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THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



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Penelope Johnson, Professor Emerita, honored in Festschrift

Two of Professor Penelope Johnson's former Ph.D. students, Scott C. Wells and Katherine Allen Smith, have edited a Festschrift entitled "Negotiating Community and Difference in Medieval Europe: Gender, Power, Patronage and the Authority of Religion in Latin Christendom" in Professor Johnson's honor which has just been published by Brill. The contributors, many of whom are senior medievalists, include several alumni of the NYU History doctoral program who did their graduate work under Penny Johnson's supervision, including Scott Wells, Katherine Allen Smith, Alex Cuffel, Christina Roukis Stern and Susan Wade. Several other contributors to the Festschrift took courses with Penny at NYU, including Diane Peters Auslander, Anne M. Schuchman, Kathryn A. Smith, and Susan M. Valentine.

Below is a description from Brill about the collection:

"This collection builds on the foundational work of Penelope D. Johnson, John Boswell's most influential student outside queer studies, on integration and segregation in medieval Christianity. It documents the multiple strategies by which medieval people constructed identities and, in the process, wove the boundaries of inclusion and exclusion among various individuals and groups. The collection adopts an interdisciplinary approach, encompassing historical, art historical, and literary perspectives to explore the definition of personal and communal spaces within medieval texts, the complex negotiation of the relationship between devotee and saint in both the early and the later Middle Ages, the forming of partnerships (symbolic, economic, devotional, etc.) between men and women across medieval Europe's considerable gender divide, and the ostracism of individuals and groups through various means including imprisonment, violence, and their identification with pollution. "

History Department Welcomes New Faculty Member



GUY ORTOLANO joins the department as an Assistant Professor, focusing on modern Britain, the history of science, and cultural and intellectual history. He received his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 2005, and previously taught at Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Virginia. This year Cambridge University Press published his book, *The Two Cultures Controversy: Science, Literature, and Cultural Politics in Postwar Britain*,

about which he gave talks this past summer in London, Manchester, Cambridge, Boston, and New York. Professor Ortolano has recently been awarded a Bernadotte E. Schmitt grant from the American Historical Association to support research on his new project about New Towns in Britain after the Second World War.

Faculty News

BRIGITTE M. BEDOS-REZAK was invited to present the inaugural lecture at the conference organized by the University of Bielefeld (Germany) in May 2009 intitled: "Das „Ich" zwischen Selbst- und Fremdbezug. Individualität in der Moderne und Vormoderne / The "I" between Self-Reference and Hetero-Reference. Pre-Modern and Modern Individuality. The title of her paper was: "Loci of Medieval Individuality: A Methodological Inquiry. She was also invited to join the editorial board of the new series Harvard University Press is launching on The Cultural Histories of the Material World.

THOMAS BENDER has a book coming out this month that he co-edited with Ignacio Farias, a sociologist at Diego Portales University in Santiago, Chile and the Social Science Research Center, Berlin, titled *Urban Assemblages: How Actor-Network Theory Changes Urban Studies* (London: Routledge, 2009). He will also give a lecture at the Triennial Meeting of the Council of Phi Beta Kappa in Austin, Texas on October 3, on "Putting U.S. History into World History." Earlier, in the summer, he gave lectures at the University of Helsinki on "New York City and the Culture of Creativity" for a conference on "Urban Innovation" in economics and culture and at the Institute for Advanced Study at Freiburg University in Germany on "Beyond Itself: A New Synthesis of American History," the opening lecture for a conference on "The Improbable Synthesis: Spatial, Analytical, and Narrative Frame of Historical Writing."

HASIA DINER'S edition of Jacob Riis' *HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES* came out in the summer of 2009 as part of the Norton Critical Editions series.

AMANDA FRENCH and **PETER WOSH** presented a paper on "Digital History Across the Curriculum" at the Digital Humanities 2009 Conference in College Park MD in June; Amanda is also presenting a paper on "New Directions in Archival Education" at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference" in October.

MICHAEL GOMEZ is co-winner of the 2009 Graduate Student Teaching and Mentoring Award.

MARTHA HODES delivered several lectures in Europe over the summer. At the University of Cologne's lecture series on "Colonialism and Beyond," she spoke on "Racial Classification and Narratives of Skin Color in the Nineteenth-Century United States." At the Institute for American Studies at the University of Leipzig, she spoke on "Memory, Science, and Racial Classification in 19th-century America." At the University of Erfurt's lecture series on "1789-1989: Learning from Revolutions," she spoke on "Fabricating Racial Knowledge in the United States After Emancipation." At the Center for U.S. Studies, Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, she spoke on "Gender, Sexuality, and Skin Color in the Nineteenth-Century United States." At the University of Vienna, she presented "Searching for Love in Sex Across the Color Line" at a workshop on love and sexuality in nineteenth-century America.

ANDREW NEEDHAM has an article coming out in the November Journal of Urban History titled, "Beyond the Metropolis: Metropolitan Growth and Regional Transformation in Postwar America"

JOHN SHOVLIN is a visiting scholar at Harvard University's Center for European Studies for the 2009-10 academic year. He is working on a study reconceptualizing international relations in eighteenth-century Europe.

PETER WOSH served as chair/commentator at two sessions at the Society of American Archivists meeting in Austin TX in August, one on "Collaborative Teaching and Learning in the Archives: Assessments and Insights" and a second on "Expressing Identities and Constructing Memories: Archiving Local, Global, and Online Communities."

JONATHAN ZIMMERMAN published "Small Wonder: The Little Red Schoolhouse in History and Memory" (Yale University Press), which was reviewed in the Wall Street Journal and cited in the New York Times. His student Zoe Burkholder received a post-doctoral fellowship from the Charles Warren Center at Harvard University, followed by a tenure-track position at Montclair State University. Zimmerman was named Chair of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development.

Graduate Student News

JENNIFER ANDERSON, a graduate alumna, is now an assistant professor at SUNY-Stony Brook.

EMILY CHU, NANCY NG TAM, and HILLEL ARNOLD, graduate students in the program, have presented a variety of papers and poster sessions based on their survey of Asian American collections in the New York area at such venues as the Society of American Archivists, National Council on Public History, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, and Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York.

The APH Program received an NYU Humanities Initiative Grant, thanks largely to a concept developed by graduate students **LAURA HELTON** and **DYLAN YEATS**, for a series of crossdisciplinary conversations entitled "Archives, Archival Practices, and Concepts of the Archive" that will be held in Spring 2010.

WOL-SAN LIEM is the prize winner for her study: "'Associations of Privilege': U.S. Cultural Policy and the Forging of Korean/American Relations." She had conducted substantial primary research on a significant topic involving international diplomacy.

RACHEL MATTSON, History Department PhD and Assistant Professor at SUNY-New Paltz, has published "Theater of the Assessed: Drama-Based Pedagogies in the History Classroom" in *Radical History Review* (Fall 2008), a special issue on Critical Pedagogies; and "Against 'Tolerance': Critical History Methods in Anti-Homophobia Education," in Laraine Wallowitz, ed., *Critical Literacy as Resistance: Teaching for Social Justice Across the Secondary Curriculum* (Peter Lang, 2009).

REYNOLDS RICHTER has been awarded a Fulbright fellowship for his dissertation research in Kenya.

BASAK TUG, a graduate student in the joint History/MEIS PhD program who successfully defended her doctoral dissertation a few weeks ago, has accepted a tenure-track position in the History Department at Bilgi University in Istanbul.

PETER VALENTI, of the joint History/MEIS PhD program, has been awarded an NYU Humanities Initiative Research Fellowship for 2009-2010.

PETER WIRZBICKI has been selected to lecture at the New-York Historical Society, as part of a Teaching American History grant on the Civil War and Reconstruction. He will be working with high school teachers from the New York metropolitan area.

Department News

ANDREW LEE, librarian for the history department, presented at the Second Annual Workshop in Comparative and Transnational History at the University of California, San Diego on June 1st. His paper is entitled “‘Exemplary Motherhood’: Gender and Anarchism in the Writing of Federica Montseny.” **FORREST HYLTON**, a graduate student, also presented at the conference, with a paper entitled “‘Your Time is Up, It Is Our Time Now’: Insurgent Leadership, Confederation, and Specters of ‘Race War,’ 1899-1902.”