

**New-York Historical Society
Center for Women's History
Early Career Workshop
2020-2021**

Jennifer Ash

Bio: Jennifer Ash is a historian of African American history and U.S. gender and women's history. She holds a Ph.D. in U.S. History from the University of Illinois at Chicago (2019). She is currently serving as the Associate Director of the National Women's Studies Association.

Project Abstract: "Invincible, Not Invisible: Black Women and Resistance at Black Colleges, 1957-2018," investigates how HBCU students challenged campus cultures that mandated gender normativity, and simultaneously confronted white supremacy at distinct historical moments as participants in various racial justice movements. HBCUs were major sites for organizing in the Black freedom movement. As such, this dialectic between internal struggles against patriarchy at HBCUs and external fights against white supremacy is significant to both historicizing the organizing strategies and political trajectories of Black politics nationally, as well as analyzing contemporary Black politics, particularly as they pertain to the youth-led movement for Black lives.

Chris Babits

Bio: Chris Babits is a postdoctoral teaching fellow at Utah State University. He earned his Ph.D. in History from the University of Texas at Austin in 2019. His book, titled *To Cure a Sinful Nation: A History of Conversion Therapy in the United States*, is under contract with the University of Chicago Press.

Project abstract: "The Fallen: Women in the Early Ex-Gay Movement" examines the sexual and gender identity change efforts of women involved in socially religious counseling groups from the late 1960s into the early 1990s. This article analyzes why women abandoned the so-called "lesbian lifestyle" and seeks to understand the religious and counseling lives of women pastoral counselors who offered sexual orientation and gender identity change therapies. Focusing on women in the ex-gay movement is, in short, a necessary scholarly shift: most of the scholarship centers men, maleness, and masculinities -- and largely ignores women's religious and psychic lives -- in an attempt to understand the growth of U.S.-based conversion therapy in the last third of the twentieth century.

Caylin Carbonell

Bio: Caylin Carbonell is a historian of gender, labor, and social hierarchies in early America. She earned her PhD from William & Mary in August, 2020 and is currently the Hench Post-Dissertation Fellow at the American Antiquarian Society.

Project Abstract: My book project looks at the hidden and collaborative labor of dependents - from wives and children to enslaved and indentured laborers - in colonial New England. While colonial records depict an economy ruled by propertied white men whose authority over their households was the guiding force of economic production, I challenge this image by demonstrating the diverse membership of households, the complex character of relations within

those households, and the extent to which various household members in fact exercised a good deal of power within them.

Jessica Criales

Bio: Jessica Criales is a Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Lake Forest College in the northern Chicago suburbs. Her focus is 18th and 19th century women's history in both Mexico and the United States, particularly the ways that Indigenous women used religion and Christian identity to navigate colonial pressures. She completed her PhD at Rutgers University in May 2020 under the direction of Dr. Camilla Townsend. Her work has been published in *Early American Studies* and *Social Sciences and Missions*, and she has received support from the Lilly Foundation, American Academy for Franciscan History, and the Louisville Institute. She lives on the Illinois/Wisconsin border with her husband, two young children, and two backyard chickens (an all-too-stereotypical quarantine acquisition).

Project Abstract: I am in the process of revising my dissertation, titled "Women of Our Nation: Race, Gender, and Christian Indian Identity in the United States and Mexico, 1753-1867," into a book project. My project studies the lives of Indigenous women in both Mexico and the United States who joined "Christian Indian" communities, such as Native-only convents in Mexico and the Brothertown and Stockbridge tribes in New York: places where groups of Indigenous people asserted their rights to self-governance as Christians. I argue that women had essential roles in these communities as teachers, spiritual leaders, and financial contributors. Moreover, by placing themselves at the intersection of Christian and Indigenous identity, these women gained influence over colonial and national authority figures, developing new strategies of survivance that would prove successful until the growing strength of the nation-state curtailed their efforts by the mid-nineteenth century.

Anna K. Danziger Halperin

Bio: Anna K. Danziger Halperin is the Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Women's History and Public History at the New-York Historical Society, and teaches in the joint N-YHS and CUNY School of Professional Studies Museum Studies program. She completed her doctorate in history at Columbia University in 2018, focusing on U.S. and British public policy, gender, and childhood. Her research has been published in *Signs* and *Twentieth Century British History*.

Project Abstract: Anna is currently revising her dissertation for publication with the new title, *Whose Children? Motherhood, Race, and Child Care*. The book provides a unique lens on how child care has been contested and has evolved since the 1960s, demonstrating that the answer lies in how social policy recipients are envisioned, and in the emergence of a neoliberal rhetoric of parental choice to justify racial and class inequalities.

Tiffany Gonzalez

Bio: I am the Bonquois Postdoctoral Fellow in Women's History at the Newcomb Institute of Tulane University. I earned my Ph.D. in history with a focus on 20th century U.S.; Chicana/Latinx, women & gender studies, and American Politics.

Project Abstract: My manuscript, "Representation for a Change: How Chicanas Transformed American Politics in the Twentieth Century"—the first full-length scholarly treatment of

Chicanas/Latinas in government from the mid-twentieth century to the present—examines how Chicanas (Mexican-origin women) became local and state politicians in Texas during the 1970s. Through grassroots efforts, Chicanas recruited other women and introduced new community and gender-based policies that linked women’s issues to broader civil rights concerns.

Hannah Greene

Bio: Hannah Greene is a doctoral candidate in American Jewish history at New York University’s Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, where she specializes in immigration, gender, and disability studies. Her dissertation, *Able to Be American: American Jews and the Public Charge Provision in United States Immigration Policy, 1891-1934*, explores how American Jews engaged with discrimination on the basis of health, disability, and poverty in immigration law and its enforcement. She has published an article on disability and Jewish immigration in *AJS Review*, and has forthcoming academic publications on Jewish history, gender, and public health. Hannah is the Fellow in American Jewish Studies at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Project Abstract: Hannah's dissertation, *Able to Be American: American Jews and the Public Charge Provision in United States Immigration Policy, 1891-1934*, inquires how American Jews engaged with legislative discrimination premised on immigrants' physical, mental, and economic statuses, and its bureaucratic enforcement. Through centering immigrant advocates like Cecilia Razovsky and Max Kohler, who emphasized and contested constructions of “defect” in policy and its administration, her research investigates American Jewish leaders’ conceptions of American citizenship at the intersection of gender and disability. Hannah asks what motivated American Jews to contest public charge, and how, through their political participation, they asserted their evolving ideas of American citizenship and contributed to notions of national belonging. *Able to Be American* analyzes how American Jewish communal leaders responded to public charge’s selection and classification of immigrants into “desirable” and “undesirable,” and in the process shaped their own political roles and voices.

Jeanne Gutierrez

Bio: Jeanne Gutierrez is ABD at the CUNY Graduate Center and serves as a curatorial scholar in women's history at the New-York Historical Society. She has contributed research to *Saving Washington*, *Women's Voices*, *Women March*, and *Stonewall 50*, and was the curatorial coordinator on *Walk This Way: Footwear from the Stuart Weitzman Collection of Historic Shoes*. She is currently at work on an upcoming exhibition about Katharine Graham.

Project Abstract: Jeanne's dissertation examines gendered aspects of ambition in the United States between the Panic of 1837 and the onset of the Civil War. At a time when fame and fortune seemed within reach, but downward mobility presented a distinct threat, how did women and men grapple with changing social - and political - ambitions? Using popular magazines (primarily *Godey's Lady's Book*), organizational records, wills, correspondence, and prescriptive literature, I argue that both women and men sought to use benevolence, patriotism, and progressive public-spiritedness to legitimize their ambitions. However, women's ambition was frequently dismissed and stigmatized as vanity, selfishness, and social climbing.

Marissa Jenrich

Bio: Marissa Jenrich is a Ph.D. Candidate in the History Department at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research focuses on the intersection of race, class, and gender in nineteenth-century New York, with a particular emphasis on the experiences of the city's black women. Book reviews and examples of her work can be found in the *Journal of Urban History*, the *Journal of African American History*, and the *Journal of the Civil War Era*.

Project abstract: This dissertation chapter explores the complex relationship between black women and New York City police in the years between the founding of the municipal force in 1845 and the officer-driven race riot that punctuated the turn of the twentieth century. It considers how shifts in police power, departmental structure, and jurisdiction altered the lives of everyday residents, and women of color in particular, at a time when the city itself was undergoing tremendous change. In doing so, it hopes to not only shed light on the period in question, but also to deepen our understanding of the Progressive-Era brand of policing that, for many New Yorkers, resulted in a "condemnation of blackness," itself.

Tracey Johnson

Bio: Tracey Johnson is a History Ph.D. Candidate at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. She received her bachelor's degree in History from the College of William & Mary in 2014. She studies the cultural history of black visual art in New York City after the Harlem Renaissance.

Jessica Larson

Bio: Jessica Larson is a Ph.D. Candidate in Art and Architecture History at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She received her MA from the University of Delaware and Bachelor's degrees in History and Art History from the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor. As well, Jessica has held graduate curatorial internships in print rooms at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Princeton University Art Museum.

Project abstract: Jessica's dissertation, "Building Black Manhattan: Architecture and the Politics of Respectability, 1857-1914," examines the architecture of charitable and reform institutions built for African Americans in 19th-century New York City. Specifically, this research underscores how the voices of Black women set the spatial and design priorities of their communities.

Nicole Mahoney

Bio: Nicole earned her Ph.D. in American History from the University of Maryland, College Park in May 2020. She completed her MA in History and Literature from Columbia University in Paris and her BA in History and French Studies from Wagner College on Staten Island. She lives in New Jersey close to the beach with her partner, a black lab, a cat, and a big vegetable garden.

Project Abstract: Nicole's research focuses on the performance of French culture by elite American women in the early republic. Her work makes the case that persistent Francophilia was both consequential to early American culture and a continuing source of gentry power, especially for women, along the eastern seaboard in the post-revolution years despite contradictions and ambiguities in Franco-American relations.

Geneva Smith

Bio: I am a PhD candidate at Princeton University. Originally from Southern California, my fascination with colonial American history has helped keep me a New York resident for the past ten years. Although I spend most of my time writing, I have been using the lock down to embrace nurturing my array of indoor plants and making quality cocktails.

Project Abstract: My dissertation, "The Currency of Race: Slave Courts and Compensation in the Eighteenth-Century British Atlantic," examines slave courts, or courts that exclusively tried the crimes of enslaved peoples, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. I will be using my time in the workshop to develop my dissertation chapter "Compensating Whiteness," that will analyze the gendered, racial, and financial calculations masters made when deciding to keep or execute an enslaved laborer. By analyzing the compensation paid to enslavers for their executed slaves, I show how the rise of British legalism shaped, and intertwined with, the Atlantic slave market, producing colonial states that paid elite slaveowners for their misbehaving property. Slave courts helped define property rights for elite white slaveowners, provided an antithesis for the development of white criminal rights, and made race function as a legal category in colonists' daily lives over the course of the eighteenth century.

Bren Sutter

Bio: Bren earned her BA in history and sociology from the University of California, San Diego and her MA in history at New York University. She is currently pursuing her PhD in twentieth-century American history at Rutgers University with a concentration in women and gender.

Project abstract: Bren's dissertation project, "Consuming the Centerfold: Sexuality and the Fantasy of the American Good Life," forefronts the voices and experiences of marginalized men and women as they navigated the changing sexual ethos in the second half of the twentieth century. She examines five Playboy magazine "imitators" made by and for black men, gay men, white women, black women, and lesbians to uncover how each group constructed new, distinctive sexual identities predicated on the fantasy of integration into American life.

Samantha White

Bio: Samantha White is a PRODiG Fellow/Visiting Scholar in Gender and Women's Studies at SUNY-Plattsburgh. She also teaches in the Africana Studies minor program. Her research interests include the history of childhood and youth, with a specific focus on 20th century African-American girlhood. She received her PhD in Childhood Studies from Rutgers University-Camden.

Project abstract: My current book project explores constructions and representations of health, hygiene, and the body for African-American girls in the early 20th century United States. Through informal and formal health education, my project examines the relationship between scientific hygiene and popular health culture and their roles in defining and representing embodied black female adolescence.