans Misogyny*, by Jules Gill-Peterson, Verso, 2024.
- *Surviving Southampton: African American Women and Resistance in Nat Turner's Community*, by Vanessa M. Holden, University of Illinois Press, 2021.
- *To Advance the Race: Black Women's Higher Education From the Antebellum Era to the 1960s*, by Linda M. Perkins, University of Illinois Press, 2024.
- *Vagabond Princess: The Great Adventures of Gulbadan*, by Ruby Lal, Yale University Press, 2024.
- *We Refuse: A Forceful History of Black Resistance*, by Kellie Carter Jackson, Seal Press, 2024.
- *Who Is a Worthy Mother?: An Intimate History of Adoption*, by Rebecca Wellington, University of Oklahoma Press, 2024.
- *The Women's Revolution: How We Changed Your Life*, by Muriel Fox, New Village Press, 2024.
- *50 Years of Ms.: The Best of the Pathfinding Magazine That Ignited a Revolution*, edited by Katherine Spillar, Knopf, 2023.

Please contact me at [reviews@theccwh.org](mailto:reviews@theccwh.org) if you are interested in reviewing one of the titles above, you'd like to suggest a book to review that's not included here, or if you're a CCWH member and you've recently published a book - we'd like to announce it and get it reviewed!





# The CCWH is now on Bluesky!



We're live and ready to connect! The CCWH has officially joined Bluesky to foster conversations on women's history, gender and sexuality studies, and inclusive historical scholarship.

 **Follow us at [[@theccwh.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/org/theccwh)]** for:

- ✓ Updates on conferences, CFPs, and opportunities
- ✓ Spotlights on women historians and groundbreaking research
- ✓ Resources for scholars, educators, and history enthusiasts
- ✓ Engaging discussions on gender, race, class, sexuality and more!

 Join our growing community and be part of the conversation 



*The Coordinating Council for*  
**WOMEN IN HISTORY**





## General Announcements

### **New Book Series Call for Proposals—Queer and Trans Histories”**

Members may be interested to learn that the University of Manchester Press has launched a new book series that aims to be the premier destination for scholars of Queer and Trans histories. Though edited in the UK, the series features the leading scholars of trans and queer history on its advisory board. Submission guidelines can be found here:

<https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/series/queer-and-trans-histories/>

### **Call for Proposals for Conference Papers & Panels:**

The University of Central Oklahoma in Edmund, OK, is holding its 10th Annual International Gender and Sexuality Studies Conference devoted to the theme “The Past as Knowledge. Applications are due April 18th. <https://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/cfp/2025/01/27/tenth-international-gender-and-sexuality-studies-conference-1017-18-2025>

The Critical Femininities Research Cluster at the Centre for Feminist Research at York University in Canada invites abstracts from scholars, researchers, activists, and artists for the fifth annual Critical Femininities Conference on the theme of “Connection.” The conference will take place virtually on August 15-17, 2025. The due date for proposals is March 22, 2025.

<https://www.yorku.ca/cfr/annual-critical-femininities-conference/>

### **Mark Your Calendars! Conferences and Meetings:**

The Western Association of Women’s Historians will meet April 23-26, 2025, at the Ayers Hotel and Conference Center in Costa Mesa/Newport Beach, CA. The conference will feature a keynote from Dr. Lydia R. Otero, an award-winning author and scholar of urban redevelopment and power.

The Berks is hosting its annual retreat, affectionately known as the “Little Berks,” in Evanston, Illinois, on May 30-June 1, 2025. We have an amazing line up of evening speakers including Jennifer Brier and Debra Fleming speaking on a Living Women’s History of HIV/AIDS, Jeanne Theoharis speaking on her newest book, King of the North, a graduate student and early career scholar workshop, as well as time to gather, talk, write, take walks and catch up with colleagues and friends. Book your room at the Hilton Orrington now! <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/berkshireconferenceofwomenhistoriansroomblock/>





## General Announcements Continued

The Southern Association of Women's History will meet June 19-22, 2025, at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida. From the SAWH's website: "In partnership with The Mary McLeod Bethune Institute for the Study of Women and Girls at Bethune-Cookman University, this SAWH meeting is an unprecedented opportunity for our organization to mark the 150th anniversary of Dr. Bethune's birth (and the 120th anniversary of the university). This year's theme, 'Unspeakable Challenges,' is inspired by yet another taxing moment in history. The Bethune Institute is an artfully crafted resource for intentional research, programming, and support for issues paramount to the survival and success of women and girls. Of particular note are gender equity topics such as women's leadership, food and housing security, body image, physical and sexual health and safety, LGBTQ+ challenges, mental health and emotional wellness, maternal health, and healthy relationships. In this spirit, we want to address the front lines of the battle to ensure a bright future for all in this state and nation."

<https://thesawh.org/2025-triennial-call-for-proposals/>