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The front and back cover images are of The National Women’s Conference of 1977, held in Houston, Texas.
Dear CCWH Members,

With the end of the year comes the opportunity to celebrate our 2021 award winners and runners-up. As we did in 2020, the CCWH will recognize our winners and runners-up in a virtual awards ceremony. The ceremony will be held on Friday, December 10, 2021 at 3:00 PM Eastern/12:00 PM Pacific.

Please join me in recognizing the 2021 winners and runners up:

CCWH/Berkshire Graduate Student Fellowship Award
This award is given to a graduate student completing a dissertation in a history department to support either a crucial stage of research or the final year of writing. Thank you to the 2021 award committee, Cherisse Jones-Branch (chair), Usha Sanyal, and Aimee Loiselle.

The winner of this award is Shelby M. Sinclair (Princeton University) for her dissertation, “‘Gason konn bouke, men pa fanm’: Black Women Workers and the United States Occupation of Haiti, 1915-1934.”

Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Fellowship Award
This award is 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. Thank you to the 2021 award committee, Erin Bush (chair), Febe Pamanag, and Tiffany González.

The co-winners of this award are Samantha Davis (Pennsylvania State University), “In Plain Sight: Confounding Gender and Race in Early Modern Yucatan” and Rozzmery Palenzuela Vicente (Florida International University), “Menacing Mothers: Medicine, Social Science, and the Politics of Black Motherhood in Mid-20th century Cuba.” The runner-up is Megan Williams (Purdue University), “Vibrational Reprieves: Black Women’s Soul Food Novels as Aesthetic Sites of Erotic and Sexual Agency.”
Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Prize
This award, named for Nupur Chaudhuri, a former co-president, former executive director, and long-standing CCWH board member, recognizes the best first article published in the field of history by a CCWH member. Thank you to the 2021 award committee, Arunima Datta (chair), Evan Hart, and Beth Ann Williams.

The winner of this award is Julia Ornelas-Higdon (California State University-Channel Islands), for her article “Agricultural Citizenship and the German Winemakers of Los Angeles County, 1853-1891,” published in Pacific Historical Review.

Carol Gold Article Award
This award, named for Carol Gold, an activist, scholar, and longtime member of the CCWH, recognizes an outstanding article published in a peer-reviewed journal. Thank you to the 2021 award committee, Carol Williams (chair), Peggy Renner, and Cara Delay.

The winner of this award is Kellie Carter Jackson (Wellesley), for her article “Dare You Meet a Woman: Black Women, Abolitionism, and Protective Violence, 1850-1859,” published in The Journal of Slavery and Abolition.

Rachel Fuchs Memorial Award
This award honors the memory of co-president Rachel Fuchs by recognizing and applauding service to the profession, including mentoring. Thank you to the 2020 award committee, Jean Pedersen (chair), Einav Rabinovitch-Fox, Melissa Thompson, Liz Adamo, and Paris Spies-Gans.

The winner of this award is Susan Hartmann, professor emeritus of History at the Ohio State University.

Congratulations to our 2021 awardees! To learn more about our awards, visit http://theccwh.org or email execdir@theccwh.org. The deadline for our 2022 awards will be May 15, 2022.
While we will not formally celebrate our awardees at the 2022 AHA meeting in New Orleans, the CCWH will be there! We are co-sponsoring the following panels and co-hosting a reception with the Berkshire Conference for Women’s History on Friday, January 7. If you are at the AHA, I hope you will stop by and see us!

- “Unruly Subjects: Global Queer, Trans*, and Postcolonial Histories” (Dagmar Herzog, Katherine Schweighofer, Wigbertson Julian Isenia, and Howard Hsueh-Hao Chiang)
- “Writing the Caribbean: Empire, Health, and the Environment in Women’s Travelogues” (Rikki Bettinger, Kelly Elyse Douma, Elizabeth S. Manley, and Adriana Méndez Rodenas)
- “Interventions in the Lives of Mothers: Capturing the History of Reproduction” (Deirdre B. Cooper-Owens, Nicole Bourbonnais, Elizabeth O’Brien, Cassia Roth, and Ogechukwu Ezekwem Williams)
- Plenary Session with Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers
- “Writing Same-Sex Desire before Stonewall: Love Letters, Romantic Poetry, and Other Writings” (Rachel Hope Cleves, Anya Jabour, Shad Reinstein, Jody Laine, Wendy Rouse, and Pamela Stewart)
- “Love, Anarchy, Radical Feminism, and Emma Goldman” (Eileen Boris, Crystal Feimster, Lara Vapnek, Barbara Winslow, and Candace Falk)
- “Up Close and Personal: Biography as Method and ‘Hook’” (Merry Wiesner-Hanks, Suzanne Litrel, Rick Warner, Maryann Rhett, and Candice Goucher)
- “Selves, Bodies, and Kin in Colonial Histories” (Chelsea Schields, Brianna Leavitt-Alcántara, Tracy Robinson, and Rachel Jean-Baptiste)

In addition to our awardees, I would like to recognize our former co-president, Susan Wladaver-Morgan. Susan recently received the 2021 PCB-AHA Distinguished Services Award for contributions to the AHA’s Pacific Coast Branch. We salute Susan for all she has given to the PCB-AHA and the CCWH, the Western Association of Women Historians, and so many others.

Congratulations again to our awardees and Susan, and thank you to you all! If you would like to get together in New Orleans, please drop me a line at execdir@theccwh.org.

All the best,
Liz, Rachel, and Crystal
Join the CCWH at the upcoming virtual Awards Ceremony! During this event, we will recognize and celebrate the winners and runners-up for our 2021 awards.

The event will be held via Zoom on Friday, December 10, at 3:00 PM Eastern/12:00 PM Pacific. To register, visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCWHAwards2021 or email Elizabeth Everton at execdir@theccwh.org.
These are a Few of our Favorite Things
Ilaria Scaglia
Connections Coordinator

“Connections” do not have to be only about locking arms to oppose nefarious trends but can also be about coming together to celebrate what makes us happy. So here is a (non-comprehensive) list of what over the years (and through my wondrous Twitter feed, which includes CCWH and many women in history) I noticed are a few of our favorite things:

- The moment that a paper copy of our book arrives in the mail or an article/essay of ours is published.
- Completing every intermediary bit (chapter finished, submitted, proofs...).
- Looking at the syllabus we designed, and realizing that we are helping to make it normal for students to learn about the history of a diverse group of people.
- Seeing a dear colleague/friend/mentee bloom like a flower in spring.
- That source we once marveled at when we found it at the archives is now out there because we picked it and made it meaningful. That story is now told.
- After receiving challenging peer reviews (and after tears, toil, and sweat while making revisions), realizing that a piece we are about to resubmit is much stronger than it used to be. The process worked.
- A great book or talk.
- Someone inviting us for a talk or asking us to join a panel at an upcoming conference: they read our work and would like us to contribute.
- A colleague even busier than we are who took the time to read our messy draft and give us a hand in the hour of need.
- Helping each other to teach in the best possible way. Giving each other ideas about sources and activities that work.
- The option of voting for an all-women slate at the elections of our favorite professional organization.
- A diverse group of students debating a hot topic in a bold yet civil manner, with the realization that we helped to make it happen.
- Providing evidence for a public debate on issues that concern us all.
- Proof that no matter how hard some might try, some things and some people are simply not for sale.

We might not all agree on every single item, and our lists might differ and change over time, but I cannot help thinking that taking a moment to jot down such a list and share what adds a glimmer of light in our professional life might do us all a lot of good. If anything, it might give us some ideas about something we can do to give each other a moment of joy.
Dear members,

The end of the year is always a good time for taking stock. We look back at our achievements and our misses, our goals and our regrets, all in time to plan for the next year ahead. This time of year is always a mix of disappointments and a sense of accomplishment with many hopes (and fears) of what the next year will hold.

As we entered the second year of the pandemic, time has become more fluid and elusive, and our priorities have changed. So how should we take stock during a pandemic? Sometimes getting up in the morning or teaching students in person felt like a major win. But during these difficult pandemic times, things did happen. Despite the difficulties, some of us have been professionally productive. Personally, 2021 was a good year for me – I turned 40, my book came out, I got to meet new people, and I secured new opportunities. I am thankful that all my family remained healthy and that we managed to regain some sense of normalcy as vaccines became available and schools reopened.

I know not everyone was as lucky or productive as I am and that 2021 was not a good year for many. I truly admire and support everyone who was just able to survive. This is maybe the biggest accomplishment of all. And we should all feel proud about that.

At the CCWH, this is also time to take stock. We also had a successful bittersweet year. Despite needing to say goodbye to Rikki Bettinger and Courtney Lacy – two of the pillars of the membership committee, we have welcomed Samantha de Vera to the team. We are eagerly looking for a new person to fill Courtney’s big shoes.

We have conducted professional e-sessions ranging from navigating the job market during the pandemic, writing for the public, getting started in public history, and one about resumes vs. CVs. We have also initiated a virtual writing group that meets every Monday and has formed a supportive community of scholars. In addition, we organized a few virtual writing retreats and continued with our mentorship matching program.

Looking back, I’m proud that the CCWH remained a vibrant organization and that we could contribute to and support its membership. Supporting each other, especially during these times, really became one of the most important goals of this organization.

We are always in search of more ideas of how to support the work and scholarship of our members. If you have an idea – please share it with us at membership@theccwh.org

And as you start to make plans and dreams for the upcoming year, don’t forget to renew your membership. Continue to be part of this vibrant community. Your voice and support make all of us stronger! You can renew your membership online here: http://theccwh.org/membership/ And be sure to spread the word to your students and colleagues.

As historians, we are much better at analyzing the past than in foreseeing the future. Still, I hope that the coming year will be a great year, full of opportunities, successes, and happiness for all of you.

Best,
Einav Rabinovitch-Fox
HOSTED BY THE MENTORSHIP COMMITTEE

WINTER WRITING RETREAT

Just like previous retreats, you can sign up and drop in at any point during the live hours! The retreat will be held on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday December 15-17, 10:30am-4:30pm EST/9:30am-3:30pm CST (with 1-hr lunch 1-2 EST/12-1 CST)

YOU CAN REGISTER USING THIS FORM:

https://forms.gle/4yrqJxJkqPs2tnW8
Don’t forget to renew your membership for 2021. 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.
Still, the most frequently discussed is that of objects, collecting, and collections. This book review round-up presents an overview of these object-focused books; you can find the full reviews in *The Public Historian*.


In this book, the author follows the development of the renowned Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, including its establishment, collecting practices, artifact study and arrangement, and visitor experience. While Schwartz also discusses how the museum and its collections helped shape American identity, the book mostly focuses on the museum’s 18th and 19th-century collecting practices.


Rather than focusing on the objects themselves, Hannah Turner turns to the documentation of these objects, including the registration practices, recording systems, and metadata. Through this study, it is possible to see "how the legacy data they contain reinscribes the colonial knowledge they represent" (quote from the reviewer).


This book examines the Native American boarding school experience through an object and photograph collection housed at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The objects and the white man who collected the materials are both discussed, though the story is mostly told through the collector’s eyes. The book also includes commentary from tribes and individuals connected to some of the objects. The commentaries demonstrate that the material culture of focus is not just about the past but is connected to the present and remains meaningful to Indigenous people.

Rather than studying larger collecting practices, Tiya Miles focuses on a single, small collection—a survival kit made by an enslaved woman for her daughter before the daughter’s sale. The family passed these items through the generations, and now they are on display at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Miles uses the survival kit to tell the story of this family and the broader story of slavery and survival.


Tammy Gordon approaches objects and collecting at the individual level by studying the American relationship with the camera and how photography has played an essential role in identity-making. This book shows how white Americans used photography to reinforce white patriarchal power. Still, it also demonstrates the power this practice gave to other groups, such as African Americans, Native Americans, and LGBTQ+ people, to create their own alternate images.


In this book, the author examines a specific and specialized form of collecting: postage stamps. Brennan focuses on the origins of this collecting and on what has led people to collect stamps. The US Post Service played a surprising role in this collecting by understanding and identifying a possible societal interest in the materials and then creating attractive stamps to market specifically to collectors to make money. This tells a different story of objects that are collected because these items were made to be purchased for the purpose of collecting.
Dear members,

We have started a new guest column in which we feature posts by leaders (past and present) of various women’s history organizations in the U.S. and beyond, such as the Women’s History Association of Ireland. We are pleased to feature the below column by Dr. Diane Urquhart, President of the Women’s History Association of Ireland (WHAI).

Jacqueline-Bethel Mougoué, Newsletter Editor

The island of Ireland is now entering the final phase of the so-called ‘decade of centenaries’, which spans the period from 2012 to 2022. Some seminal and contested events in Ireland’s modern history have already been commemorated - the unionist Solemn League and Covenant and Women’s Declaration of 1912, the Dublin Lockout of 1913, First World War, the Easter Rising and Battle of the Somme in 1916, the War of Independence of 1919-21, the partition of Ireland and creation of Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State as well as the opening phases of the Irish Civil War of 1922-23. Central events in Irish women’s history have also been commemorated, most notably the partial enfranchisement of women in the United Kingdom, of which Ireland was still a part in 1918, and the election of Countess Constance Markiewicz as the first woman elected to Westminster but who abstained from taking her seat in line with her Sinn Féin party election pledge later in the same year.

In all these events and more, women were visible, often center stage, frequently negotiating and challenging gendered mores of acceptable behavior. Yet, the inclusion of women’s experiences as, for example, revolutionaries, suffragists and suffragettes, auxiliary workers, political activists, combatants, mothers, sisters, wives, nurses, or widows only began to enter the commemorative landscape comparatively recently. Ireland’s decade of centenaries provoked a reconsideration of Irish women’s historical roles and raised questions over how we remember the past. The process of historical remembering is not automatically inclusive of the female experience. The Women’s History Association of Ireland (WHAI), for instance, spotlighted decades of ground-breaking research on women in Ireland’s revolutionary period to bring this history further into the public consciousness in 2014. Two years later, in response to the male complexion of many initial commemorative academic panels, the ‘Academic Manel [aka male panel] Watch Ireland’ was launched on Twitter in 2016.
The process of female remembrance and the challenge it often posed to popularly held historical ‘truths’ has been both welcomed and censured. While many reveled in the significant engagement with the complexity of the manifold roles that women performed in the 1916 rising during its centenary, this also provoked some unease on social media. Other commemorative events, like the centenary of the unionist Solemn League and Covenant and Women’s Declaration of 1912, privileged male experience even though more women in Ulster signed these foundational texts of modern unionism than men. The term “covenant” was also often used as an inaccurate generic shorthand for both texts, with the number of female and male signatories collated, and 2012 saw more than one instance where the covenant was reproduced in print form and online but not the women’s declaration. Ireland’s decade of centenaries thus serves as a timely reminder of the hugely significant role of women’s history and historians of women and the work that remains to be done in Ireland and other countries that still “struggle with honoring [sic] the full role of women” in their own past (Oona Frawley, ed., *Women and the Decade of Commemorations*, Indiana University Press, 2020).

IRELAND’S DECADE OF CENTENARIES PROVOKED A RECONSIDERATION OF IRISH WOMEN’S HISTORICAL ROLES AND RAISED QUESTIONS OVER HOW WE REMEMBER THE PAST.
"Irish Women’s and Gendered Networks and Communities from the Medieval to the Early Modern Period"

The annual Women’s History Association of Ireland conference will be a virtual event held on 1-2 and 8-9 April 2022, jointly hosted by the University of Limerick and Mary Immaculate College. The broad theme for this year’s conference is "Irish women’s and gendered networks and communities from the medieval to the early modern period". Please submit abstracts of 250-300 words and a short bio to

WHAI2022conference@gmail.com on or before 17 December 2021. Panel proposals are also welcome. Learn more here.
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/ccwh-resources/mentorship-program/
New CCWH member Tara Hollies shares an interview with Judith Byfield, professor of history at Cornell University. Tara earned her Ph.D. in African History from Michigan State University in 2020. She is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Macalester College, where she teaches African history. Her research examines the changing gender dynamics of law and religion in southeastern Nigeria in the early twentieth century. New to CCWH, Hollies hopes to connect with other scholars who research and teach about women and gender and the interrelationships between law and religion globally.

Judith Byfield’s research focuses on women’s social and economic history in Nigeria. Hollies interview Byfield about her recently published book, *The Great Upheaval: Women and Nation in Postwar Nigeria* (Ohio University Press, 2021), in this guest column. The book examines the history of women’s political activism in Nigeria, located in western Africa. Specifically, the work emphasizes the political power of women’s organizations such as the Abeokuta Women’s Union.

One of your book’s major contributions to the study of nationalism and anti-colonial protest is your methodology. Can you tell me about how you decided to weave cultural, social, economic, and political histories into a cohesive narrative that examines the combination of particular circumstances that led to Abeokuta Women’s Union protests in the postwar era?

It wasn’t a conscious decision. It unfolded in ways that were not necessarily conscious. But I think one of the things is that I’ve certainly been paying attention to culture, particularly with the first book (*The Bluest Hands: A Social and Economic History of Women Indigo Dyers in Western Nigeria, 1890-1940*), having to think about textiles and clothing, and the significance of those—culture as not just backdrop but an integral part of how people work through some of these broader issues and debates got cemented into my head around the first book. And since then I’ve been teaching courses on History and Popular Culture in Africa, and I do one on Dress, Cloth, and Identity in Africa and the Diaspora. Because of the readings I’ve been doing with
these classes around culture, and popular culture, in particular, it just stayed in my head and became a natural part of how I kept looking at what was going on. It didn’t feel like a self-conscious decision as much as one that had become very integrated into how I thought about the whole project. It was a part of the background to the narrative of the Abeokuta Women’s Union, but it also informed what I looked for.

Can you speak a bit of how your book provides insight into contemporary political landscapes in Nigeria?

I think one of the things I was concerned about was showing that there are continuities from this period to the contemporary moment. One thing that connects these periods is a struggle over resources—particularly how they’re distributed by gender and class. You know, Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti, in one of her lines—I don’t think I use it in the book here, but I’ve used it in the past—she basically said, “you don’t measure the success of a society by the women who put sugar in their tea.” On the one hand, it’s very literal because who are the women who put sugar in their tea? It’s the women who have the resources to afford both the tea and the sugar. It was almost a substitute for saying, “the educated elite.” And yet, part of the assumption of that group was that because of their education and their elite status, by definition, they should be the leaders that would succeed at independence. And she [Ransome-Kuti] was saying, “No, you have to look at the other women: the women on the farm, the women who can’t afford sugar, who can’t afford tea, the women who are working on the roadways, the women in the marketplace.” So, from that simple statement, thinking about it both literally and [metaphorically], you get a sense of the much broader sort of politics that she was invested in. And that is still very much a part of the landscape today, where there is still this assumption that politics should be dominated by men and should be dominated by men of certain classes or levels of educational attainment. It has been almost 50 years since independence, and you still have relatively few women in the [Nigerian] government. There have been a few key appointments, but when it comes to people running as candidates, the numbers are still low [7 senators and 22 in the House of Representatives] and the discussion about resources and the distribution of resources is even more pressing now than it was in the postwar era.

What was the research process for this book? You state in the acknowledgments that the book was based on your original dissertation proposal but was put on hold for some time due to other projects. How did this project evolve?

I made a preliminary trip to Nigeria in 1985, and I gathered all this information; I got to look at the Ransome-Kuti papers. Then, when I went back to Nigeria in ’88, I ended up staying 11 months. After the first six months, I realized, "I’m still reading text on the tie-dye industry." Actually, that was supposed to be chapter five in my original plan because I just needed to set up the economic part of the story, and then I was going to rush into the tax revolt. But the more I read that stuff and thought about it, I realized, "Oh, there’s so much going on here." The tie-dye stuff got to be so engrossing. And again, I was a very happy victim of a lot of material. I figured out that if I wanted to get up to the tax revolt, I would probably need to spend two years in Nigeria. And at that time, during graduate school, I wasn’t prepared to stay beyond 11 months. So, what became the dissertation and first book was the original chapter five. It’s like I’ve had the big picture in my head for a long time, but each time I thought I was getting closer to it, I realized, "Oh no, you’re not there. You need to learn more.” It was just one of these things that the more I got into it, I just kept getting deeper and deeper and just seeing all these things that were coming together that I needed to know more about. I think I could write about the tax revolt this time because I finally felt like I knew enough to do it now.
In our summer newsletter, my column offered suggestions for research traveling on a budget without compromising safety. I’m currently putting these tips into action myself during my first extended international research trip since the start of the pandemic. So in this column, I’m revisiting this focus on travel with the weathered, humbled perspective of a graduate student who has learned the hard way a few times now. I hope that these tips will make that upcoming research trip you’re looking forward to just a bit smoother by shedding light on potential slippery banana peels on the road ahead.
Go contactless. Cash is most definitely not king these days. In fact, internationally, many restaurants, airlines, hotels, and stores will now only accept payment by contactless card. Some countries have been transitioning away from cash for years now, but I’ve noticed a significant shift since March 2020. I still like to travel with a few coins and small bills for emergencies, but I advise against getting yourself stuck with big bills. I don’t recommend saving unused cash “for the next trip,” either. Many countries, the UK, for example, frequently retire currency to prevent counterfeiting. Check to make sure that your preferred card has contactless payments enabled, as well, to avoid having to sign for every purchase or potentially even having your payment declined. If your bank uses outdated cards that don’t yet have this feature, consider ApplePay or Samsung Pay. Once you tap that card, remember: if you’re given the option to pay either in local currency or your home currency, it’s almost always better to pay in the local currency. The alternative often sticks you with a lousy exchange rate. Always check your card’s policies ahead of travel to familiarize yourself with its specific currency conversion fees.

Don’t assume that because you familiarized yourself with COVID travel rules a week ago that they will still be the same tomorrow. Guidelines for vaccination, testing, passenger locator forms, and check-in protocol for border-crossings are different everywhere, and they change abruptly. Nor are rules necessarily the same across multiple cities or counties, even within a single country. Since I started traveling internationally in the early Fall, I’ve seen numerous abrupt shifts in requirements. Many travelers have panic attacks at airports because they showed up with an antigen test when they needed a PCR test. Triple check that you have the right test type, that its provider is government-approved, that you register your tests (often required before and after taking them!), and that you have all required forms filled out in advance and ready to go, ideally both in print and digital format. In many cases, airlines (or equivalent travel companies) are the ones responsible for verifying that you have fulfilled all requirements before allowing you to board. When in doubt, check with them to make sure you have the most up-to-date information. British Airways has a handy online tool for looking up requirements based on your specific passport information and travel particulars, which you don’t have to be a BA customer to use. I also recommend visiting the official COVID travel page of your destination country. Finally, no matter what, even if an airline allows you to check-in and access your boarding pass before you arrive at the airport, stop by the front desk to speak with an agent to confirm before heading to your gate. I like to add thirty minutes to my pre-pandemic airport arrival timelines to allow wiggle room for COVID requirements. You may not need it. Then again, you might, and showing up out of breath, sweaty, and otherwise looking like a stressed hot mess will not endear you to the person sitting next to you in Seat 14F.

It’s true... there isn’t such a thing as a free breakfast. Not anymore. This was one of my own bits of advice from my summer column that I wish I’d taken to heart. I knew better, but the siren’s call of a British baked-beaned, jiggly-egged hot breakfast every morning had me falling for empty promises and booking a hotel on Airbnb that was...well, still a good deal for a shoebox room in London (with a private bathroom, though! Glorious.) When I showed up, though, the crooked cardboard sign in the lobby told me that breakfast was canceled indefinitely for social distancing. I thought the claims of hot food posted on both Airbnb and the hotel website might be too good to be true, but I thought, “Well, a bruised apple and a stale roll in a paper bag? That wouldn’t be so bad!” But sadly, there was no breakfast to speak of. Always call the hotel directly to check what accommodations are currently available, no matter what your booking site says. Finally, I suggest factoring in the cost of eating meals out versus the extra expense of booking accommodation with a small kitchen, or at least a kettle.
ANNOUNCEMENT

BERKSHIRE CONFERENCE 2023 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

OCEANS, ISLANDS, AND CONTINENTS:
RECONCEPTUALIZING THE SPATIALIZATION OF
WOMEN’S, GENDER AND SEXUALITY HISTORIES

28 June–2 July 2023, Santa Clara University, California

The Berks Program Committee solicits panels, papers, and workshops that help us consider what histories emerge when relations are formed and linkages are drawn that transcend traditional national borders and reference instead, for example, oceans, islands, or continents? As the Big Berks contemplates its fiftieth year of triennial conferences and plans for the future, they invite you to explore these questions through gendered analyses in addition to more spatially and temporally focused approaches.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the 2023 conference will open on 1 September and end on 31 December 2021. For more information, please contact Sandra Trudgen Dawson, execadmin@berksconference.org

JOIN THE BERKSHIRE CONFERENCE OF WOMEN HISTORIANS HERE

The Program Committee encourages the submission of complete sessions. When this is not possible, the program committee will accept single papers that will then be added to the program where appropriate.
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: WESTERN SOCIETY FOR FRENCH HISTORY MISSION PRIZE

Are you a leader in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion? Do you know someone doing amazing DEI work? Please nominate yourself or a colleague for the Mission prize offered by the Western Society of French History. Up to three awards of $2000 each will be made for the 2021 round. Nominations are due by 15 December. Self-nominations are welcome!

The prize is explicitly designed for all faculty whether tenured or untenured, coming from a range of French history-related fields, including, but not limited to, French, Francophone, African, Caribbean, Ethnic, Gender, Global, LGBTQ, and Postcolonial Studies.

Learn more here: https://www.wsfh.org/mission-prize

See the award link for further details or contact:

wsfhmissionprize@wsfh.org
sources and methods, as well as prodigious archival research. He argues that Madam Walker is typical of Black women’s philanthropy which began with the foundations of our country -- not with the captains of industry in the late nineteenth century -- and is going strong today. Challenging the common misconception that only white people are philanthropists, McKinley argues that Madam Walker “...became a significant American philanthropist and a foremother of Black philanthropy today” (1).

Madam Walker (born Sarah Breedlove) has been the subject of countless biographies, articles, plays, songs, and even an excellent multi-episode documentary on Netflix. McKinley begins by summarizing what others have documented. As explained by McKinley, Sarah Breedlove was “Black. Female. Daughter of slaves. Orphan. Child laborer. Widowed young mother. Penniless migrant. Poor washerwoman. Philanthropist” (p1). The story of her rise to success is nothing short of amazing. McKinley argues that Breedlove/Walker and the Black women surrounding her may have first received help and support from others. Still, as soon as possible and as much as possible, they began giving back to their communities, churches, and clubs.
Walker wanted to make a difference in the lives of average Black women, so she helped them get the education and jobs needed for them to become successful family breadwinners. She designed hair products for Black women, and when she settled in Indianapolis, her sales began to soar. As her product base expanded, she hired young Black women as salespeople and promoters.

While other studies of Walker have focused on her hair care empire, McKinley places her philanthropy at the center. Her philanthropy was much more than gifts to charities. She embodied the black women's creed of volunteerism, giving of oneself too. As McKinley explains, “In the African American experience, philanthropy did not originate in wealth, but rather in resourceful efforts to meet social needs in the face of overwhelming societal constraints and impositions” (3). He clarifies, “It was less concerned with the exact form of gift giving than with the intent and appropriateness of the gift in responding to need” (p3). He concludes, “As a result, African American philanthropy is better defined as a medley of beneficent acts and gifts that address someone’s needs or larger social purposes that arise from a collective consciousness and shared experience of humanity” (3-4). Therefore, Walker “did not create African American philanthropy, but she embodied [it]...” (9, emphasis in original). As McKinley later explained, “Her philanthropy emerged from four female networks and webs of affiliation that were grounded in collective consciousness and collaborative giving – washerwomen, churchwomen, clubwomen, and fraternal women – amid class distinctions” (192). As a result, McKinley concludes that “She was a significant American philanthropist whose giving thwarted Jim Crow in her day and changes the complexion and shape of generosity in ours” (199).

This point reminds me how our understanding of the history of the American West evolved a few decades ago because historians consulted women’s letters and diaries, which provided a much broader and deeper depiction of the role of families in opening and settling of the West. McKinley makes the critical point several times in his narrative that “One cannot study the history of African Americans without encountering their philanthropy; it is unfortunate that one can study the history of philanthropy without meaningfully encountering African Americans” (194, emphasis in the original). After McKinley’s study, I do not see how future historians of philanthropy in the United States could continue to exclude examinations of African American philanthropy.


By Mary Lynn Pierce, University of Arizona

Alexandra J. Finley’s An Intimate Economy: Enslaved Women, Work, and America’s Domestic Slave Trade is a deeply researched and nuanced study that illuminates antebellum slave traders’ commodification of enslaved women’s domestic, reproductive, and sexual labor. While numerous histories have recounted the role of slaveholders, slave traders, and bankers as the three actors in the slave markets in the South, the key role that enslaved women’s labor played in the slave trade has remained obscure. With An Intimate Economy, Finley seeks to rectify this deficiency.

Drawing on a wide range of primary sources such as enslavers’ account books and court records, Finley demonstrates that enslaved women shouldered the day-to-day labor required for the slave trade to function. Their work contributed to
he spread of slavery in the lower South, the expansion of cotton production, and the enrichment of enslavers and slave traders. According to Finley, the role of Black female slaves, who were often enslaved concubines of slaveholders, in the antebellum slave market were varied and extensive (4). Women gave birth to, raised, and sewed the attire worn by the slaves sold in slave markets for profit. They fed the enslaved men, women, and children kept in slave yards and jails and housed clients and agents who traded in the slave markets. Young fair-complexioned enslaved women, mostly in their teens, were bartered and sold for their physical beauty, reproductive ability, and sexual purposes. Women sold for sex were marketed with the euphemisms employed by slave traders: seamstresses, domestic maids, chambermaids, and nurses (14).

*An Intimate Economy* is organized thematically. In addition to the introduction, conclusion, and epilogue, the book comprises four rich chapters in which Finley makes her arguments through four microhistories, the enslaved Black women’s histories. While chronologically focused on the period from 1840 to 1861, the four microhistories center geographically on the two famous slave markets in Richmond, Virginia, and New Orleans. Each chapter begins with a type that slave traders attributed to enslaved women bartered and sold at the slave market: fancy, seamstress, concubine, and housekeepers. Classifying the slaves as types, one of the technologies of capitalism used to standardize humanity, was part of the development of slavery’s capitalism and central to the violence of slavery. To mark an enslaved woman a “fancy girl,” for instance, meant disregarding her personal and bodily integrity and sanctity. Instead, she was deemed a marketable commodity available for sex and fulfilling white males’ sexual desires and fantasies.

The first chapter, “Fancy,” focuses on the “fancy trade” and various economic roles female slaves like Corinna Hinton, a mulatta enslaved concubine of the slave trader Silas Omohundro, played within it. Sold as a “fancy girl,” she gave birth to her first child when she was fourteen or fifteen years old. She bore six children to Omohundro, who was 18 years her senior. Corinna did everything that antebellum advice literature expected of a wife, including performing as his household manager, assisting with the upkeep of the slave jails and yards, managing his boardinghouses, and preparing clothing for all the slaves in his slave jail (41). In return, Omohundro gave her material comfort and perhaps a greater possibility of achieving freedom for her and her children someday, but such benefits came at a cost. She had no legal or social advantage as an enslaved woman and, although light-skinned, had to navigate and challenge the constraints of race and sex. Since the birth of her first child in 1849, Hinton wanted the legal status and benefits of a wife, a claim that she had to pursue in courts over Omohundro’s estate because, as an enslaved concubine, she was not his legal heir.

Chapter two, “Seamstress,” looks specifically at enslaved women’s roles in readying slaves for sale and making sale outfits, from preparing their bodies to the construction of fabric and fashioning of their garments. Based on fragmentary archival information, this chapter explores how with the help of enslaved women’s labor, which Finley describes as socially reproductive labor, slave traders manipulated the physical appearance of the slaves to be auctioned to appeal to potential buyers (47). Most enslaved Black women, such as Virginia Isham, owned by the Virginian enslaver Hector Davis, hoped the extra money from sewing would help them buy freedom for themselves and their families. The chapter also considers how slave traders and buyers conflated socially reproductive and sexual labor. Slave
traders often employed the term “seamstress” as a synonym for “fancy girl” to sell the light-skinned enslaved women for sex (65). For instance, Mary Ellen Brooks’s sewing abilities had little to do with what made her attractive to her white purchaser. Brooks, a young mulatta woman, died shortly after her sale as a “fancy girl” to the man who bought her to wait on his wife and sew for his family. The purchaser had no wife, as revealed later, and had bought Mary Ellen to fulfill his predatory sexual fantasies.

The following two chapters explore the fetishized commodification of light-skinned enslaved women in antebellum New Orleans, home to one of the largest slave markets in the United States. In chapter three, “Concubine,” Finley investigates the life of Sarah Ann Conner, a mulatta woman whose history existed as an inconsequential anecdote to the life of her infamous enslaver Theophilus Freeman. Enslaved at birth in Virginia, Conner was sold several times before being moved to New Orleans in 1838. Her initial sale in New Orleans took place on 17 April 1838, when she was just twenty years old. Her purchaser, Jane Shelton, hired Conner out for sexual labor (prostitution), an extension of the slave trade’s sexual economy (71). In 1841, Freeman purchased her as his concubine for the primary purpose of emancipating her, using her own money. Conner had saved the proceeds from performing sexual labor to purchase her liberty. Unfortunately, through incompetence or trickery, Freeman’s emancipation promise remained unfulfilled. Ensnared in slavery’s sexual economy, Conner navigated the legal system for years to solidify her freedom.

In chapter four, “Housekeeper,” the life of Lucy Ann Cheatham illustrates how the language of domesticity has buried the inherent sexual exploitation of enslaved Black women. Cheatham’s life spanned the two major slave markets in Richmond and New Orleans. In 1848, well-known slave trader John Hagan purchased Cheatham, thirteen at the time, in Virginia and moved her to New Orleans in 1849. She bore Hagan four children, managed his household, and made a living renting out lodging after his death in 1857 or 1858. Yet, even decades later, Cheatham could not avoid the sexual economy of slavery or the persona many assigned to her: that of a sexually available Jezebel (122).

Overall, An Intimate Economy is a significant achievement. Through meticulous research, Finley has produced a study that adds to our understanding of the sexual economy of the slavery system in the nineteenth-century United States and how the role of Black female slaves’ domestic and sexual labor facilitated the expansion of the burgeoning capitalist economy in the antebellum South.
The 54th Annual Western Association of Women Historians Conference will be held on April 21-23, 2022. This conference will be held at the Ayers Hotel in Costa Mesa, California.

The Call for Proposals deadline is 1 February 2022

The Awards & Prizes deadline is 14 January 2022

Please join us for a long-awaited return to our cherished in-person conference with some virtual capacity and interaction built in as well.

The Program Committee invites submissions for the presentation of scholarly work-in-progress, research methods, teaching and curriculum ideas, digital innovation, public history, and issues of importance to women scholars and to the future of the profession.

Proposals for panels, roundtables, posters, or workshops in all fields, regions, and periods of history are welcome. Priority consideration will be given to proposals submitted as complete or mostly complete sessions.

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Books Available for Review

Karla Strand
Book Review Editor

There are many books available for our members to review! Reviews are usually 800 to 1000 words, deadlines are flexible, and the book will be provided to you. Reviews are published in the upcoming newsletter and online.

This month, I’d like to call attention to several books recently published by members of The CCWH that we’d love to get reviewed:

- **Music for the Kingdom of Shadows: Cinema Accompaniment in the Age of Spiritualism** by Kendra Preston Leonard, 2019. (e-book)

Please contact reviews editor Karla Strand at reviews@theccwh.org if you are interested in reviewing one of the following titles, if you have another book you’d like to review, or if you wrote a book that you’d like reviewed. Remember, you also visit the CCWH website for a list of updated books we have for review. Here’s the remainder of the list of books in hand:

- **Afro-Nostalgia: Feeling Good in Contemporary Black Culture** by Badia Ahad-Legardy, University of Illinois Press, 2021.
- **Degrees of Difficulty: How Women’s Gymnastics Rose to Prominence and Fell from Grace** by Georgia Cervin, University of Illinois Press, 2021.
- **The Fame of CS Lewis** by Stephanie L. Derrick, Oxford University Press, 2018.
● Good Neighbors, Bad Times Revisited: New Echoes of My Father’s German Village by Mimi Schwartz, University of Nebraska Press, 2021.


Announcements

Employment Opportunity, Department of Women’s Studies at San Diego State University

The Department of Women’s Studies at San Diego State University invites applications for a tenure-track position at the Assistant or Associate Professor rank, to begin August 2022.

The successful candidate will have a Ph.D. in a related field. A minimum of a graduate minor or concentration in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, or a significant track record of research and teaching in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, is required. Applications are now being accepted via Interfolio at https://apply.interfolio.com/98717

Review of applications will begin on December 10, 2021 and continue until the position is filled.

Employment Opportunity, Scripps College, one of seven members of The Claremont Colleges cluster

Scripps College, a women’s liberal arts college with a strong interdisciplinary tradition, invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor in modern U.S history (1877 to the present), beginning in the academic year 2022-2023. Field of specialization is open. The successful candidate will also be expected to teach in the college’s Core Curriculum in Interdisciplinary Humanities program.

Learn more here.

Direct all inquiries to Corey Tazzara, Chair, History Search Committee, at ctazzara@scrippscollege.edu.

Review of applications will begin December 20, 2021 and continue until the position is filled.

NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Enjoy this fourth issue of the year! You can reach me at newsletter@thecchw.org

Jacqueline-Bethel Mougoué
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Rachel Fuchs Memorial Award
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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 Spring issue, no later than February 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.