

Insights Notes From the CCWH

53:2 • SUMMER 2022



Lucy M. Montgomery Anne's House of Dreams, 1917



"All in all, it was a never-to-be-forgotten summer one of those summers which come seldom into any life, but leave a rich heritage of beautiful memories in their going — one of those summers which, in a fortunate combination of delightful weather, delightful friends and delightful doing, come as near to perfection as anything can come in this world."

In this issue

Notes From The Executive Director's Desk

Thoughts From The Grad Reps

Membership Committee News

Public History Today

Connections Coordinator News

Notes from the Executive Director

Dear CCWH Members,

January may get the glory, but for my money, it's June that merits the god of gates, doorways, archways, and other such spaces of transition as its tutelary deity. It's a month of looking forward and looking back: anticipating the future while assessing the prior year. Even the most diligent student reviewing the year's coursework for their finals can't help but be distracted by thoughts of their plans for the summer. Likewise, their instructors—many of us!—grade those finals with a metaphorical eye on the door.



Elizabeth Everton, PhD

Travel for research, travel for pleasure, or just the opportunity to do something different for a while these are the enticements of June. I'm not sure this feeling really goes away. I've been off the academic calendar for 6 years now, but I still feel stirred by June and, judging from the number of out-of-office replies and empty desks at my workplace, so do many of my coworkers.

For the CCWH, this June is, more than ever, a time to reflect upon the past while looking to the future. 2022 is a historic year for the CCWH: it is the 25th anniversary of the Catherine Prelinger Award. This award honors Catherine Prelinger, our former president, who advocated for recognition and access for nontraditional and independent historians. The award was set up in 1997, with the first awardee in 1998. As I write, the Prelinger award committee is just about to start reading the applications from scholars seeking to be the twenty-fifth.

The objective of the Prelinger Award is to enhance the work of a contemporary scholar whose academic path has not followed the traditional path of uninterrupted study and to recognize the contribution of scholars often marginalized within the academy. In this, it reflects the goal of the CCWH to support and foster the inclusion of all women in the historical profession and is a place where women historians of all backgrounds and professional statuses-tenure-track and nontenure track faculty, araduate students. elementary and secondary teachers, public historians, independent scholars, and more-can find a wide variety of resources, support, and community to help them thrive.

"For the CCWH, this June is, more than ever, a time to reflect upon the past while looking to the future."

It was with this goal in mind that the CCWH applied for and won an AHA-NEH Grant to Sustain and Advance the Work of Historical Organizations. This grant is part of an initiative by the American Historical Association, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, to support small history-related organizations nationwide and deliver relief to organizations adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. With this funding, we will be able to bolster and extend our outreach efforts through online workshops and events that build on the fantastic work done by Einav Rabinovitch-Fox, Ilaria Scaglia, and everyone involved in the CCWH Membership/Mentorship Committee.

Starting in the summer, we will offer skills-focused workshops on a variety of topics relating to the work of historians and the historical profession. We will also be working to transform our website into a gathering spot for members and visitors alike, where they can easily learn about what the CCWH has to offer. The CCWH exists because of you, our members, and we want to do our best to offer you a warm and welcoming digital "home."

I'm happy to be looking to the past and the future with you,

Connect with the CCWH

We want to hear from you!



Find and follow us:

Facebook @theccwh

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Online at theccwh.org

Stay in Touch

Eager to spread the word about calls for papers, prizes, fellowship applications, job postings, and other opportunities?

Excited to announce your book, article, or award?

Email execdir@theccwh.org to have your announcement published in the newsletter, on the CCWH website, or on our social media!



Public History Column

Diversity, Sexual Harassment, and Gender Discrimination in the Public History Field

Dr. Elyssa Ford Associate Professor of History, Northwest Missouri State University

In recent years the museum and public history fields have been undergoing an examination of the diversity of the work they present (i.e. the contents of museum collections and the focus of exhibits) and the diversity within the fields themselves, along with the discrimination and harassment that people face working in public history institutions. Some museums, such as the Smithsonian and the Strong National Museum of Play, created diversity internships help students from underrepresented to communities gain working experience at their institutions while other organizations worked more broadly to support diversity within the instance. profession. For the Missouri Association for Museums and Archives, with support from the Missouri Humanities Council, established a diversity internship award intended to increase the diversity of the museum profession and to support museum projects focused on diverse communities and collections. This award provides support for students completing an internship at any location of their choosing.

Professional associations also have begun to examine concerns about diversity, inclusion, and harassment, both within their own organizations and across the field. In 2014 the National Council on Public History (NCPH) featured a series of posts entitled "Rethinking Diversity" on its History @ Work blog, and the following year NCPH created a diversity task force to address why so few people of color were engaged in public history as a career and why even fewer were members of the NCPH.

This was a needed discussion because the most recent survey of professional history and public history organizations, conducted in 2008, revealed that out of 3,800 survey respondents, only 7% identified as people of color. A Mellon Foundation survey in 2014 identified similar concerns in art museums. It reported 72% of art museum staff were white, with most people of color employed in facilities, security, or finance. The NCPH diversity task force initially focused on concerns related to racial diversity but also expanded its work on inclusion to include sexual harassment and gender discrimination, eventually form a standing committee to examine these concerns.





See above: two visuals from the April 2022 publication, "Report on Data Analysis of the Survey on Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Public History Field," from pages 24 and 36.

Early changes that resulted from this work in 2018 and 2019 included allowing conference attendees to indicate pronouns on conference badges, providing all-gender restrooms, and adding an events code of conduct for hosting venues and adding conduct at NCPH events to the existing NCPH code of ethics and professional conduct guidelines.

Diversity, Sexual Harassment, and Gender Discrimination in the Public History Field, Cont.

Most significantly, the NCPH, in partnership with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), launched a survey in 2020 to gather information about gender discrimination and sexual harassment in the public history field. The results were released in April 2022, and are reported on, in brief, here.

The survey was open for more than one year, and a total of 447 participants submitted responses. 76% of respondents reported experiencing gender discrimination and/or sexual harassment themselves and 61% knew someone who had. Only 11% of respondents had not experienced and did not know anyone who had experienced harassment or discrimination in a public history setting or educational institution. Despite these numbers, only 28% reported the harassment or discrimination to their employer. Respondents identified harassment and discrimination by colleagues (33%) and supervisors (32%) but also by visitors, donors, and board members (24%).

Employees at large and small institutions reported similar rates of incidents, and both similarly failed at addressing the incidents. The NCPH and AASLH plan to use this information to develop plans that will help create safer and more equitable public history spaces.

The conversations around diversity, equity, and inclusion around race and gender are on-going in the public history field, and participants on the various NCPH committees and task forces that are examining these issues are hopeful for change. The following years will be important ones to see what plans for action can be implemented, both in public history organizations like the NCPH and AASLH and in public history workplaces.

For more information, see:

- Tammy Messick Cherry and Heidi Kartchner, preparators, Report on Data Analysis of the Survey on Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Public History Field, AASLH and NCPH, April 2022, https://cdn.aaslh.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/04/13150504/Final-Report__GDSH-NCPH-AASLH_Oberg-Research.pdf.
- Brian Joyner, "Whither Diversity?" NCPH: History @ Work, 22 April 2016, https://ncph.org/history-at-work/whitherdiversity/.
- Modupe Labode, "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and the National Council on Public History," in Perspectives on the National Council on Public History on its 40th Anniversary, edited by Nicole Belolan and Marianne Babal, 2021, https://ncph.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/12/NCPH-40th-Anniversary-EPub.pdf.
- Mary Rizzo, "NCPH so White?" NCPH History @ Work, 11 March 2016, https://ncph.org/history-at-work/ncphso-white/.
- Mary Rizzo, "Launching the NCPH and AASLH Survey," NCPH: History @ Work, 23 September 2020, https://ncph.org/history-at-work/surveyon-sexual-harassment-and-genderdiscrimination-in-public-history/.
- Hope Shannon, "Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination in Public History Practice," in Perspectives on the National Council on Public History on its 40th Anniversary, edited by Nicole Belolan and Marianne Babal, 2021, https://ncph.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/12/NCPH-40th-Anniversary-EPub.pdf.
- Angela Thorpe, "Rethinking Diversity: Introduction," NCPH: History @ Work, 13 November 2014, https://ncph.org/historyat-work/rethinking-diversityintroduction/.

From the Grad Reps

Professional Academic Organizations Take Note: CCWH Sets New Standard for Supporting Graduate Students by Abolishing Fees for Low-Income Members

By: Julie A. Johnson

In March of 2022, the Board of Directors of the Coordinating Council for Women in History voted to eliminate annual fees for members who earn less than \$25,000 a year. The elimination of fees will begin with the 2023 membership year. This groundbreaking decision was made in a conscious effort to alleviate the economic burden of membership fees on graduate students. I encourage other professional organizations in our field to follow the lead of the CCWH in its bold, powerful action toward supporting graduate students.

For many graduate students, the path toward an advanced degree in History is paved with insecurity- of employment, housing, food, and funding. Professional academic organizations offer valuable programs for networking and collaborating with other scholars, certainly, but they are also a critical funding source upon which underemployed graduate students and new PhDs alike depend - just to make ends meet. Paradoxically, history graduate students shell out hundreds of dollars a year of money we do not have, just for a chance to potentially win a fellowship to support our research.

In turn, the fellowship application process creates its own insecurities. Graduate students invest significant time, resources, and membership fees to compete for funding we are statistically unlikely to win. Motivated grad students compensate for this improbability by applying for as many relevant awards offered by as many organizations as possible. Many professional academic organizations charge a membership fee in the realm of \$50 as a prerequisite for applying for these awards.

Unfortunately, the burden of these fees adds up to unmanageable quickly. A History graduate student at my public university in California might earn around \$21,000 a year. They might go entire summers without any funding and have to fight for TAships on a quarter-by-quarter basis as an advanced grad student. They would have no guarantees. That same student might expect to pay \$1200 per month in rent, leaving just \$9000 left over to cover ALL of their expenses for the rest of the year. This includes a year's worth of food. Utilities. Books. Clothing. Medical costs. Car Insurance. Public Transportation. Technology for research and teaching. Personal Expenses.

While a single \$50 fee might seem negligible considered in isolation, this burden is compounded with each award and with each respective professional organization. A dedicated individual might apply to ten awards a year and find themselves spending over 5% of their remaining income after housing on professional memberships alone.

By eliminating fees for grad students like myself and other low income-earners who experience crippling debt, housing insecurity, and employment instability, CCWH is setting a powerful example for other organizations on how to take an active stand in support of grad students. To offset potential financial loss, organizations can continue to accept voluntary donations from low-income members. More sustainably still, they can pursue institutional sponsorship of memberships by universities. I look forward to seeing how these changes not only enrich our own CCWH community, but also create space for generative discussions about the inequities of our profession and what we can do about them. Thank you for your support of graduate students and low-income members, CCWH!

Time to Renew!



Don't forget to renew your membership for 2022...

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.

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

We Want You!



We are urgently looking for volunteers to fill the following roles. If you know someone who would be a good fit, or if you are interested in one of these roles, please let us know:

> Media Coordinator Media Team Members Prize Committee Members

Please contact us at execdir@theccwh.org if you are interested and able to volunteer as soon as possible (before July 2022).

There are various opportunities and ways to help and volunteer (not only the roles listed above).



Ilaria Scaglia, CCWH Connections Coordinator

In times of brutal job and program cuts—and with underpaid, temporary work increasingly becoming the norm—it is easy to lose hope and to assume that such trends are inevitable, unstoppable, and impossible to mitigate in any way. Depending on the situation, however, there are some measures that individuals and associations can take for each other and that might make a difference both in the short and in the long run.

In this CCWH Connections column I will discuss four:

(1) Increasing awareness.



While the dire state we are in is all too clear to many of us, many more outside of our world and circles are oblivious to the challenges we face. Indeed, assumptions about all "academics" having stable and well-paid contracts are deeply rooted; whatever we can say/write to dispel that myth (and to explain the societal consequences of what is happening) would help to make more people interested—and possibly active — in pushing for a reversal of this nefarious trend.

(2) Involving students and their parents at the earliest possible stages.

All too often, students and parents are not aware of what is going on in the world of education and academia. Faculty members are limited in what they can explain to them without risking their already precarious positions. Increasing communications in the safe space provided by professional organizations such as the CCWH could have a transformational effect. Though many of us rightly oppose approaching students as "customers," we should use our professional associations and each other to encourage them to use their power to demand the fair treatment of those who provide their education and to participate in the protection of our research and education systems at large.

(3) Mobilizing civic institutions and partners who have an interest and a stake in improving the current situation.

While people in a vulnerable position or at risk of redundancy at a particular place can do very little without worsening their position or without being accused of putting their own institution into ill-repute, others can do much to speak on their behalf. They can solicit media coverage, they can encourage professional organizations to intervene by writing privately and/or by condemning publicly those institutions at fault, they can contact key funders, donors, and partners whose voice administrations cannot afford to ignore, and they can contact their legislative representatives.

(4) Extending acts of kindness, and sending both public and private expressions of sympathy to those in a vulnerable situation.

A one-line email can go a long way in lifting up the spirit of a person whose job is precarious or at risk. An invitation to discuss one's work or to participate in an event can balance the humiliating effect of being chronically undervalued.

These are all things we can do for one another. Let's do them, and let's work together to come up with even more.



Correction:

In the Spring 2022 newsletter, the review of Hannah Barker's *That Most Precious Merchandise* was incorrectly attributed to Mary M. Báthory Vidaver of the University of Mississippi. The author was actually Emily Sohmer Tai of Queensborough Community College, CUNY. We apologize for this error.



News and Updates

"Nicola Sturgeon, the first minister of Scotland, apologized on behalf of the government for the killing and vilification of thousands of people accused of witchcraft between the 16th and 18th centuries."

Learn more in the article from the <u>New York</u> <u>Times</u>, "Scotland Apologizes for History of Witchcraft Persecution" at nytimes.com/2022/03/09/world/europe/scotland -nicola-sturgeon-apologizes-witches.htm.



In February 2022, Lynnette Overby joined the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)'s advisory board, the National Council on the Humanities.

Congratulations to Dr. Overby!

Read more about this exciting announcement at https://www.neh.gov/news/lynnette-overby-joins-national-council-humanities.

Call for Award Applications: The Coordinating Council for Women in History Annual Awards 2022



THE COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR WOMEN IN HISTORY OFFERS 6 ANNUAL PRIZES. DETAILS AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS MAY BE FOUND AT HTTPS://THECCWH.ORG/CCWH-AWARDS.

Award Deadline Extended to July 1, 2022



Awards are open only to CCWH members. To join, visit https://theccwh.org/membership. Applicants may apply for one CCWH award per year. Please contact Elizabeth Everton (execdir@theccwh.org) with any questions.

•The Catherine Prelinger Memorial Award is a \$20,000 award given to a scholar who has not followed a traditional academic path of uninterrupted study. The award is open to applicants with a PhD and graduate students advanced to candidacy. For more information, visit https://theccwh.org/ccwhawards/catherine-prelinger-award/.

•The CCWH/Berks Graduate Student Fellowship is a \$1000 award to a graduate student completing a dissertation in history. For more information, visit https://theccwh.org/ccwh-awards/ccwhberks-graduate-studentfellowship/.

•The Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Fellowship is a \$1000 award to a graduate student completing a historical dissertation, not necessarily in a history department, that interrogates race and gender. For more information, visit https://theccwh.org/ccwh-awards/wells-graduate-student-fellowship/. •The Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Prize is a \$1000 award that recognizes a

superlative first article published in any field of history. For more information, visit https://theccwh.org/ccwh-awards/chaudhuri-first-article-prize/.

•The Carol Gold Article Prize is a \$500 award given to a scholar of any rank for a superlative article published in any field of history. For more information, visit https://theccwh.org/ccwh-awards/carol-gold-article-award/. •The Rachel Fuchs Award is a \$500 award that recognizes extraordinary mentorship and service to women and the LGBTQL community in the historical profession. For more information, visit https://theccwh.org/ccwhawards/rachel-fuchs-memorial-award/.



Membership Column

Dr. Einav Rabinovitch-Fox Membership Outreach Committee Chair

Dear members,

Summer is here, the trees are blooming (as well as the allergies), the birds are singing, and work has started to wind down for most of us. Teaching and grading are almost over, and now it's the time to concentrate on research, writing, and all the other things that often get neglected during the school year.

For me as well, summer is a time for writing and research. Although Covid is still a disruptive force in our lives, archives slowly begin to open and there is a sense that it is ok to do some long-term planning. For many of us, especially those with heavy teaching loads, the summer is a productive time. And yes, there is something exciting about embarking on new writing adventures as the teaching schedule start to clear up.

However, while I do have some writing plans and obligations, I decided to mainly take the summer off this year. There are many reasons to do that, but first and foremost, I'm tired (not to say exhausted)! We are two full school years into the pandemic, which required us to adjust to new challenges, to navigate students' and our needs, and at the end of what felt like a really long semester.

We as historians, and especially as women historians, are really good in feeling guilty about our productivity. It seems that no matter how hard we work, how many words we write, how successfully we juggle all our other duties, how productive we REALLY are – this is never enough. And while I'm guilty in this myself, I want to encourage you all to just say no – we can all use a break, and we shouldn't feel guilty about taking one. Here at the CCWH, and especially in the mentorship committee, we are good in offering resources for being productive and successful, and I hope that our initiatives like the writing group and the writing retreats prove to be helpful to members. But as an organization that puts women and women-identified people at the top of our concerns, we also need to be more mindful about prioritizing our mental health, wellness, and self-care.

es, for some of us, writing and getting immersed in our research is an act of self-care. But some of us can really use a break also. So for this summer, I urge you all to embrace the break. Don't think about the things that need to be done, the articles and books that need to be written, but to think about yourselves – and what makes you rejuvenate with energy. Sometimes, the most productive thing you can do is just do nothing!



We are facing tough times now. Beyond our usual work, there are also attacks on our rights, the pandemic is still going, there is war in Ukraine, so we all need to brace ourselves for a very busy fall. But for now, this is the time to relax, to get rest, and to recharge. And if you need to sit outside in the garden and do nothing in order to achieve it, that is perfectly fine.

We at the CCWH will be back in the fall with new programs and initiatives, but for now – have a really good summer!

Einav Rabinovitch-Fox



Mentorship Matching

The CCWH mentorship program also matches members with more senior people within the profession (participants may also be asked to mentor junior members).

If you are a current member of the CCWH and would like to participate in this program, please send an email to mentorship@theccwh.org.

Learn more here:

https://theccwh.org/ccwhresources/mentorship-program/

Books Available for Review

By Karla J. Strand, Reviews Editor

- HENCH

- The Colored Conventions Movement: Black Organizing in the Nineteenth Century by P. Gabrielle Foreman, et al., UNC Press, 2021.
- Defining Girlhood in India: A Transnational History of Sexual Maturity Laws by Ashwini Tambe, University of Illinois Press, 2019.
- Degrees of Difficulty: How Women's Gymnastics Rose to Prominence and Fell from Grace by Georgia Cervin, University of Illinois Press, 2021.
- The Doctors Blackwell: How Two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women and Women to Medicine by Janice P. Nimura, WW Norton,
- Dressing Up: The Women Who Influenced French Fashion by Elizabeth L. Block, MIT Press, 2021.
- Emergent Masculinities: Gendered Power and Social Change in the Biafran Atlantic Age by Ndubueze L. Mbah, Ohio University Press, 2019.
- Energy Never Dies: Afro-Optimism and Creativity in Chicago by Ayana Contreras, University of Illinois Press, 2021.
- For the Many: American Feminists and the Global Fight for Democratic Equality by Dorothy Sue Cobble, Princeton University Press, 2021.
- Free Thinker: Sex, Suffrage, and the Extraordinary Life of Helen Hamilton Gardener by Kimberly A. Hamlin, WW Norton, 2020.
- The Girl Explorers: The Untold Story of the Globetrotting Women Who Trekked, Flew, and Fought Their Way Around the World by Jayne Zanglein, Sourcebooks, 2021.
- Good Neighbors, Bad Times Revisited: New Echoes of My Father's German Village by Mimi Schwartz, University of Nebraska Press, 2021.
- The Great Cauldron: A History of Southeastern Europe by Marie-Janine Calic, Harvard University Press, 2019.
- Half Lives: The Unlikely History of Radium by Lucy Jane Santos, Pegasus Books, 2021.
- Hearing Happiness: Deafness Cures in History by Jaipreet Virdi, University of Chicago Press, 2020.

Call for Proposals: National Council on Public History Annual Meeting

The National Council on Public History requests session, working group, and workshop proposals for our 2023 annual meeting, to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, April 12-15, 2023.

Final proposals are due July 15; proposers may submit an optional topic proposal by June 15 to seek feedback and co-presenters.



The conference theme is "To Be Determined." The abbreviation TBDmeaning "to be determined"—is a device that holds space for unknown futures. It indicates that the process of knowing and planning is still actively unfolding. But "to be determined" has other meanings, too, signaling resolve, commitment, and intention. The 2023 National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, as NCPH reconvenes in person for the first time in four years, will explore and embrace these dual ways we can interpret and apply TBD.



Please consult the full CFP to find out what our 2023 Program Committee co-chairs are particularly looking for, and to submit your proposal: https://ncph.org/conference/2023annual-meeting/calls-for-proposals/

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Note from the Newsletter Editor



Enjoy this third issue of the year! You can reach me at newsletter@theccwh.org -- Dr. Megan Cullen Tewell

INSIGHTS: Notes From the CCWH



CONNECT WITH THE CCWH

Insights: Notes from the CCWH is published quarterly, on or around March 1 (Spring), June 1 (Summer), September 1 (Fall), and December 1 (Winter.) We invite CCWH members and affiliates to share professional news, including 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 or Executive Director no later than two weeks prior to publication (e.g., for the Fall issue, no later than August 15). Material should be sent to newsletter@theccwh.org or execdir@theccwh.org. If you have any questions about whether material is appropriate for the newsletter please contact the Newsletter Editor or the CCWH Executive Director.

Front and back cover images taken by Vivianne Peckham, dated September 2017, courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

53:2 SUMMER 2022