

REBECCA L. DAVIS

University of Delaware
Department of History
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

University of Delaware, Newark, Del.

Assistant Professor, Department of History (Fall 2007 to present) and Program in Women's Studies
(Spring 2008 to present)
Post-1800 U.S. history of sexuality, immigration, ethnicity, and religion

Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion (2006-2007)

EDUCATION

Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Ph.D., United States History (2006)

Dissertation: "The Wife Your Husband Needs?: Marriage Counseling, Religion, and Sexual Politics in the United States, 1930-1980"

Dissertation Committee: Jon Butler, Co-Director; Joanne Meyerowitz, Co-Director; Paula E. Hyman; Jill G. Morawski (Wesleyan University); Ludger Viefhues

M.Phil., History (2004)

M.A., History (2002)

B.A., History, cum laude, with distinction in the History Major (1998)

Columbia University, New York, N.Y.

Introductory Course in Yiddish (Summer 2001)

Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture, co-sponsored by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

PUBLICATIONS

Books, Chapters, and Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Healthy Marriage, Heterosexuality, and Marriage Counseling in the United States," chapter solicited for volume *Historical Perspectives on Same-Sex Marriage*.

"My Homosexuality is Getting Worse Every Day?: Norman Vincent Peale, Psychiatry, and the Liberal Protestant Response to Same-Sex Desires in Mid-Twentieth Century America." In *American Christianities*, edited by Catherine Brekus and W. Clark Gilpin Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press (under final review).

More Perfect Unions: The American Search for Marital Bliss. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2010.

Reviews: *Wall Street Journal* (Laura Vanderkam, "When the Honeymoon is Over," March 6, 2010); *The New Yorker* (Jill Lepore, "Fixed," March 29, 2010); *Books and Culture* (Lauren Winner, "Bookshelf," *ChristianityToday.com*, March 24, 2010); *History News Network* (Jim Cullen, posted March 30, 2010); *The Washington Post* (Lisa Bonos, July 11, 2010); *The Huffington Post* (Bella DePaulo, posted July 28, 2010)

Interviews: "Late Night Live" with Phillip Adams, ABC Radio National, Australia, June 10, 2010; *American History* (with Linda Lee, August 2010)

"Eroticized Wives: Evangelical Marriage Guides and God's Plan for the Christian Family." In *The Embrace of Eros: Bodies, Desires, and Sexuality in Christianity*, edited by Margaret Kamitsuka, 165-179. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.

"Family." In *The Blackwell Companion to Religion in America*, edited by Philip Goff, 117-129. West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

"'Not Marriage at All, But Simple Harlotry': The Companionate Marriage Controversy," *Journal of American History* 94, no. 4 (March 2008): 1137-1163.

Book Reviews & Encyclopedia Entries

Review of Richard W. Santana and Gregory Erickson, eds., *Religion and Popular Culture: Rescripting the Sacred*, in *History: Reviews of New Books* 38, no. 2 (April 2010): 46-47.

Review of Barry Hanks, ed., *Evangelicalism and Fundamentalism: A Documentary Reader*, in *Louisiana History Journal* (submitted, summer 2009)

Review of Deborah Dash Moore, *G.I. Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation*, in *Women in Judaism: A Multidisciplinary Journal* 4, no. 2 (Fall 2007),
<http://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/wjudaism/index>

Entries in *Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia*, edited by Paula E. Hyman and Dalia Ofer (2006), DVD.

"Elga Wasserman"

"Jewish Women's Activism in the American Birth Control Movement"

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

General University Research Grant (GUR), University of Delaware (2009)

Excellence in Undergraduate Advising Award Nominee, University of Delaware (2008)

Travel Grant, American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming (2008)

George Washington Egleston Historical Prize for the Dissertation, Yale University (2006)

Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities, Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation, Yale University (2005-2006)

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation (2005-2006; declined)

Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research in the Humanities in Original Sources, Council on Library and Information Resources (2003-2004)

- Margaret Storrs Grierson Fellowship, Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Northampton, Mass. (Spring 2004)
- Schlesinger Library Dissertation Support Grant, The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. (Spring 2004)
- John F. Enders Fund Grant for Dissertation Research, Yale University (Summer 2003)
- Audre Rapoport Fellowship, Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio (Spring 2003)
- Mellon Foundation Gender History Research Fellowship, Harvard University (Summer 2002)
- Best Graduate Student Paper 2001-2002, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion at Yale, awarded for "Total Women and Real Men: Conservative Evangelicals, Marriage Guides, and Antigay Politics, 1950-1980"
- Research Fellowship, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion at Yale (Summer 2001)
- Frances Krasnow Memorial Fund Scholarship for the study of Yiddish, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. (Summer 2001)
- Howard M. Holtzman Endowment Fellowship for the study of Yiddish, Program in Judaic Studies, Yale University (Summer 2001)
- University Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Yale University (Fall 2000 to Spring 2003; Fall 2004; Summers 2001 and 2002)

INVITED LECTURES & PANELS

- "My Homosexuality is Getting Worse Every Day": Norman Vincent Peale, Psychiatry, and the Liberal Protestant Response to Same-Sex Desires in Mid-Twentieth Century America," History Workshop, University of Delaware (September 2010)
- "Becoming a Historian of Marriage and Sexuality," Shaker Heights High School, Shaker Heights, Ohio (June 2010)
- "Family First: How American Jews Put Marriage in Its Place, 1935-1980," Program in Jewish Studies, University of Delaware (April 2008)
- "Transparent in America," Women's History Month Film Series, University of Delaware (March 2008)
- "Saving Marriage: Women and Marital Conflict in Twentieth-Century America," Research on Women lecture series, Program in Women's Studies, University of Delaware (Fall 2007)
- "Same Sex Marriage in New Jersey: History and the Next 180 Days," Princeton University Program in American Studies and Modern America Workshop (2006)
- "The Pre-Marital Interview is a Supreme Occasion": Reform Rabbis and Premarital Counseling, 1930-1960," Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio (2003)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Personal Fulfillment and Political Agendas: The Healthy Marriage Initiative,” Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Washington, D.C. (2010)
- “Healthy Marriage, Heterosexuality, and Marriage Counseling in the United States,” Roundtable on Same-Sex Marriage Debates, Meeting of the American Historical Association, San Diego, Cal. (2010; paper accepted and submitted)
- Comment, “Images of Consequence,” panel at the Hagley Graduate Student Conference, University of Delaware, April 4, 2009
- “‘The Loneliness of Lovers’: Marriage Encounter, Catholicism, and Pro-Marriage Politics in the 1970s,” Fourteenth Berkshires Conference on the History of Women, Minneapolis, Minn. (2008)
- “The Science of Love: Marriage Prediction, Modern Romance, and Marriage Counseling,” Organization of American Historians, Annual Conference, Minneapolis, Minn. (2007)
- “Making Total Women: Sexual Bodies and Sexual Identity in Evangelical Marital Advice Guides, 1963-1980,” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. (2006)
- “Class, Race, and Marriage: Marital Counseling among ‘Other’ Americans, 1940-1960,” Thirteenth Berkshires Conference on the History of Women, Claremont, Ca. (2005)
- “Not Marriage at All, But Simple Harlotry’: Companionate Marriage, Religion, and ‘Scientific’ Morality, 1927-1942,” American Religious History Forum, Yale University (2004)
- “Personality Testing, Protestants, and the Science of Heterosexual Marriage, 1935-1957,” Social Science History Association, Annual Conference, Baltimore, Md. (2003)
SSHLA-Rockefeller Graduate Student Award
Cheiron: The International Society for the Study of the Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of New Hampshire, Durham, N.H. (2003)
Graduate Student Travel Fellowship
- “Total Women, Real Men, and the New Christian Right, 1963-1978,” New England American Studies Association Regional Conference, Hartford, Conn. (2003)
- “Consent, Chastity, and Capital: The WCTU’s Crusade to Protect Pure Christian Womanhood, 1885-1896,” American Religious History Forum, Yale University (2001)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of History, University of Delaware

- Ethnicity and American Identity (sophomore research seminar)
Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity in American History (lecture course)
History of Sexuality in the United States (lecture course)
History of the United States Since 1865 (lecture course)
Marriage in American History / Marriage and the Family in American History (senior research seminar)

Readings in Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity in the United States (graduate seminar)

Department of History, Yale University

Marriage and Sex in American History, 1787-2004 (Fall 2004)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of Delaware, Newark, Del.

College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Senate

Committee on Diversity, Recruitment, and Retention (Fall 2010-present)

Department of History

American Civilization Steering Committee (2007-present)

Departmental Recorder (2007-2008)

Executive Committee Junior Faculty Representative (2009-2011)

Graduate Studies Committee (Spring 2008)

Mentoring Committee (2008-present)

Social Committee & United Way Campaign Liaison (2007-2008)

Speakers' Committee (2010-2012)

Strategic Planning Committee (2010-2011)

Undergraduate Studies Committee (2008-2011)

Department of Women's Studies

Core Faculty Member

Program in Jewish Studies

Affiliated Faculty Member

Executive Committee Member

Area Studies Representative

MANUSCRIPT READER / REFEREE

Journal of American History

Journal of the History of Sexuality

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

American Historical Association

Committee on Lesbian and Gay History

Organization of American Historians