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## **HIST 715 Gender, Sexuality and Family in the Early Modern Atlantic World**

Spring 2017  
M 9-11:50  
Omohundro Seminar Room,

Prof. Karin Wulf  
Office hours: M 12- and by appt.  
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This seminar looks at the relationship between the family and the state in the early modern Atlantic. As a foundational social structure and a private, intimate experience, the family has been a subject of public scrutiny and state intervention. In this course we aim to account for both, critically engaging the complex and fraught notions of “family” and “state” as they mutually emerged in this period.

We take as our primary topical focus early modern Europe, the colonial Americas, and the Caribbean. We are respectful of the important histories of family in Europe, Africa, and the Americas before colonization, but we are primarily engaged, in this course, with how state-building and colonization proceeded to enfold family *in situ*.

This course is cognizant not only of the historical past, but, as always of the history of history itself and, in this case, the history of family history. We will begin with a quick look at histories of family in the 1970s and 1980s, before historians and other humanists became more fully engaged with intersecting questions about gender, sexuality, race, and imperialism, and then tour topics in the histories of family in Europe and North America, considering crucial questions of family in law, economy, religion and politics. We'll then turn our full attention to the intersections of empire, race and family in the Americas and the Caribbean.

### **Course Reading**

Course readings include books, articles and essays. Book chapters will be included as either links or PDFs on the Blackboard site; some journal article links to JSTOR will be posted as well, all under each week in the “content” section. We will also read the following books in their entirety:

Judith Bennett, *History Matters: Patriarchy and the Challenge of Feminism*

Marisa J. Fuentes, *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive*

Dhurba Ghosh, *Sex and the Family in Colonial India*

Jennifer Morgan, *Laboring Women: Gender and Reproduction in New World Slavery*

Ann Marie Plane, *Colonial Intimacies: Indian Marriage in Early New England*

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Bianca Premo, *Children of the Father King: Youth, Authority and Legal Minority in Colonial Lima*

Lyndal Roper, *Holy Household: Women and Morals in Reformation Augsburg*

Claudio Saunt, *Black, White, and Indian: Race and the Unmaking of an American Family*

Francesca Trivellato, *The Familiarity of Strangers*

Ann Twinam, *Public Lives, Private Secrets: Gender, Honor, Sexuality and Illegitimacy in Colonial Spanish America*

Each student's choice, one of the following:

Sarah Pearsall, *Atlantic Families*

Jennifer Palmer, *Intimate Bonds: Family and Slavery in the French Atlantic*

### Course Requirements

Participation            45%

Paper # 1                25%

Paper # 2                30%

The most important responsibility of each student in this course is to participate fully and productively in the work of the seminar. A seminar is an intellectual community—at least for the duration of the term, and hopefully beyond. Every seminar member must be committed to reading and engaging with the course materials. Having read the assigned material every person brings a useful perspective to the table, and must be willing to share it.

To further facilitate discussion in class, we will use Blackboard's discussion forum. There, by 6PM of the Sunday preceding each class meeting, each student will post 2 questions. One of these should address what the poster deemed to be the most compelling or important point raised in the reading—this might take the form of quoted material from the texts with an accompanying comment, or a straightforward question for the seminar's consideration. The second should be directed to how the source material is mobilized. If one of the course queries is about the relationship of family and state, then how do different authors employ different kinds of materials to best (or not) effect? (This second question foreshadows the work of the second paper.)

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## Course Schedule

Jan. 23 Atlantic/ family 1: How have histories of family in the Atlantic world emerged, and emerged as a body of scholarship? What are some of the key issues, angles, and sources?

[No class meeting—post online by Jan. 29 questions for Jan. 23 & Jan. 30]

Reading:

1. *History Compass* 8/3 (2010) cluster “Rethinking Gender, Family, and Sexuality in the Early Modern Atlantic World”: Premo, “On Currents and Comparisons: Gender and the Atlantic “Turn” in Spanish America”; Wulf, “Women and Families in Early (North) America and the Wider (Atlantic) World”; Hardwick, “Family Matters: The Early Modern Atlantic from the European Side.”

2. Harwick, Pearsall and Wulf “Centering Families in Atlantic Histories,” *WMQ* (April 2013), 205-224

Jan. 30 Family History in the Stone Age: Thinking about the early, animating questions in family history, how they may have shaped the field, and why they may or may not have much traction now.

Reading:

1. Lawrence Stone, *The Family, Sex, and Marriage in England, 1500-1800*, Ch. 1-3, 6

2. David Warren Sabean and Simon Teuscher, “Kinship in Europe: A New Approach to Long Term Development.”

3. Nara Milanich, “Whither Family History? A Road Map from Latin America,” *AHR* (April 2007), 439-458.

4. Sarah Hanley, “Engendering the State: Family Formation and State Building in Early Modern France,” *French Historical Studies* (1989)

5. Patrick Manning, “Frontiers of Family Life: Early Modern Atlantic and Indian Ocean Worlds,” *Modern Asian Studies* (January 2009), 315-33.

Feb. 6 Atlantic Family 2: Who’s afraid of the Long Ago? And how do we source that?

Reading:

1. Judith Bennett, *History Matters*

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2. Forum on Bennett, *Journal of Women's History* (2008)

3. Marisa Fuentes, *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence and the Archive*

Feb. 13 Family and the Theocratic State: How did religion function as a “state” in early modern Europe, and how significant was “family” for its claim to and exercise of authority?

Reading:

1. Lyndal Roper, *Holy Household*

2. Ulrike Strasser, *State of Virginity: Gender, Religion and Politics in and Early Modern Catholic State*, Intro., Ch. 3

Feb. 20 Political Languages of Family in England/ France

Reading:

1. Rachel Weil, *Political Passions: Gender, the Family and Political Argument in England, 1680-1714*, Intro., Ch. 3

2. Patricia Bonomi, *The Lord Cornbury Scandal: the Politics of Reputation in British America* Ch 5-7

3. Mary Fissell, *Vernacular Bodies: the Politics of Reproduction in Early Modern England*, Ch. 1 and 7

4. Meghan Roberts, *Sentimental Savants: Philosophical Families in Enlightenment France*, Intro., Ch 2

Feb 27 Family and the Merchant State

Reading:

1. Francesca Trivellato, *The Familiarity of Strangers: The Sephardic Diaspora, Livorno, and Cross Cultural Trade in the Early Modern Period*

2. Julia Adams, *Ruling Families and Merchant Capitalism in Early Modern Europe*, Ch. 3,4, 6

3. Susannah Shaw Romney, *New Netherland Connections: Intimate Networks and Atlantic Ties in Seventeenth-Century America*, Ch 2

**Mar. 6        SPRING BREAK**

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Mar. 13        Family and Capitalism/ The (Family) Political Economy of Slavery

Reading:

1. Margaret Hunt, *The Middling Sort: Gender, Commerce and the Family in England, 1680-1780* (Chapters)
2. Amy Erickson, "Coverture and Capitalism," *History Workshop Journal* (2005)
3. Simon Smith, *Slavery, Family and Gentry Capitalism in the British Atlantic: The World of the Lascelles, 1648-1834*, selections.
4. Alex Shepherd, "Minding their own Business: Married Women and Credit in Eighteenth-Century London," *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, 25: 53-74.
5. Randy J. Sparks, "Gold Coast Merchant Families, Pawning, and the Eighteenth-Century Slaver Trade," *WMQ* April 2013, 317-340.

Mar. 20        Regulation of Marriage and Legitimacy in Colonial Americas

Reading:

1. Ann Twinam, *Public Lives, Private Secrets: Gender, Honor, Sexuality and Illegitimacy in Colonial Spanish America*
2. Ann Marie Plane, *Colonial Intimacies: Indian Marriage in Early New England*
3. Suzanne Desan, "Making and Breaking Marriage: An Overview of Old Regime Marriage as a Social Practice," in Desan and Merrick, *Family, Gender and Law in Early Modern France* (2009)

Mar. 27        Colonial Politics of Reproduction    **(Papers due)**

Reading:

1. Jennifer Morgan, *Laboring Women: Gender and Reproduction in New World Slavery*
2. Susan Klepp, *Revolutionary Conceptions: Women, Fertility, and Family Limitation in America, 1760-1820*, Intro., Ch. 1, Conclusion
3. Katherine Paugh, "The Politics of Childbearing in the British Caribbean and the Atlantic World During the Age of Abolition, 1776-1838," *Past and Present* Nov. 2013

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Apr. 3            Economics and Economic History

Reading:

1. Hardwick, *Family Business*, Intro., Chapters 1 & 4, Epilogue
2. Ellen Hartigan O'Connor, *The Ties that Buy: Women and Commerce in Revolutionary America* Ch. 1 & 3
3. Laura Gowing, "Secret Births and Infanticide in Seventeenth-Century England," *Past and Present* (1997), 87-115

April 10        No Class

Apr. 17        Colonial Families and the Constitution of Race

Reading:

1. Durba Ghosh, *Sex and the Family in Colonial India*
2. Daniel Livesay, "The Decline of Jamaica's Interracial Households and the Fall of the Planter Class, 1733-1823," *Atlantic Studies* (Mar. 2012), 107-123.
3. Jennifer Spear, "Colonial Intimacies: Legislating Sex in Colonial Louisiana," *WMQ* (2003)
4. Pernille Ipsen, "'The Christened Mulatress': Euro-African Families in a Slave-Trading Town," *WMQ* April 2013, 371-398.

Apr. 24

Reading:

1. Claudio Saunt, *Black, White, and Indian: Race and the Unmaking of an American Family*

(either/ or):

1. Sarah Pearsall, *Atlantic Families*
2. Emma Rothschild, *The Inner Life of Empires*

May 8            **Final Papers Due**

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### Paper Topics and Bibliographies

#### Paper 1

See the syllabus for the due dates associated with the papers. You should select *one* of the below topics to explore in both papers. Your first paper will be historiographical, accounting fully for the issues raised in the selections listed below. I'll consider substitutions to these topical bibliographies, but substitutions should be the exception.

#### 1. Family Economies/ Economies of Family

##### A. Family Economic Organization

Amy Erickson, "Coverture and Capitalism" *History Workshop Journal* 59 (2005), 1-16

Margaret Hunt, *The Middling Sort: Commerce, Gender and the Family in England, 1680-1780* (1996)

Julia Adams, *The Familial State: Ruling Families and Merchant Capitalism in Early Modern Europe* (2006)

S.D Smith, *Slavery, Family and Gentry Capitalism in the British Atlantic* (2006)

##### B. Family and Economic Strategies

Joan Jensen, *Loosening the Bonds: Mid-Atlantic Farm Women, 1750-1850* (1980)

Marta Vicente, *Clothing the Spanish Empire: families and the calico trade in the early modern Atlantic World* (2006)

Francesca Trivellato, *The Familiarity of Strangers* (New Haven, 2009)

Randy Sparks, "Two Princes of Calabar: an Eighteenth-Century Atlantic Odessey," *William and Mary Quarterly* (2002)

Jane Mangan, *Trading Roles: Gender, Ethnicity, and the Urban Economy, Potosí, 1545 -1700* (Durham, 2005)

#### 2. History of Children/ Childhood

Merry Wieser-Hanks, "Orphans and Colonialism," available at on the website *Children and Youth in History* at <http://chnm.gmu.edu/cyh/case-studies/84>

Ondina Gonzalez and Bianca Premo eds., *Raising an Empire: Children in Early Modern Iberia and Colonial Latin America* (New Mexico UP, 2007)

Bianca Premo, "How Latin America's History of Childhood Came of Age," *The Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*, Volume 1, Number 1, Winter 2008, pp. 63-76

Bianca Premo, *Children of the Father King: Youth, Authority and Legal Minority in Colonial Lima* (2005)

Holly Brewer, *By Birth or Consent: Children, Law, and the Anglo-American Revolution in Authority* (2005)

Ruth Herson and John Murray, eds. *Children Bound to Labor* (2008)



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### 3. Race, Identity and Legitimacy

Ann Twinam, *Public Lives, Private Secrets: Gender, Honor, Sexuality, and Illegitimacy in Colonial Spanish America* (Palo Alto, 2001)

Forum: Purity of Blood and the Social Order (articles by Guillaume Aubert and Maria Elena Martinez) *WMQ* July 2004

Maria Elena Martinez, *Genealogical Fictions: Limpieza de Sangre, Religion and Gender in Colonial Mexico* (2008)

Jacob Selwood, "English Born Reputed Strangers: Birth and Descent in Seventeenth-Century London"

Kathleen Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches and Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race and Power in Colonial Virginia* (1996) [first half]

Annette Gordon-Reed, *Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson: An American Controversy* (1997)

### 4. Marriage

Patricia Seed, *To Love, Honor, and Obey in Colonial Mexico: Conflicts Over Marriage Choice, 1574-1821* (Stanford University Press, 1988)

David Cook and Alexandra Noble Cook, *Good Faith and Truthful Ignorance: a case of Transatlantic Bigamy* (1991)

Jennifer Spear, *Race, Sex and the Social Order in Early New Orleans* (2008)

Kathleen Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs* (second half)

Kathleen Duval, "Indian Inter-marriage and Metissage in Colonial Louisiana"

John Garrigus, "To Establish a Community of Property: Marriage and Race Before and During the Haitian Revolution"

### 5. Production and Reproduction

Jennifer Morgan, *Laboring Women: Gender and Reproduction in New World Slavery* (2004)

Gloria Main, "Rocking the Cradle: Downsizing the New England Family," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* (2006)

Susan Klepp, *Revolutionary Conceptions: Women, Fertility and Family Limitation in America, 1760-1820* (2009)

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on her Diary, 1785-1812* (1991)

Mary Fissell, *Vernacular Bodies: The Politics of Reproduction in Early Modern England* (2005)

### 6. Sex and Violence

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Wendy Warren, "The Cause of Her Grief": The Rape of a Slave in Early New England" Journal of American History, 93:4 (March 2007)

Laura Gowing, "The Haunting of Susan Lay"

Kristen Fischer and Jennifer Morgan, "Sex, Race, and the Colonial Project" Forum on Early American Sexuality, *William and Mary Quarterly*, 60:1 (January 2003)

Trevor Burnard, *Mastery, Tyranny and Desire: Thomas Thistlewood and his Slaves in the Anglo-Jamaican World* (Chapel Hill, 2003)

Sharon Block, *Rape and Sexual Power in Early America* (2006)

Daniels and Kennedy, *Over the Threshold: Intimate Violence in Early America* (1999)

Julie Hardwick, "Early Modern Perspectives on the Long History of Domestic Violence: The Case of Seventeenth-Century France," *Journal of Modern History* 78:1 (March 2006), 1-36.

### 7. Religion and family

Lyndal Roper, *Holy Household: Family and Morals in Reformation Augsburg* (1989)

Alan Greer, *Mohawk Saint: Catherine Tekakwitha and the Jesuits* (2005)

Jon Senbach, *A Separate Canaan: The Making of an Afro-Moravian World in North Carolina, 1763-1840* (1998)

Barry Levy, *Quakers and the American Family: British Settlement in the Delaware Valley* (1991)

Ramon Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846* (1991)

Ann Taves, *Religion and Domestic Violence in Early New England* (1989)

### 8. Families on "Frontiers"

Alida Metcalf, *Family and Frontier in colonial Brazil* (1992; reprinted Austin, 2005)

John Demos, *The Unredeemed Captive: A Family Story from Early America* (1995)

Rutman and Rutman, *A Place in Time: Middlesex County, Virginia, 1650-1750* (1986)

Theda Perdue, "Clan and Court: Another Look at the Early Cherokee Republic" *American Indian Quarterly* (2000)

Claudio Saunt, *Black, White, and Indian: Race and the Unmaking of an American Family*

### 9. Archival Production/ Silences

Special issue *History of the Present* "From Archives of Slavery to Liberated Futures" ed. By Brian Connolly and Marisa Fuentes, Fall 2016.

Special issue of *Social Text*, "The Question of Recovery: Slavery, Freedom, and the Archive," editors in chief. Shauna Sweeney, December 2015

## Paper 2:

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The second paper will be based on a close reading of a single or handful of primary sources. A public document such as a court record, a tax record, a property deed or a will; a printed text such as a sermon, prescriptive literature of various kinds, travel accounts; or privately circulated manuscripts such as letters and diaries would all be good choices.

You may consult with me about the primary source selections. Printed sources are somewhat easier to access, but pose their own interpretive challenges. The special collections department at Swem may be able to point you to some items in their holdings. Other starting places include the many relevant databases available through Swem or digital collections at other libraries/ archives.

Just a few among *many* databases/ websites:

Early American Imprints (Swem)

Early English Books Online (Swem)

The Old Bailey, 1674-1913: <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>

Yale's Avalon Project: <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/default.asp>

Connecticut Colonial Court Records: <http://www.colonialct.uconn.edu/>

Maryland Archives Online:

<http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/html/index.html>

Library of Congress, "Slaves and the Courts" <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sthtml/sthome.html>

UNCG Digital Library on American Slavery: <http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/about.aspx>