

SARAH POTTER

Department of History
The University of Memphis
Memphis, TN 38152-3450
spotter1@memphis.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, History Department
University of Memphis
2014-present

Director, Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities
University of Memphis
2016-2019

Assistant Professor, History Department
University of Memphis
2008-2014

EDUCATION

Ph.D., History
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2008

M.A., History
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2002

B.A., History, *cum laude* and with departmental honors
Columbia University, New York, NY
1999

PUBLICATIONS

Under contract with Routledge Press to edit collection entitled *New Directions in Family History*, forthcoming in 2025

Excerpt from *Everybody Else* included in Emily Hipchen, ed., *The Routledge Critical Adoption Studies Reader* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2024), 92-98.

Note of appreciation in “Celebrating Fifty Years of *Feminist Studies*: Notes of Appreciation from Authors,” in *Feminist Studies* 48.3 (2022).

“Thou Shalt Meet Thy Sexual Needs in Marriage’: Southern Baptists and Marital Sex in the

Postwar Era," *Church History* (2020): 89, 125-147.

Everybody Else: Adoption and the Politics of Domestic Diversity in Postwar America (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2014)

"Family Ideals: The Diverse Meanings of Residential Space in Chicago during the Baby Boom," in "Beyond White Flight: Suburban Diversity in Postwar America," Special Issue, *Journal of Urban History*, eds. Matthew Lassiter and Christopher Niedt (January 2013): 59-78.

"'Undesirable Relations': Same-sex Relationships and the Meaning of Sexual Desire at a Women's Reformatory during the Progressive Era," *Feminist Studies* 30, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 394-415.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

I am currently conducting an oral history project with Choices: Center for Reproductive Health in Memphis, TN, the first abortion provider in Memphis, for their upcoming fiftieth anniversary in 2024. I plan to work these interviews into at least one article about the geography of abortion after the Dobbs decision and I hope to eventually write a book-length history of Choices and reproductive justice in Memphis.

I am developing several articles on the history of adultery in the postwar US. One piece, tentatively entitled "'First we'll have an orgy and then we'll see Tony Bennett': The Sexual Politics of Consensual Nonmonogamy in the Late 1960s and Early 1970s" has been accepted to a forthcoming collection on the history marriage edited by William Kuby, Alison Lefkowitz, Sarah Rowley, Emily Swafford, and Traci Parker. I am still awaiting word about when and where this will be published. I have also been working on a short piece entitled, "'Every Woman Can Put Herself in the First Mrs. Rockefeller's Position': The Postwar Tradition of Judging Public Men by their Treatment of Women," in development for web publication.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Sandra Sufian, *Sufian, Familial Fitness: Disability, Adoption, and Family in Modern America* (University of Chicago Press, 2022) in *Journal of American History* (Sept. 2023): 377-378.

Review of Elizabeth Flowers and Karen K. Seat, eds., *A Marginal Majority: Women, Gender, and a Reimagining of Southern Baptists* (University of Tennessee Press, 2020) in *Journal of Southern History* (Feb. 2022): 202-203.

Review of Brian Donovan, *American Gold Digger: Marriage, Money, and the Law from the Ziegfeld Follies to Anna Nicole Smith* (University of North Carolina Press, 2020) in *Journal of American History* (March 2022): 859-860.

Review of William Kuby, *Conjugal Misconduct: Defying Marriage Law in the Twentieth-Century United States* (Cambridge University Press, 2018) in *Journal of American Studies* (May 2020): 296.

Review of Rachel Rains Winslow, *The Best Possible Immigrants: International Adoption and the American Family* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017) in *Journal of American History* (June 2019): 242.

Review of Nicole Hemmer, *Messengers of the Right: Conservative Media and the Transformation of American Politics* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016) in *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* (Summer 2017): 205-207.

Review of E. Wayne Carp, *Jean Paton and the Struggle to Reform American Adoption* (University of Michigan Press, 2014) in *Journal of American History* 103, no. 3 (December 2016): 817-818.

Review of Holly Allen, *Forgotten Men and Fallen Women: The Cultural Politics of New Deal Narratives* (Cornell University Press, 2015) in *American Historical Review* 121, no. 3 (Summer 2016): 969-970.

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

Travel Enrichment Award, University of Memphis, College of Arts and Sciences, Fall 2023

Professional Development Assignment, University of Memphis, Fall 2019
Deborah Talbot Summer Humanities Research Fellowship, University of Memphis, Summer 2019

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar, Participant in "Summer Seminar and Institutes Program: Gender, the State, and the 1977 International Women's Year Conference," University of Houston, June 2017

Travel Enrichment Award, University of Memphis, College of Arts and Sciences, Fall 2016

Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award, University of Memphis, 2015

Course Redesign Fellowship, University of Memphis, 2013

Professional Development Assignment, University of Memphis, Fall 2012

Travel Enrichment Award, University of Memphis, College of Arts and Sciences, Spring 2010

Faculty Research Grant, University of Memphis, 2009

Short-term Research Fellowship in African American Studies, Black Metropolis Research Consortium, Chicago, IL, 2009

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in U.S. History, Cornell University, 2008-2010 (declined)

Center for Gender Studies Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2006-2007

Women's Studies Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 2006

Fitzpatrick Mellon Dissertation Proposal Prize, University of Chicago Department of History, 2004-2005

Feminist Studies Award for Best Paper Submitted by a Graduate Student, 2003

Century Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2002-2006

Mellon "First Year" Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 2001-2002

TEACHING

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

HIST 2020: US since 1877 (in classroom and hybrid)

HIST 4055/6055: History of Sexuality in the 20th-Century US (in classroom)

HIST 4831/6831: American Family History (in classroom and online)

HIST 4863/6863: History of American Childhood (in classroom)

HIST 7025: Principles and Practices in History Education (in classroom and online)

HIST 7061/8061: Studies in Women's/Gender History: History of Sexuality in the US (in classroom and online)

HIST 7602/8602: US Historiography after 1877 (in classroom)

HIST 7680/8680: Studies in US History after 1877: US post-1945 (in classroom and online)

HIST 7980/8980: The Reproductive Rights Movement in the US (in classroom)

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Racialization and the Private Sphere in the US, Lecturer, Fall 2007

BA Essay Seminar, Preceptor, Winter and Spring 2005

America in Western Civilizations 2 (nineteenth-century section), teaching assistant for Professor Amy Stanley, Winter 2005

Research and Writing Methodologies in Gender Studies, Preceptor, Fall 2004

The Social History of American Sexual Subcultures, Teaching Assistant for Professor George Chauncey, Fall 2003

TALKS, CONFERENCE PAPERS, POSTERS, AND PRESENTATIONS

"Practicing Reproductive Justice in the Pre- and Post-Dobbs South: A History of CHOICES in Memphis, TN," poster presentation at the National Women's Studies Association's Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD, in October, 2023.

"Everyone knows them and talks about them': The Public Problem of Unfaithful War Wives during World War II," panelist and organizer, Society for US Intellectual History, Nashville, TN, October 2021, panel moved online and given March 2022 due to Covid-19 pandemic

“Canyons, Mountains, and Valleys: Women’s Activism during the Twentieth Century from the Appalachian Mountains to Topanga Canyon,” Organizer and Discussant of Roundtable discussion for Berkshire Conference of Women (Big Berks), conference was supposed to take place June 2020, but was canceled due to Covid-19 pandemic

“Love your Mombod: Race, Gender, and the Commercialization of Postpartum Fitness,” Poster Presentation at National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2019

“‘The Real Worth and Dignity of Human Sexuality’: Open Marriage, Authenticity, and the Politics of Intimacy in the 1970s,” Berkshire Conference on the History of Women (Big Berks), Hempstead, NY, June 2017

“Women Rap about Sex: Feminism and Extramarital Sex in the 1960s and 1970s,” Society for United States Intellectual History Annual Conference, Palo Alto, CA, October 2016

Invited Keynote Speaker for Children’s Home + Aid’s Annual Board of Trustees meeting and presenter in their “Experts and Insights Speaker Series,” Chicago, IL, June 2014

“Something That Matters: White Working-Class Domesticity in Post-World War II Chicago,” Berkshire Conference on the History of Women (Big Berks), Amherst, MA, June 2011

“The Obligations of Motherhood: Rethinking the Politics of Family in Post-World War II Chicago,” Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Washington, DC, April 2010

“Do We Stay or Do We Go?: Family Ideals and the Diverse Meanings of Suburban Space in Chicago in the 1940s and 1950s,” The Diverse Suburb: History, Politics, and Prospects, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, October 2009

“Inside the Baby Boom: Rethinking the Politics of Family, Race, and Class in Post-World War II Chicago,” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, October 2008

“They’ve Shown Themselves to Be Very Home Loving and Community Minded Persons’: Family Ideology and Civic Engagement,” Political History Workshop, University of Chicago, April 2008

“Something to Live For’: Family Ideology, Personal Fulfillment, and Social Belonging,” Social History Workshop, University of Chicago, October 2007

“Constructing Domestic Space: Community, Race, and Domestic Privacy in Post-World War II Chicago,” Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, March 2007

“We’ve All Got Acute Ghetto-itus’: Domesticity in Chicago’s Black Belt, 1940-1960,” Seventh Annual Graduate Symposium on Women’s and Gender History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March, 2006; also presented at Social History Workshop, University of Chicago, March 2006

“‘A Place for Women Only’: Women’s Political Activity in the 1920s and the Campaign for a State Reformatory for Women in Illinois,” M.A. thesis, completed under direction of Thomas C. Holt, James Westfall Thompson Professor of American History, University of Chicago, 2002

SERVICE

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Reviewer for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, National Archives and Records Administration, August, 2016; August, 2018; August 2020
Reviewer for University of Georgia Press, summer 2018
Participant in American Historical Association’s Tuning Project on curricula and core competencies in the discipline, representing the University of Memphis, 2015-2016
Standard Setting Panelist for AP US History Exam, College Board, June, 2015
Membership Committee – Representative from Tennessee, Organization of American Historians, 2009-2016

SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES AND UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

Member of University of Memphis Research Council, Fall 2018-Present
Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award Selection Committee, 2015-2017, 2020
Director of the Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities, Spring 2016-2019
Assistant Director of the Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities, Summer-Fall 2015
Moderator for National Conference on Undergraduate Research panel, Spring 2016
University Undergraduate Council, Humanities representative from the College of Arts and Sciences, 2013-2015
Executive Planning Committee, Women’s History Month, 2014-2017
Faculty Advisor for Planned Parenthood Generation Action Student Group, 2014-2015
Center for Research on Women, Faculty Affiliate, 2008-present
Faculty Research Grant Committee, 2014-2016
Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Faculty Affiliate, 2008-present
Engaged Scholarship Committee, 2009-2012

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

Associate Chair, Spring 2020-present
Search Committee for World History Instructor, 2020
West Tennessee History Day Judge, 2009-Present
Search Committee for US Colonial Historian, 2018-2019
History Department Representative on College of Arts and Sciences Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2017, 2018
Chair’s Advisory Committee, 2017-present
Search Committee for 20th-Century African American Historian, 2016-2017
Chair, Search Committee for 20th-Century US Women’s Historian, 2015-2016
Undergraduate Studies Committee Member, Fall 2015-2017
Tenure and Promotion Committee for William Campbell, Fall 2015
Director of Undergraduate Studies and Chair of Undergraduate Program Committee, Dec. 2013-Spring 2015
Faculty Advisor for Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, 2010-2013
Search Committee for 20th-Century African American Historian, 2013-2014
Graduate Admissions Committee, 2010-2012
Search Committee for US Colonial Historian, 2012-2013

Endowment Committee, 2009-2010
Graduate Program Committee, 2008-2009, 2010-2011
Newsletter/Alumni Outreach Committee, 2008-2009
Undergraduate Program Committee, 2009-2010, 2011-2012

COMMUNITY SERVICE, MEMPHIS, TN

Invited panelist for event on 2016 election, Benjamin Hooks Public Library, December 2016
Invited presenter for Shelby County Schools Social Studies Teacher In-Service, August, 2015
Invited panelist for One Billion Rising event on rape culture, February, 2015; February, 2014

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Admissions Interviewer for Columbia University Alumni Representative Committee (ARC), 2013-present, and recipient of their 2015 Emerging Leader Award

Coordinator, Teaching Tactics Brown Bag Lunches, University of Memphis, 2009-2015

Teaching Consultant, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Chicago, Fall 2007

Project Director, "Women and the University of Chicago: History and Experience," University of Chicago Center for Gender Studies, Summer 2006

Graduate Student Representative and Co-coordinator of Student Caucus, University of Chicago Center for Gender Studies, 2005-2006

Graduate Student Mentor, University of Chicago SROP-McNair Scholars' Program, Summer 2005

Co-coordinator, University of Chicago Social History Workshop, 2004-2005

Department Administrator, Barnard College Department of Women's Studies, New York, NY, September 1999 to September 2001

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association, Organization of American Historians