

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

Spring 2019  
M 9-11:50  
Omohundro Seminar Room

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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 are asking questions about the historical past, but also about how and when and why we learn about which pasts.

We will begin with a look at histories of family in the 17th and 18th centuries, 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 are posted as PDFs on the Blackboard site; journal articles should be accessible through Swem Library. We will also read the books on this list in their entirety.

NB: for a number of weeks there are either/ or readings. You should assume that if your last name begins with A-J, you will read the “either” and if your last name begins with M-Z you will read the “or” work(s). See example below as in either Ghosh or Livesay.

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

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

EITHER Dhurba Ghosh, *Sex and the Family in Colonial India* (Last names A-J) OR Daniel Livesay, *Children of Uncertain Fortune* (Last names M-Z)

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

EITHER Jennifer Palmer, *Intimate Bonds: Family and Slavery in the French Atlantic* OR Sarah Pearsall, *Atlantic Families*

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

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*

### 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 facilitate group discussion, mutual engagement with the scholarship, and collective contributions to notes on the reading we will use a group-created google doc to prepare for each class meeting. Please read these directions carefully. I will post the google doc link on Blackboard under discussion for each week's date.

1. Beginning with the first class, by 6PM of the Sunday preceding each class meeting, each student will contribute an obvious and basic question about the week's reading. (There's a method to this madness!) For example, for week one a good question would be "what is feminism?" That question should be followed by *two sentences about how to answer that question based on the reading*. For example, "Judith Bennett's *History Matters* considers feminism to be...and argues that it..."
2. Beginning with the second class, each student will return to the google doc for the **previous** week and contribute at least two sentences to a collective summary of the primary reading.
3. Beginning with the class on Feb. 18 each student will *also* list one primary source-based and one secondary-source based footnote from the reading, explaining why the former is important to the argument being made, and the latter important for how the work contributes to scholarship.

NB: You'll be able to edit the doc with the link on Blackboard, which makes it a fully collective endeavor. In order to recognize each person's contribution, I ask you to leave your contributions on the collective doc (eg, not your own questions) as suggestions. I'll finalize the doc after a week, and you can then use it as you wish. If you're feeling skittish about getting credit for your contributions, you can save your own work, or a copy of the document as you revised it.

## Course Schedule

### Jan. 28 Preliminaries: What are we doing?

Judith Bennett, *History Matters*

### Feb. 4 Family History out of 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. Strong hint: WHY are we beginning in Europe?

Reading:

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

2. EITHER

David Warren Sabean and Simon Teuscher, "Kinship in Europe: A New Approach to Long Term Development"

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

3. EITHER Sarah Hanley, "Engendering the State: Family Formation and State Building in Early Modern France," *French Historical Studies* (1989)

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

### Feb. 11 Family in an Atlantic Context - interpretations, issues, sources

NB: KW will be on Zoom for this class

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

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

### Feb. 18 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. 25 Political Languages of Family**

Reading:

1. Ann Marie Plane, *Colonial Intimacies: Indian Marriage in Early New England*
2. Rachel Weil, *Political Passions: Gender, the Family and Political Argument in England, 1680-1714*, Intro., Ch. 3
3. Patricia Bonomi, *The Lord Cornbury Scandal: the Politics of Reputation in British America* Ch 5-7
4. Mary Fissell, *Vernacular Bodies: the Politics of Reproduction in Early Modern England*, Ch. 1 and 7

### **Week of March 4 – SPRING BREAK**

#### **March 11 Family and the Merchant State (Papers due)**

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

#### **March 18 Family Political Economies: Capitalism and 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.

### **March 25 Regulation of Race, Sexuality and Legitimacy**

Reading:

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

### **April 1 Colonial Politics of Sex and Reproduction**

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

### **April 8 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
4. Meghan Roberts, *Sentimental Savants: Philosophical Families in Enlightenment France*, Intro., Ch 2

### **April 15 Intimacy and Domesticity in Colonial Contexts**

Reading:

1. Durba Ghosh, *Sex and the Family in Colonial India* OR Daniel Livesay, *Children of Uncertain Fortune*
2. Daina Ramey Berry and Leslie M. Harris, eds, *Sexuality and Slavery: Reclaiming Intimate Histories in the Americas* Intro., Ch. 4 (Premo) and Ch. 5 (Millward)
3. Pernille Ipsen, "'The Christened Mulatress': Euro-African Families in a Slave-Trading Town," *WMQ* April 2013, 371-398.

### **April 22 LAST CLASS**

Reading:

1. Claudio Saunt, *Black, White, and Indian: Race and the Unmaking of an American Family*
2. Either Jennifer Palmer, *Intimate Bonds: Family and Slavery in the French Atlantic* OR Sarah Pearsall, *Atlantic Families*

May 6                    **Final Papers Due**

## Paper Topics and Bibliographies

### Paper 1

See above 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 be glad to consider one or two substitutions to these topical bibliographies.

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

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)

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

### 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)

Brooke Newman, *A Dark Inheritance: Blood, Race, and Sex in Colonial Jamaica* (2018)

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)

Tera Hunter, *Bound in Wedlock* (2017)

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

Kathleen Duval, "Indian Intermarriage and Metissage in Colonial Louisiana"

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

### 5. Politics of 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)

Sasha Turner, *Contested Bodies: Pregnancy, Childbirth and Slavery in Jamaica* (2017)

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

## 6. Sex and Violence

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 in Contested Spaces

Alida Metcalf, *Family and Frontier in colonial Brazil* (1992; reprt 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*



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

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

## **Paper 2:**

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 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.

For online collections, you could also consult some of my Tweet threads, or the OI's recent seminars on digital archives.