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Education

Ph.D. 2001 The University of Iowa

Academic Positions

Associate Professor of History, Wabash College	2007-present
Assistant Professor of History, Wabash College	2002-2007

Appointments

Chair, Department of History, Wabash College, 2009-2012
Jane and Frederick Hadley Chair in History, Wabash College, 2009-2012
Byron K. Trippet Assistant Professor of History, Wabash College 2002-2004

Manuscript in Progress:

“I Will Not Follow You” : Sexual Labor and Bordeaux’s Quartier Mériadeck

This manuscript challenges historical interpretations of sexual labor, working class identity, and notions of citizenship. Focusing on the place of prostitution and its regulation in 19th century France, my study of a small Bordeaux neighborhood shows that residents did not shun prostitutes. Tolerant and sympathetic to the women, residents relied on the grey economy generated by prostitution to sustained their livelihoods. The Mériadeck neighborhood developed as an oddity. It remained impoverished yet surrounded by affluent housing, productive manufacturing, and municipal buildings. Isolated, its residents developed a sense of unity derived almost entirely from their reliance on the shadow economy produced by sexual labor. In contrast, elected and appointed officials took a dim view of the prostitution that supported Mériadeck’s residents. Officials increased restrictions, removing brothels from the area to improve morality while using “administrative detentions” to illegally imprison sex workers. In turn, brothel keepers and residents politicized to protect themselves; they argued that city ordinances were unreasonable or unfair and should be rescinded. Outsiders argued that administrative detentions were illegal. During the Bouche-Eon Affair, the *procureur général* asserted that prostitutes had a right to due process and *could not* be held without due process. Through an examination of news stories, petitions from sex workers and residents, police reports, and letters to officials, my manuscript demonstrates that Bordeaux’s impoverished residents and sex workers understood French law and their rights. They politicized in order to protect their neighborhood and their livelihoods. This study also challenges historians’ interpretations of the role of law in nineteenth century regulation in France. It argues that French prostitutes did not exist outside the law and could not be confined arbitrarily as a result of the work they did. Due to changes in French jurisprudence since 1789, the law remained on

the side of sex workers, requiring that they receive the same treatment as other French citizens.

Selected Articles / Essays

“Mériadeck, Sexual Commerce, and the Urban Milieu” in *French Histories of Sexuality*, Andrew Ross and Nina Kushner, eds., (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, forthcoming)

“Sexual Labor and the Transnational Sphere” *Journal of Women’s History* 27: 3 (Fall 2015).

“Renegotiating French Masculinity: Medicine and Venereal Disease during the Great War” *French Historical Studies*, 29: 2 (2006).

“To Save Future Generations: Masculine Honor and Reproductive Duties, 1914-1918” *Proceedings of the Western Society for French History*, 31 (2003).

“‘There are no Safe Women’: Prostitution in France during the Great War” *Proceedings of the Western Society for French History*, 27 (1999).

Selected Book Reviews

Deborah Simonton, *Women in European Culture and Society: Gender, Skill, and Identity from 1700*, in the *Canadian Journal of History*, 2013.

Elizabeth Vlossak, *Marianne or Germania? Nationalizing Women in Alsace, 1870-1946*, in the *Canadian Journal of History*, 2013.

Harry W. Paul *Henri de Rothschild, 1872-1947: Medicine and Theater* in *French Studies* v.66 (April 2012).

Joan Sherwood, *Infection of the Innocents: Wet Nurses, Infants, and Syphilis in France, 1780-1900*, in *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (Winter 2011).

Sean M. Quinlan, *The Great Nation in Decline*, in *French Studies* v.63 (October 2009).

Selected Past and Upcoming Conference Presentations / Roundtables

“*French Histories of Sexuality*,” Berkshire Conference, Santa Clara University, June 28-July 2, 2023.

“Mériadeck and the Business of Prostitution,” Western Society for French History, Victoria, B.C. Nov. 3-4, 2022.

Roundtable: “Sexual Revolution?: Reframing Historiographic ‘Old Regimes’ through the History of Sexuality,” Western Society for French History, Cedar Rapids, 2016.

“‘We the Undersigned....’: Challenges to Regulatory Authority in *fin-de-siècle* Bordeaux,” Western Society for French History, San Antonio, 2014.

“‘I Will Not Follow You’: Agentive Prostitution and Bordeaux’s Quartier Mériadeck.” Western Society for French History, October 2013.

“Doctors with Orders?: Medicine, Gender, and Venereal Prophylaxis during World War I.” Western Society for French History, October 2009.

“Prostitutes: Locating Women and Identifying Agency in World War I France.” Western Society for French History, October 2006.

“Prostitution as Labor” Wabash College, Ides of August Conference, August 2006.

“Portraits of Ladies: The Business of Prostitution” American Historical Association
Annual Meeting, January 2006.

Selected Professional Service

Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 2013

Book Proposal Reviewer, *Continuum Books* 2012

Manuscript Reader, *Historical Reflections/Réflexions Historiques* 2007

Governing Council, Western Society for French History 2006-2009; 2016-2019