



# Women's History Network

Newsletter

Issue No. 67 October 2014

## WHN Announcements

### A Message from WHN Charity Representative

WHN is a charity and as such is allowed to make claims under the Gift Aid Scheme. This is really simple way for WHN to raise money without increasing our subs. The Gift Aid scheme applies to gifts of money (including subscriptions) donated to charities by individuals who pay UK tax. Under the scheme, Gift Aid donations are regarded as having basic rate tax deducted by the donor and then the recipient is allowed to recover this. But it is the Charity (in this case WHN) that has to make the claim, not you. All you need to do is sign the Gift Aid declaration which is on the website (<http://www.womenshistorynetwork.org/whndb/admin/login.php>)

As Charity Rep I will record your donation - which is money you've already paid tax on - and reclaim the basic rate tax from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) on its 'gross' equivalent - the amount before basic rate tax was deducted. So if basic rate tax is 20 per cent, and you pay £10 and sign the Gift Aid declaration I can recover an additional £2.50 from HMRC, so your £10 is actually worth £12.50 to the WHN. You do however need to earn enough to pay tax and if you pay higher rate tax you will need to declare this on your tax returns but it will not increase the amount of tax you pay.

I would therefore ask all members to sign the Gift Aid declaration as it is a really simple way for WHN to increase its revenue. Dr Jane Berney FCA  
WHN Charity Representative

### Blog

We are always looking for contributions to our blog. If you have an idea for a blog post then please contact Jocelyne Scutt at [blog@womenshistorynetwork.org](mailto:blog@womenshistorynetwork.org). For the guidelines for submission please see here: [http://womenshistorynetwork.org/blog/?page\\_id=5](http://womenshistorynetwork.org/blog/?page_id=5).

### Women's History Magazine

Women's History Magazine is the journal of the Women's History Network, publishing long and short articles on all aspects of women's history, book reviews and more. We would like to draw our membership's attention to a number of new features being trialled in the Magazine. As well as traditional historical research, the Magazine is interested in publishing short news articles and reports on ongoing historical projects in the area of women's history, particularly from members of the heritage and education community, with the aim of encouraging ties between our academic and wider audiences and building collaborations. After the success of a number of special issues, we would also like to invite our membership to consider us as a venue for special issues arising from workshops, conferences and similar events. If you have an idea for such an issue, please get in touch. We have also started publishing themed literature reviews, so if you have are interested in writing one let us know. Finally, we will, of course, continue in our main business of publishing high quality research articles from both within and outside of academia. We welcome such submissions all year round. All research articles are peer-reviewed and count towards research assessment. If you would like to know more or have an idea, please contact Katie Barclay at [editor@womenshistorynetwork.org](mailto:editor@womenshistorynetwork.org).

### Women's History Network Midlands Region Conference 2014

22 November 2014 University of Worcester

This year's Women's History Network Midlands Region Conference entitled 'The First World War: Culture and Society' will take place at the University of Worcester (St. John's campus) on Saturday, 22 November 2014, 10.30am – 4.00pm in EEG 087 (Urwin Lecture Theatre). As part

of a varied programme of papers considering culture and society during the First World War this Conference includes two keynote addresses from Prof Claire Cochrane, University of Worcester and Prof Barbara Kelly, Keele University. Prof Cochrane will consider the complicated relationship between women and the theatre and Prof Kelly will explore the musical, cultural and patriotic implications of singer Jane Bathori's wartime activities. Any questions or queries please get in touch.

For further details, please contact: Dr Wendy Toon

w.toon@worc.ac.uk or 01905-855305

CFP: Women's History Network Annual Conference 2015

Female Agency, Activism and Organisation

4-6 September 2015

University of Kent (Canterbury)

**Abstract DEADLINE: 28 January 2015**

We invite established scholars, postgraduate researchers, museum curators and media practitioners from a wide range of disciplines working in any geographical context and period to contribute to a dynamic discussion about female agency, activism and organisation. The conference theme, inspired by the 2015 centenary of the Women's Institute, is to be interpreted broadly. It embraces all kinds of female organisation and agency from the local to the global; the individual to the collective. We are interested in how women have navigated, fought against, and sometimes upheld structures of patriarchy, power and privilege through time. We welcome papers that speak to one of these themes as well as those which connect across all three. We are looking to compile a conference programme that covers a broad temporal, methodological and geographical perspective.

\* Agency: This strand will be particularly interested in the interplay between agency and power – how have women interacted with systems of power from which they have traditionally been excluded, and how did women promote their own (individual and/or collective) interests within those broader structures. We are particularly interested in methodological issues here, and how we, as scholars of women in history, can leave space for female agency while recognising the structures of power within which the individual moves. As such, some themes that could be of interest include:

- o Freedom, negotiation, autonomy
- o Body, family, marriage
- o Power, society, professionalism
- o Agency and power in writing women's history

\* Activism: As modern feminism heads increasingly towards the internet we are interested in looking at the history of female activism – at local, national and international levels. In what ways have female activists organised themselves, and around what issues? Is there such a thing as 'women's issues'? How has women's activism been perceived and responded to? Some broad thematic areas for consideration include:

- o War, politics, economics
- o Culture, society, community
- o Rights, bodies, reproduction
- o Activism, organisation, cooperation

\* Organisation: Meanwhile, women have organised themselves variously through time – from churches, interest groups and philanthropic societies to broader organisations such as the women's missionary movement, the suffragettes and indeed, the WI. How have women organised themselves and to what ends in history? Has the organisation of women significantly changed over time? Why have women felt the need to organise themselves independently of men? As such, some themes that could be of interest include:

- o Household, church, society
- o Interest groups, philanthropy and activism
- o Education, medicine, pedagogy
- o Individuals and collectives

Abstracts of c400 words to be submitted to [womenshistorynetwork@kent.ac.uk](mailto:womenshistorynetwork@kent.ac.uk) by 28 January 2015

Conference organised by Anne Logan, Emily Manktelow and Juliette Pattinson

### General Announcements

#### CLIO First On-line Version

CLIO, Femmes, Genre, Histoire is proud to announce the publication of our first on-line English version 2013/1 (No. 37) When Medicine Meets Gender

For more information please visit:

[http://www.cairn-int.info/list\\_articles\\_fulltext.php?ID\\_JOURNAL=E\\_CLIO1](http://www.cairn-int.info/list_articles_fulltext.php?ID_JOURNAL=E_CLIO1)

#### Graphic Details: Confessional Comic

24 September – 13 December 2014

Space Station Sixty-Five are delighted to announce the internationally acclaimed touring exhibition *Graphic Details: Confessional Comics by Jewish Women* will be coming to London this Autumn.

Curated by Sarah Lightman and Michael Kaminer the exhibition includes works by Vanessa Davis; Bernice Eisenstein; Sarah Glidden; Miriam Katin; Aline Kominsky-Crumb; Miss Lasko-Gross; Sarah Lazarovic; Miriam Libicki; Sarah Lightman; Diane Noomin; Corinne Pearlman; Trina Robbins; Racheli Rotner; Sharon Rudahl; Laurie Sandell; Ariel Schrag; Lauren Weinstein; and Ilana Zeffren.

Details as follows:

Graphic Details Confessional Comics by Jewish Women

24 September – 13 December 2014

Space Station Sixty-Five, 373 Kennington Road, London, SE11 4PS

Visiting times:

Wednesday - Saturday 12.00–18.00 and by appointment.

'Last Fridays', monthly late openings 6.30-8.30pm, as part of the South London Art Map:

26/09, 31/10 & 28/11 2014

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY SCOTLAND ESSAY PRIZE

**For a new essay in Scottish women's or gender history** Women's History Scotland awards a bi-annual prize of £100 for a new essay in the field of Scottish women's and/or gender history. The prize was established in 2002 to celebrate the work of Leah Leneman, one of the foremost historians of women in Scotland. A trail-blazer for women's history in Scotland, she produced innovative studies on the women's suffrage movement, on women in medicine, and on sexuality and divorce in the early modern and modern periods. Women's History Scotland wishes to acknowledge the important work of Leah Leneman and to encourage new women's & gender historians to publish their work and to continue researching and writing in the field of Scottish women's and gender history. *Forms of work that may be submitted include: undergraduate dissertation, postgraduate work (e.g. Masters dissertation or chapter of PhD) or a piece of original research by an independent scholar. Please note the instructions for preparation below.* The essay must be principally focused on some aspect of **Scottish** women's or gender history but may deal with any time period. No area of Scottish women's or gender history is excluded. The submission should be written in English and in a form suitable for publication. It should be between 8,000 and 10,000 words in length. Longer or shorter submissions will not be considered. The essay should not be under consideration for publication elsewhere. To be eligible to submit an essay to the competition the candidate must not be in permanent academic employment. The essay will be considered by a panel of judges set up by the Steering Committee of Women's History Scotland and the prize will be presented at one of the Scottish Women's History Network conferences. The winning essay may be put forward to be considered for publication in the *Journal of Scottish Historical Studies*. ENTRY DETAILS Queries about eligibility of the entrant or essay topic should be addressed to Deborah Simonton ([dsimonton@sdu.dk](mailto:dsimonton@sdu.dk)). An electronic copy

(PDF) of the completed essay should be sent to Deborah Simonton at the above email address by Friday, 19 December 2014.

Include full name and contact details on a separate sheet, and not on the essay.

## Conferences, Seminars, Workshops

### Judith Walkowitz "History and the Politics of Prostitution: Prostitution and the Politics of History"

University of Warwick

16 October 2014

Judith Walkowitz from Johns Hopkins, will be giving a lecture at the University of Warwick on October 16 and speak on "History and the Politics of Prostitution: Prostitution and the Politics of History". For more information: [http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/research/seminars\\_readinggroups/gender\\_and\\_feminist\\_theory\\_group](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/research/seminars_readinggroups/gender_and_feminist_theory_group)

### Intersectionality: A Space for Theoretical and Practitioner Discussion

The University of Sussex

21-22 November 2014

The Race in the Americas (RITA) group presents a two-day conference bringing together academics, activists and practitioners who share a concern for and interest in intersectionality. The event will include:

- >Academic presentations on the theme of intersectionality
- >Activist and practitioner presentations on how and why intersectionality features in their work
- >A roundtable discussion involving academics, activists and practitioners fleshing out a comparison between the intersectionality which is theorised in academia and the intersectionality which guides activists and practitioners in the everyday

For further information please go to [www.raceintheamericas.com](http://www.raceintheamericas.com).

Refreshments will be provided.

This event is supported by the University of Sussex.

### UK WILPF re-enacts 1914 rally against war and calls for the inclusion of women in resolution of today's conflicts

At the 4 August 2014 commemoration of the 1914 women's anti-war rally, members of the UK section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom held placards and distributed leaflets explaining that then and now, women can offer an alternative to militarism and violence. While many people "celebrated" the centenary of the declaration of war on Germany, WILPF reminded the passing public that not everyone supported the 1914 Government decision to declare war on Germany.

WILPF then delivered a message to the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street, echoing the 1914 resolution – a culture of peace is not built by celebrating war, pouring money into military cadet training, recruiting sixteen year olds into the army and selling arms to oppressive regimes.

WILPF works to build peace by finding solutions to conflict through negotiation and the involvement of women at every level. In 2014, WILPF's work includes

- Bringing women activists from Syria to the Geneva II talks where they were excluded
- Joining people from 32 countries at the Peace Event in Sarajevo to explore alternatives to militarism, violence and war
- Helping bring women together at the first Global Summit on Sexual Violence in Conflict

In April 2015, at The Hague, WILPF will hold its centenary Congress, acknowledging the efforts of the women who have worked towards peace during the past 100 years; and bringing together women from 43 countries to help formulate strategies for peaceful methods of resolving current international disputes.

More information about WILPF's work

www.peacewomen.org  
www.reachingcriticalwill.org  
www.womenstopwar.org  
www.wilpf.org.uk

## Call For Papers

Special Issue of *Gender & History: Marriage's Global Past*

Editors:

Sara McDougall, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY) Sarah Pearsall, Cambridge University

This special issue of *Gender & History* explores marriage's global past from the medieval to the modern era. We solicit contributions that examine aspects of the history of marriage in societies and cultures throughout the world, with special attention to ideas and practices of monogamy and polygamy. Of particular interest is the role of gender in the construction and reconstruction of marriage. We also solicit papers that interrogate the relationship of marriage to various forms of power, including those of state, religious, and colonial institutions as well as the complicated dynamics of authority within households. We welcome both broad, comparative studies and more narrowly-focused ones.

Many imagine marriage as a timeless institution. In fact, as William Alexander wrote in 1779, in his *History of Women: From the Earliest Antiquity, to the Present Time*, 'Marriage is so far from having been an institution, fixed by permanent and unalterable laws, that it has been continually varying in every period, and in every country.' This historian thus acknowledged both the shifting nature of marriage as an institution in a global context, as well as the ways that marriage profoundly shapes, and is shaped by, the role and status of women and men.

This special issue similarly assumes varieties of marriages, in terms of both chronology and geography. Indeed, what might constitute 'traditional' marriage in one context might appear radical in another. While many contemporary scholars and advocates have called for a redefinition of what is termed 'traditional marriage,' recent scholarship has also emphasized how very little is traditional about what is currently described in the *Oxford English Dictionary* as: 'the formal union of a man and a woman, typically as recognized by law, by which they become husband and wife.'

This special issue will also interrogate the profound interconnection of gender and marriage, especially with reference to issues of rank, race, age, nationality, culture, religion, and sexuality. One of the goals of this special issue is to explore how the idea of so-called 'traditional marriage' took root and spread in many cultures and with what effect on women and men. Often, of course, it did so even as local social practices deviated, sometimes notably, from this norm. For example, Christian teachings beginning in the first millennium endorsed a particular model of marriage that became not only a centerpiece of Christian faith but also a potent political and social force across the world. In this model, marriage had to be exclusive and indissoluble, a monogamous and enduring commitment between one man and one woman. At that time and in subsequent centuries, as Christian teachings spread throughout the world, this model of marriage came into contact with cultures that had different ideas about the best ways to marry, and the purpose of marriage. Clashes between different practices of marriage lay at the heart of many early modern and modern encounters. Such conflicts offer fascinating perspectives on gender and its operation in and beyond households. This special issue of *Gender & History* hopes to offer new interpretations of this complex and fascinating history.

The volume will begin with a colloquium to be held 7-9 April 2016 at Cambridge University. Paper proposals (750 words maximum) are to be submitted by 15 January 2015. Invitations to present at the colloquium will be issued in February 2015. All those presenting must submit articles for pre-circulation by 15 January 2016. Participants will also be expected to read all the other articles and to participate fully in the two-day colloquium. This participation will include commenting on the paper of another participant, as well as more general discussions. After the colloquium, participants will be invited to submit their revised papers for publication. Those accepted by the editors for publication will be expected to submit their manuscripts by 1 September 2016. This timeframe will allow the editors to work with authors to produce the final text of the issue for publication in 2017.

Please send paper proposals to [smcdougall@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:smcdougall@jjay.cuny.edu) and [smsp100@cam.ac.uk](mailto:smsp100@cam.ac.uk) by 15 January 2015, with "Marriage's Global Past" in the subject heading.

## About the Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Women's History Network is circulated to all members on a monthly basis. It provides an up-to-date means of communication and information sharing between members of the network and enables the Steering Committee to keep members up-to-date with news, conferences and other events concerning women's history. The *Newsletter* provides a forum for publicising your events and informing members about other activities and projects. The contents of the Newsletter depend partly upon what has been submitted for circulation by members. So please feel free to send information about Conferences, Events, News, indeed anything that you think would be of interest to members of WHN to the editor, Meleisa Ono-George [newsletter@womenshistorynetwork.org](mailto:newsletter@womenshistorynetwork.org). The deadline for copy is the last day of the month, for the next month's newsletter (usually sent out on or before the 5th of the month).

