

History 901: The Industrialization of Gender

Jeanne Boydston
 Humanities 5120
 263-0647
 Fall 1988

Office Hours:
 Tues. 1:30-3:30
 Wed. 11-noon, &
 by appointment

This seminar explores the social construction of gender under conditions of industrialization in the United States. Beginning with the artisan tradition of the late eighteenth century, we will inquire into the ways in which the process of industrialization both shaped and was shaped by evolving conceptions of gender. Such a study necessarily entails the analysis of a broad range of social dynamics in the industrializing United States, most particularly race and the emerging class structure of America society.

Students will read all assigned materials carefully and participate thoughtfully in class discussions, lead the class discussion for one set of readings, prepare an annotated bibliography on a specific aspect of the subject of industrialization and gender (due in class on October 30), and write a 15-20 page review essay based on the annotated bibliography. Drafts of the review essay are due in class on November 30. Final drafts are due on the first day of the examination period.

All assigned readings are on reserve in the Historical Society.

Required Texts:

- Benson, Counter Cultures: Saleswomen, Managers, and Customers in American Department Stores, 1890-1940
 Gilman, Women and Economics
 Hareven, Family Time and Industrial Time
 Janiewski, Sisterhood Denied: Race, Gender, and Class in a New South Community
 Jensen, Loosening the Bonds: Mid-Atlantic Farm Women, 1750-1850
 Jones, Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow
 Milkman, Gender at Work: The Dynamics of Job Segregation during World War II
 Ryan, Cradle of the Middle Class: The Family in Oneida County, New York, 1790-1865
 Stansell, City of Women: Sex and Class in New York, 1789-1860
 Tentler, Wage-Earning Women: Industrialization and Family Life in the United States, 1900-1930

Schedule of Meetings:

Sept. 7: Introduction

Sept. 14: Gender and the Division of Labor: Theoretical Considerations

Judith K. Brown, "Iroquois Women: An Ethnohistoric Note" in Rayna Reiter, ed., Toward an Anthropology of Women.

Sidney W. Mintz, "Economic Role and Cultural Tradition" in Filomina Chioma Steady, ed., The Black Woman Cross-Culturally.

Judy McGaw, "No Passive Victims, No Separate Spheres: A Feminist Perspective on Technology's History" in Steven Cutcliffe and Robert Post, eds., In Context: History and the History of Technology (forthcoming).

Heidi I. Hartmann. "Capitalism, Patriarchy, and Job Segregation by Sex," Signs, 1/3, pt. 2 (1976).

Nancy Chodorow, "Family Structure and the Female Personality" in Michelle Zimbalist Rosaldo and Louise Lamphere, eds., Woman, Culture, and Society.

Additional Suggested Readings:

Margaret Benston, "The Political Economy of Women's Liberation," Monthly Review 21 (September, 1969).

Patricia Connelly, "Reserve Labor in a Capitalist System" in Last Hired, First Fired: Women in the Canadian Work Force (Ontario: The Women's Press, 1978).

Zillah R. Eisenstein, ed., Capitalist Patriarchy and the Case for Socialist Feminism (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1979).

Frederick Engels, The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State.

Annette Kuhn and AnnMarie Wolpe, eds., Feminism and Materialism: Women and Modes of Production.

Jean Lipman-Blumen, "Toward a Homosocial Theory of Sex Roles: An Explanation of the Sex Segregation of Social Institutions," Signs, 1/3 pt. 2 (Spring 1976).

Lydia Sargent, ed., Women and Revolution: A Discussion of the Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism (Boston: South End Press, 1981).

Sept. 21: Gender and the Artisan Tradition

Sean Wilentz, "Artisan Republicanism" in Chants Democratic.

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, "Part One: Bathsheba" in Good Wives.

Mary H. Blewett to "Work, Gender, and the Artisan Tradition in New England Shoemaking, 1780-1860," Journal of Social History, 17 (Winter 1983).

Additional Suggested Readings:

Ruth Bloch, "The Gendered Meanings of Virtue in Revolutionary America," Signs 13 (Fall 1987).

Thomas Dublin, Women at Work.

Alan Dawley, Class and Community: The Industrial Revolution in Lynn.

Susan Hirsch, Roots of the American Working Class: The Industrialization of Crafts in Newark, 1800-1860.

Barbara Taylor, "'The Men are as Bad as their Masters. . .': Socialism, Feminism, and Sexual Antagonism in the London Tailoring Trade in the Early 1830s," Feminist Studies 5/1 (Spring 1979).

Sept. 28: The Household and the Transformation to a Market Economy

Joan M. Jensen, Loosening the Bonds: Mid-Atlantic Farm Women, 1750-1850.

Thomas Dublin, "Women and Outwork in a Nineteenth-Century New England Town: Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, 1830-1850" in Hawn and Prude, The Countryside in the Age of Capitalist Transformation.

Carol Shammas, "Black Women's Work and the Evolution of Plantation Society in Virginia," Labor History 26/1 (Winter 1985).

Additional Suggested Readings:

Christopher Clark, "Household Economy, Market Exchange and the Rise of Capitalism in the Connecticut Valley, 1800-1860," Journal of Social History 13 (1979).

Faye E. Dudden, "Hired Girls" in Serving Women: Household Service in Nineteenth-Century America.

Michael Merrill, "Cash is Good to Eat: Self-Sufficiency and Exchange in the Rural Economy of the United States," Radical History Review (Winter 1977).

Rolla Milton Tryon, Household Manufactures in the United States, 1640-1860.

Oct. 5: Gender and the Making of a Working Class

Christine Stansell, City of Women

Additional Suggested Readings:

Stanley Aronowitz, false Promises: The Shaping of American Working Class Consciousness.

Margaret Byington, Homestead: The Households of a Mill Town

Elliot J. Gorn, "'Good-Bye Boys, I Die a True American': Homicide, Nativism, and Working-Class Culture in Antebellum New York City," The Journal of American History 74/2 (September 1987).

Kathy Peiss, Cheap Amusements: Working Class Women and Leisure in Turn-of-the-Century New York.

Roy Rosenzweig, Eight Hours for What We Will: Workers and Leisure in an Industrial City, 1877-1919.

Ann Schofield, "From 'Sealskin and Shoddy' to 'The Pig-Headed Girl': Patriarchal Fables for Workers," in Carol Groneman and Mary Beth Norton, eds., "To Toil the Livelong Day": America's Women at Work, 1780-1980.

Oct. 12: Gender and the Making of a Middle Class

Mary Ryan, Cradle of the Middle Class

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE IN CLASS

Additional Suggested Readings:

Nancy F. Cott, The Bonds of Womanhood: "Woman's Sphere" in New England, 1780-1835 (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977).

Karen Halttunen, Confidence Men and Painted Women: A Study of Middle-Class Culture in America, 1830-1870.

Nancy A. Hewitt, Women's Activism and Social Change: Rochester, New York, 1822-1872 (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1984).

Kathryn Kish Sklar, Catharine Beecher: A Study in American Domesticity (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1973).

Caroll Smith-Rosenberg, "Davy Crockett as Trickster: Pornography, Liminality, and Symbolic Inversion in Victorian America," Journal of Contemporary History 17 (1982).

Oct. 19: The Market Economy, Masculinity, and the Family Wage

Anthony E. Rotundo, "Body and Soul: Changing Ideals of American Middle Class Manhood, 1770-1920," Journal of Social History, 16/4 (Summer 1983).

Ava Baron, "Technology and the Crisis of Masculinity: The Social Construction of Gender and Skill in the U.S. Printing Industry, 1850-1920." Paper presented at the 5th UMIST-ASTON Conference, Manchester, England, April 22-24.

Harold Benenson, "Victorian Sexual Ideology and Marx's Theory of the Working Class," International Labor and Working Class History 25 (Spring 1984).

Wally Seccombe, "Patriarchy Stabilized: The Construction of the Male Breadwinner Wage Norm in Nineteenth-Century Britain," Social History, 2/1 (January 1986).

Additional Suggested Readings:

Alice Kessler-Harris, "The Just Price, The Free Market, and the Value of Women," Feminist Studies 14/2 (Summer 1988).

Martha May, "Bread before Roses: American Workingmen, Labor Unions and the Family Wage," in Ruth Milkman, ed., Women, Work and Protest: A Century of U.S. Women's Labor History.

Barbara Ehrenreich, The Hearts of Men.

Oct. 26: The Meaning of Housework

Ruth Schwartz Cowan, "The Invention of Housework: The Early Stages of Industrialization" in More Work for Mother.

Ivan Illich, "The Three Dimensions of Public Choice" and "Shadow Work" in Shadow Work.

Wally Seccombe, "The Housewife and Her Labor Under Capitalism," New Left Review, 83 (January-February 1974).

Additional Suggested Readings:

Dana Frank, "Housewives, Socialists, and the Politics of Food: The 1917 New York Cost-of-Living Protests," Feminist Studies 11 (Summer 1985).

Heidi Hartmann, "The Family as a Locus of Gender, Class, and Political Struggle: The Example of Housework," Signs 6/3 (Spring 1981).

Susan J. Kleinberg, "Technology and Women's Work: The Lives of Working Class Women in Pittsburgh, 1870-1900," Labor History.

Ellen Malos, ed., The Politics of Housework.

Ellen Ross, "Survival Networks: Women's Neighbourhood Sharing in London Before World War I," History Workshop 15 (Spring 1983).

Susan Strasser, Never Done: A History of American Housework.

Nov. 2: From Slavery to the Wage-Labor Market

Jacqueline Jones, Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow

Additional Suggested Readings:

John W. Blassingame, "Before the Ghetto: The Making of a Black Community in Savannah, Georgia, 1865-1880," Journal of Social History 6 (Summer 1973).

Claudia Goldin, "Female Labor Force Participation: The Origin of Black and White Differences, 1870 and 1880," Journal of Economic History 37 (March 1977).

Herbert G. Gutman, The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925.

Howard Lamar, "From Bondage to Contract: Ethnic Labor in the American West, 1600-1890" in Hawn and Prude, The Countryside in the Age of Capitalist Transformation.

Suzanne Lebsock, The Free Women of Petersburg: Status and Culture in a Southern Town, 1784-1860 (New York: W. W. Norton, 1984).

Jonathan M. Wiener, "Class Structure and Economic Development in the American South, 1865-1955," American Historical Review 84 (October 1979).

Nov. 9: Industrialization and Sexuality

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Women and Economics

Additional Suggested Readings:

Ben Barker-Benfield, "The Spermatic Economy: A Nineteenth-Century View of Sexuality," Feminist Studies 1 (1972).

John D'Emilio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity" in Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell, and Sharon Thompson, eds., Powers of Desire.

Ellen Carol DuBois and Linda Gordon, "Seeking Ecstasy on the Battlefield: Danger and Pleasure in Nineteenth-Century Feminist Sexual Thought" in Carole S. Vance, ed., Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality.

Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality: Introduction.

Estelle B. Freedman, "Sexuality in Nineteenth-Century America: Behavior, Ideology, and Politics," Reviews in American History 10 (1982).

Robert A. Padgug, "Sexual Matters: On Conceptualizing Sexuality in History," Radical History Review 20 (Spring/Summer 1979).

Judith R. Walkowitz, Prostitution and Victorian Society: Women, Class, and the State.

Nov. 16: Work Culture/Gender Culture

Susan Porter Benson, Counter Cultures

David Montgomery, "Workers' Control of Machine Production in the Nineteenth Century" in Workers' Control in America.

Additional Suggested Readings:

Ellen DuBois, Mary Jo Buhle, Temma Kaplan, Gerda Lerner, and Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "Politics and Culture in Women's History: A Symposium," Feminist Studies 6/1 (Spring 1980).

Lois Scharf, "The Great Uprising in Cleveland: When Sisterhood Failed" in Joan M. Jensen and Sue Davidson, eds., A Needle, a Bobbin, a Strike: Women Needleworkers in America.

Nancy Shrom Dye, "Creating a Feminist Alliance: Sisterhood and Class Conflict in the New York Women's Trade Union League," Feminist Studies 2, 2/3 (1975).

Alice Kessler-Harris, "Where Are the Organized Women Workers?" Feminist Studies 3 (Fall 1975).

Nancy A. Hewitt, "Beyond the Search for Sisterhood: American Women's History in the 1980s," Social History 10/3 (October 1985).

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual: Relations Between Women in Nineteenth-Century America," Signs 1 (1975).

Nov. 23: Women's Consciousness/Women's Work

Leslie Tentler, Wage-Earning Women

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, "Women's history Goes to Trial: EEOC v. Sears, Roebuck and Company," Signs 11/4 (1986).

Additional Suggested Readings:

Ardis Cameron, "Bread and Roses Revisited: Women's Culture and Working-Class Activism in the Lawrence Strike of 1912" in Ruth Milkman, ed., Women, Work and Protest: A Century of U. S. Women's Labor History.

Cynthia Costello, "Working Women's Consciousness: Traditional or Oppositional?" in Carol Groneman and Mary Beth Norton, eds., "To Toil the Livelong Day": America's Women at Work, 1780-1980.

Sarah Eisenstein, Give Us Bread but Give Us Roses: Working Women's Consciousness in the United States, 1890 to the First World War.

Carole Turbin, "Beyond Conventional Wisdom: Women's Wage Work, Household Economic Contribution, and Labor Activism in a Mid-Nineteenth-Century Working-Class Community" in Carol Groneman and Mary Beth Norton, eds., "To Toil the Livelong Day": America's Women at Work, 1780-1980.

Nov. 30: Family Structure and Industrialization

Tamara K. Hareven, Family Time and Industrial Time

DRAFT OF REVIEW ESSAY DUE IN CLASS

Additional Suggested Readings:

Christie Farnham, "Sapphire? The Issue of Dominance in the Slave Family, 1830-1865" in Carol Groneman and Mary Beth Norton, eds., "To Toil the Livelong Day": America's Women at Work, 1780-1980.

Frank F. Furstenberg, "Industrialization and the American Family: A Look Backward," American Sociological Review 31 (June 1966).

Michael Katz, The People of Hamilton, Canada West: Family and Class in a Mid-Nineteenth-Century City.

Elizabeth H. Pleck, "A Mother's Wages: Income Earning among Married Black and Indian Women, 1896-1911" in Michael Gordon, ed., the American Family in Social Historical Perspective (2nd ed.)

Carol Stack, All Our Kin: Strategies for Survival in a Black Community.

E.P. Thompson, "Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism," Past and Present 38 (1967).

Louise Tilly and Joan Scott, Women, Work, and Family.

Virginia Yans-McLaughlin, Family and Community: Italian Immigrants in Buffalo, 1880-1930.

Dec. 7: Industrialization, Gender, and Race

Dolores E. Janiewski, Sisterhood Denied

Additional Suggested Readings:

Karen Tucker Anderson, "Last Hired, First Fired: Black Women Workers during World War II," Journal of American History 69 (June 1982).

Elizabeth Rauh Bethel, Promiseland: A Century of Life in a Negro Community.

Barbara J. Fields, "Ideology and Race in American History" in J. Morgan Kousser and James M. McPherson, eds., region, Race, and Reconstruction: Essays in Honor of C. Van Woodward.

Joan Kelly, "The Doubled Vision of Feminist Theory: A Postscript to the 'Women and Power Conference,'" Feminist Studies 5/1 (Spring 1979).

Jacqueline Dowd Hall, Revolt Against Chivalry: Jesse Daniel Ames and the Women's Campaign against Lynching.

David M. Katzman, Seven days a Week: Women and Domestic Service in Industrializing America.

Dec. 14: Mechanization and Gender

Ruth Milkman, Gender at Work

Additional Suggested Readings:

Barbara Baran and Suzanne Teegarden, "Women's Labor in the Office of the Future: A Case Study of the Insurance Industry" in Lourdes Beneria and Catharine R. Stimpson, eds., Women, Households, and the Economy.

Harry Braverman, Labor and Monopoly Capital: The Degradation of Work in the Twentieth Century.

Corlann Gee Bush, "He Isn't Half So Cranky as He Used to Be': Agricultural Mechanization, Comparable Worth, and the Changing Farm Family" in Carol Groneman and Mary Beth Norton, eds., "To Toil the Livelong Day": America's Women at Work, 1780-1980.

June Nash and Maria Patricia Fernandez Kelly, eds., Women, Men, and the International Division of Labor.

Joan Rothchild, ed., Machina Ex Dea: Feminist Perspectives on Technology.

Cynthia Cockburn, Machinery of Dominance: Women, Men, and Technical Know-How.