

COALITION FOR WESTERN WOMEN'S HISTORY

Advancing Scholarship on Women & Gender in the North American West

Volume 8, Number 2 Fall 2015

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From the Chair: Cathleen Cahill



Dear Members of the Coalition,

It is that time of year; I hope you're ready for a rollicking good time full of intellectual fellowship and fun at the WHA. I'm anticipating an exciting conference in the beautiful city of roses. The Coalition will have a strong presence at the conference this year. At our booth in the book exhibit, we will be highlighting our prizes and prizewinners. Thank you in advance to those of you who have volunteered to serve as our ambassadors at the booth (there is still room for more of you to sign up on-line at <http://bit.ly/1McF4gx> or in person at the conference). I encourage the rest of you to come down and say hello—and be sure to bring a friend who could be convinced to join and/or donate! We also plan to have a vigorous social media presence via our Facebook page (Coalition for Western Women's History) and Twitter account (@WomensWest). You should all feel welcome to tag us in your updates and follow along with us during the conference. If you tune in, you'll be hearing about the numerous items of interest to our membership.

This year's conference is under the auspices of long-time Coalition member and WHA President Betsy Jameson. She is making sure that the scholarly issues the Coalition champions are front and center to the conversations in her presidential address entitled "Halfway Across That Line: Gender at the Threshold of History in the North American West" and the presidential session, "Keeping the Door Open: Women of Color Mentoring Women of Color in Western History." With the leadership of two Coalition members, Karen Leong and Lori Lahlum, the program committee has organized an excellent program, including our Wednesday afternoon roundtable and the Coalition sponsored panels (please see details below).

As always, I encourage you to join us for all the Coalition activities or at least as many as you can. Our breakfast is the place to be Friday morning and the booth will be a center of excitement, don't miss them. I'd particularly like to see you at the business meeting and hear your thoughts and suggestions. Remember that we will also be voting to fill one position on the steering committee during that meeting (please see the statements of the two candidates below). And finally, a big thanks to all who have worked to prepare for the conference, serving on prize committees, organizing sessions, and planning our presence. We will miss those of you who will not be able to make it to Portland to see the fruits of their labor this year. Safe travels to the rest of you, I'm looking forward to seeing you soon.

CWWH at the WHA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2:30 – 4:00PM

CWWH Roundtable:

New Directions: Women, Gender, and the Making of Border (Forum Suite)

Chair: Adele Perry, University of Manitoba

- Krista Barclay, University of Manitoba
- Carol Archer, University of Calgary
- Carla Mendiola, Southern Methodist University
- Yuridia Ramírez, Duke University
- Katrina Jagodinsky, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 3:00 – 4:30PM

Coalition for Western Women's Business Meeting (Council Room)

All are welcome to attend, but you must be a member to vote in the election.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 7:00 – 8:00AM

Coalition for Western Women's History Breakfast (Skyline III)

All are welcome to attend, but a ticket is required to eat breakfast.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 8:30 – 10:00AM

CWWH Branding Session: Sex and Sexuality in the North American West (Parlor A)

Chair: Mary Murphy, Montana State University

- Lori Ann Lahlum, Minnesota State University, Mankato
*"I would have to bear the brunt of the consequences":
Premarital Sex in Norwegian America, 1850-1920*
- Dee Garceau, Rhodes College
Cohabitation in the Early and Mid-Twentieth Century West
- Renée M. Laegreid, University of Wyoming
*From Cowboy's Sweetheart to Honky-Tonk Strumpet:
Sex & Sexuality in Country/Western Music*

CWWH Elections

Amy Scott for CWWH Steering Committee



Amy L. Scott is an associate professor of history and the Director of Women's Studies at Bradley University. She is the co-editor, with Kathleen Brosnan, of *City Dreams, Country Schemes: Community and Identity in the American West* (2011).

She has authored several essays on post-1945 U.S. urban history and social movements, and co-edits the *Urban West Series* at the University of Nevada Press with Eugene Moehring. Scott is currently revising her first monograph, *City Republic of Boulder: Lifestyle Liberalism and the Politics of the Good Life* and is researching a second book on the history of urban agriculture.

Michael Lansing for CWWH Steering Committee

Michael J. Lansing is Associate Professor of History at Augsburg College, where he is department chair and also a participating faculty member in the Women's Studies and Environmental Studies programs. His research focuses on the political, environmental, and gender history of the North American West and Midwest. Michael has received fellowships and awards for his scholarship from the Newberry Library, the Western History Association, the Montana Historical Society, the Western Historical Quarterly and the Utah State Historical Society.

He is the author of *Insurgent Democracy: The Nonpartisan League in North American Politics* (Chicago, 2015) and a co-author (with Anne Butler) of *The American West: A Concise History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2008).

Michael's articles have appeared in the *Western Historical Quarterly*, *Environmental History*, the *Journal of Historical Geography*, *Middle West Review*, the *Utah Historical Quarterly* and *Ethics, Place, and Environment*.

As a proponent of participatory democratic work, he is also an active public historian. He recently collaborated with Kirsten Delegard on a Minnesota State Legacy-funded grant (\$82,000) to support Historyapolis (www.historyapolis.com), a digital exploration of Minneapolis history with Augsburg undergraduate history majors.

Michael attended his first CWWH breakfast in 1996. More recently, Michael served on the Irene Ledesma Prize Committee and as a CWWH mentor. He welcomes the opportunity to further contribute to the important community-building work of the CWWH as a member of the steering committee.



From the CWWH Steering Committee

On Auctions and Awards

After much discussion in business meetings and at the Silent Auction booth over the last few years, the Steering Committee has decided that this year ***we will not be holding a Silent Auction in the CWWH booth at the Western History Association meeting in Portland.***

Because the auction has been positioned as a donation stream for CWWH-sponsored prizes and a way to spread information about our organization, the utility of the booth for both purposes has been up for debate. For members who contribute items, the auction has become a drain on already scarce resources of money and time, as they either purchase or make objects for auction – spending money and time on donations that may or may not generate income for the Coalition. In spite of donors' generosity in providing objects for the auction and the efforts of workers at the booth, we have seen monetary returns from the auction diminish over the last five years. In addition, the number of people visiting the booth who have a chance to hear about our organization has dwindled. In short, it has become clear that we need to make some adjustments to our presence on the exhibit floor at WHA meetings.

In consultation with members and friends of the organization, the CWWH Steering Committee has decided to try a new strategy in Portland. We will be using our booth to focus on the prizes that the organization sponsors, with displays and information about prizes and prize-winners front-and-center. The importance of donations to the prize funds is going to be emphasized and we will continue to use the booth to solicit for those donations; ***we are asking our membership to apply the money they would typically use to supply objects and buy objects from the auction as straight donations to the prize funds.***

We are also asking all CWWH members to sign up to spend time in the booth to serve as ambassadors for the organization – it is a great opportunity to visit with old friends and emphasize the role of the organization, as well as an opportunity to introduce new faces to the CWWH by drawing them into conversation about the benefits of membership and significance of our prizes. There will be a sign-up sheet at the booth in Portland, but we encourage those who can to sign up in advance to do so at this link: <http://bit.ly/1McF4gx>

This likely will not be the only “tweak” to our presence at the WHA – the Steering Committee continues to work to develop new ideas and approaches to serving our existing membership and growing the Coalition for Western Women's History in the future. **We hope that you will join us at the business meeting in Portland on Thursday, October 22, from 3:00-4:30, where we will be discussing this and other ways to improve the work of the Coalition.**



Find the CWWH on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CWWH.West/>.

Sometimes CWWH members show up here too: <http://blogwest.org/>.

Follow the CWWH on Twitter: @WomensWest





IT'S TIME!

Time to renew your CWWH Membership!

Call for Contributors

Race, Gender, and Power in the Mormon Borderlands

Mormon history lies at the borders between subaltern and dominant cultures. On the one hand, due to their unusual family structure and theocratic government, Mormons were a persecuted minority for the better part of the nineteenth century. On the other, Mormons played a significant role as colonizers of the North American West, extending their reach to the borderlands of Mexico, Canada, and the Pacific Islands. There Mormon colonists intermarried with Native Americans, Mexicans, Hawaiians and Samoans, even as they placed exclusions on interracial sexual relations and marriage. During the nineteenth century, Mormons also discouraged Native peoples' polygamous practices while encouraging plural marriage for white women. And for the better part of the twentieth century, Mormon religious doctrine subordinated persons of color within church hierarchy. African-American men, for example, could not hold the priesthood until 1978. Historically, then, Mormons have navigated multiple borders-- between colonizer and colonized, between white and Other, and between minority and imperial identities. This liminal position calls for further investigation. We propose an anthology of essays about race, gender, and power in the Mormon borderlands.

Over the past thirty years, historians of Mormon women have expanded our understanding of gender and power in Mormon society. However, most of these studies focus on

white Mormon women, while Mormon women of color have remained largely invisible. This volume seeks not simply to make visible the lived experiences of Mormon women of color, but more importantly, to explore gender and race in the Mormon borderlands. Taken together, these essays will address how Mormon women and men navigated the complications of minority and colonizer status, interracial marriage and doctrinal race hierarchies, patriarchy and female agency, vigilante violence and religious responsibility, and plural identities. These metaphoric borders were brought into play on the geographic and cultural borders of the United States. Specifically, this volume will encompass the continental U.S. West, the borderlands of Canada and Mexico, and Pacific Rim islands such as Samoa and Hawaii, from the nineteenth through twenty-first centuries. A focus on intersectionality in the borderlands promises to open new directions for Mormon history in concert with recent trends in western history. The anthology will be co-edited by Dee Garceau, Rhodes College, garceau@rhodes.edu, Andrea Radke-Moss, Brigham Young University-Rexburg, radkea@byui.edu, and Sujey Vega, Arizona State University, sujeyvega@asu.edu. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you have.

Please send your article abstract or manuscript as an email attachment by October 15, 2015 to Dee Garceau garceau@rhodes.edu, phone: 901-484-1837.

CWWH MEMBER NEWS

Kristin Mapel Bloomberg was pleased to have her article, “Women and Rural Social Reform in the 1870s and 1880s: Clara Bewick Colby’s ‘Farmer’s Wives’” published in *Agricultural History* 89.3 (Summer 2015).

CWWH member **Susan Armitage** has a new book available. *Shaping the Public Good: Women Making History in the Pacific Northwest*, a labor of love a long time in the making, has been published by the Oregon State University Press.

Molly Holz, editor of *Montana The Magazine of Western History* is pleased to announce that the Montana Historical Society’s web-based project, Women’s History Matters, will be recognized with two awards this fall: The American Association of State and Local History is giving the project an Award of Merit; Mountain-Plains Museum Association is giving it the Leadership and Innovation Award.

Women’s History Matters was created as part of a commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of women’s suffrage in Montana and designed to help the Montana Historical Society promote an increased appreciation and understanding of the role of women in the Treasure State’s past. At the project’s core is the website <http://montanawomenshistory.org>, which features Bibliographies of manuscript collections, oral histories, government documents, pamphlets, magazine articles, videos and

dvds, and published material; over 130 articles published in *Montana The Magazine of Western History* to download and read; educator resources, including lesson plans; and over 100 blog posts featuring a wide range of Montana women’s stories and topics, from women bootleggers and the Women’s Christian Temperance Union to early Virginia City business woman Sarah Bickford and twentieth-century Blackfeet banker Elouise Cobell. This winter, the Montana Historical Society Press is publishing the essays featured on the blog as a book, titled “Beyond Schoolmarms and Madams: Montana Women’s Stories.”

Amy Essington published a review of *Paradise Transplanted: Migration and the Making of California Gardens* by Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo in the *Journal of the West* (Spring 2015) and *A Spectacular Leap: Black Women Athletes in Twentieth-Century America* by Jennifer H. Lansbury in the *Journal of American History* (June 2015). She also wrote entries on “Samuel C. Adams,” “Marcia Bernicat,” “Howard Jeter,” “Robert C. Perry,” “Teddy B. Taylor,” and “Linda Thomas-Greenfield” for blackpast.org.

Tonia M. Compton was granted tenure and promotion to associate professor at Columbia College of Missouri.

CWWH MEMBER NEWS

Best Hessel defended her dissertation at Texas Christian University in May and began her new position in Philadelphia as Executive Director of the Presbyterian Historical Society and Director of Records and History for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in June. The PHS is the archives for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and all predecessor denominations and houses an outstanding collection of foreign and domestic missionary records. They also offer two annual competitive research fellowships for use of the collections and publish the *Journal of Presbyterian History*, for which Beth serves as co-editor.

North Dakota State University recently hired **Suzanne Kelley** to serve as Assistant Professor of Practice and Editor in Chief for the Institute for Regional Studies Press. In her position with the Institute for Regional Studies Press, Kelley oversees book acquisitions, production, marketing, and publicity. She invites anyone working on topics pertaining to the Red River Valley, the State of North Dakota, the plains of America (comprising both the Great Plains of the United States and Prairies of Canada), and comparable regions of other continents to submit book-length manuscripts for consideration. The scope of the Regional Studies Press is not limited by topic or discipline. For more details, visit the press's [website](#) or [online submissions](#) page.



The 2015 Best Article in Mormon History prize was awarded to **Andrea Radke-Moss** (pictured above with her children Abigail and Tristan, and Laurel Thatcher Ulrich) at the annual Mormon History Association Conference in Provo, Utah for her article “I hid [the Prophet] in a corn patch”: Mormon Women as Healers, Concealers, and Protectors in the 1838 Mormon Missouri War.” The article was published in *Mormon Historical Studies* 15, no. 1 (Fall 2014).

\$ We will definitely accept your Contributions! \$

The Coalition sponsors several awards and initiatives that support women, gender, and sexuality history in the North American West. Please consider making a donation this year for these programs!

- Irene Ledesma Prize for Ph.D. Candidates
- Armitage Jameson Book Prize
- General Fund

We also hope to add more funding opportunities to sponsor graduate student travel and recognize service to the profession.

Thank you to those who made contributions to the CWWH in 2015!



**The CWWH now accepts payments online via
PayPal!**

**Visit the website
or contact cwwh.west@gmail.com**



Renee Laegreid and Dee Garceau

invite you to the annual CWWH Pajama Party during the Western History Association Meeting. This annual gathering of new and established scholars is open to anyone engaged in women's and gender history. So plan to pack you jammies and join the conversation. Check our CWWH Facebook Page and Twitter for updates on time, date, and room number.



COALITION FOR WESTERN WOMEN'S HISTORY

Advancing Scholarship on Women & Gender in the North American West

Membership Form

The CWWH welcomes the membership of anyone interested in the history of women and gender in the North American West. New members may join at any time during the calendar year. Membership will be renewed annually in October, following the annual meeting. (The CWWH holds its meetings in conjunction with the Western History Association conference.) Dues are pro-rated to members' annual income and professional status. No one will be excluded from the CWWH because of inability to pay. Dues are the same for Canadian & U.S. dollars.

Interested in **sponsoring a Graduate Student Membership?**
Please fill out the following form with their contact information, and include your name and email address somewhere on the form. Thank you for your interest in this option!

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

(By providing the CWWH with your email address, you agree that the CWWH may contact you for the purposes of membership renewals, elections, and other announcements. The CWWH will not re- distribute this information.)

Affiliation: _____

New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

Annual Dues:

Students.....(\$15.00) \$ _____
Income under \$40,000.....(\$30.00) \$ _____
Income \$40,000 and over.....(\$45.00) \$ _____
Institutions..... (\$100.00) \$ _____

Contributions:

Armitage-Jameson Prize \$ _____
Irene Ledesma Prize \$ _____
Unrestricted \$ _____

Total Enclosed (Membership and Contributions): \$ _____

For **online payments**, email this form to the Recorder and she will send you a PayPal invoice:
Elaine Nelson (cwwh.west@gmail.com)

Send your form and **payment in the mail** for processing:

Elaine Nelson, CWWH Recorder
Department of History, ASH 287
University of Nebraska at Omaha
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68182

CWWH COMMITTEES

Steering Committee (2014-2015):

- Cathleen D. Cahill , Chair (2017)
University of New Mexico
- Matthew Basso (2015)
University of Utah
- Cynthia Prescott (2016)
University of North Dakota
- Leslie Working
(Graduate Student Representative, 2016)
Ball State University
- Danielle Olden (2017)
University of Utah
- Maritza De La Trinidad (2017)
University of Texas Pan-American

Ex Officio

- Linda English (2017)
University of Texas Pan-America
- Lynne Getz,
Appalachian State University (Treasurer)
- Elaine Marie Nelson,
University of Nebraska at Omaha
(Recorder)

2015 Award Committees

Irene Ledesma Prize Committee

- Sarah Eppler Janda (Chair)
Cameron University
- Matthew Basso
University of Utah
- Katrina Jagodinsky
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Armitage-Jameson Prize Committee

- Todd Kerstetter (Chair)
Texas Christian University
- Mary Murphy
Montana State University
- Elizabeth Escobedo
University of Denver

CWWH COMMITTEES

Committees: Consider joining a CWWH Committee! If you are interested in participating in the organization, please contact a member of the Steering Committee or email cwwh.west@gmail.com.

Requirements: Interest, enthusiasm, email communication, and efficiency is important for these committees to function effectively. When you volunteer for a committee, please keep in mind that you are making a commitment to the Organization and its members!

CWWH COMMITTEES

Other Committees:

2015 Exhibit Booth

- Leslie Working, Ball State University
- Jo Tice Bloom, retired

Wednesday Roundtable Committee

- Sarah Deutsch, Duke University (Chair, 2016 meeting, St. Paul)
- Lori Lahlum, Mankato State University (2017 meeting, San Diego)
- Karen Leong, Arizona State University (2018 meeting, TBD)

Mentor Program

- Melody Miyamoto Walters, Collin College, Chair
- Emily Wardrop, University of Oklahoma

Branded Session Committee

- Sarah Janda, Cameron University (Chair, 2016 meeting, St. Paul)
- Donna Scheule, University of California, Irvine (Chair, 2017 meeting, TBD)
- Linda English, University of Texas-Pan American (2018 meeting, TBD)

Writer's Group

- Renee Laegreid (Coordinator)

Membership Committee

- Kendra Moore, Northern Arizona University
- Julie Stidolph, Luang Prabang region, Laos
- Elaine Marie Nelson, University of Nebraska-Omaha
- Beth Hessel, Texas Christian University
- Alessandra Link, University of Colorado-Boulder
- Jennifer McPherson, University of New Mexico

Finance Committee

- Paula Petrik, George Mason University, Chair
- Jean Hurtado, Independent Scholar, Consultant
- Lynne Getz, Appalachian State University, Treasurer

Coalition for Western Women's History

Advancing Scholarship on Women & Gender in the North American West



PLEASE VISIT THE CWWH WEBSITE!

www.westernwomenshistory.org

Send us book cover suggestions!

The web heading image of book covers rotates with each page you click.

Over 130 titles are currently represented on the website.

You will see a diverse array of authors (both members and non-members).

All have written on women and gender in the North American West.

Did we miss an important title?

Send us your suggestions (cwwh.west@gmail.com)

and we will integrate new book covers to appear on the Website.



Midwestern History Association

Request for Prize Committee Member

Final committee member sought for Hamlin Garland Prize for Popular Midwestern History:

The prize committee for the Hamlin Garland Prize for Popular Midwestern History seeks one final member to serve on the selection committee for a new prize offered by the Midwestern History Association (prize description below). Our submission deadline has passed, and we've received eight interesting entries ranging from journal articles to monographs on topics ranging from LGBT Steelworkers to Native American history to railroad photography. The committee will likely meet via email and gDocs. If you're interested please email Kristin Mapel Bloomberg, committee chair, asap (no later than Oct. 26) at kbloomberg@hamline.edu

2015 Hamlin Garland Prize for Popular Midwestern History

The Garland Prize honors a work of popular history about the Midwest published in the previous calendar year (2014) that contributes to broader public reflection and appreciation of the region's past. For purposes of the award, "the Midwest" includes the twelve states of the region as defined by the US Census: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Works of popular history eligible for the prize may include, but are not limited to, articles in popular history magazines and journals, feature stories in magazines and newspapers, and books written for a broad public audience.

CWWH BUSINESS MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

3:00-4:30 PM

COUNCIL ROOM

**MAKE SURE YOU JOIN US
FOR THE BUSINESS MEETING!**

Join the CWWH at the
Western History Association's
55th Annual Conference
October 21-24, 2015
Portland, Oregon

