

Society for the History of Women in the Americas (SHAW)

NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 2024

Upcoming seminar:

The next seminar in our series is on February 6th, 2024, 6-7pm on Zoom. Sign up via the IHR website: <https://www.history.ac.uk/events/coloniality-science-introduction-critical-studies-eugenics-mexico>

The title is: **The Coloniality of Science: An Introduction into the Critical Studies of Eugenics in Mexico** and will be given by **Rachell Sánchez-Rivera (Cambridge)**:

Eugenics is a multifaceted technology that allows the furthering of coloniality at a transnational level. The purpose of this presentation is to think about eugenic practices and ideas in a transnational level while paying attention to focalised and specific contexts. In this case, we will explore how using Mexico can help us get a more detailed understanding of the development of science as the colonial tool even in the aftermath of the revolution. Eugenics does not come in a vacuum, thus it therefore necessitates a multilayered approach to explore its slippery and contemporary nature. The purpose of this article is to operationalise this framework as a useful tool of analysis in critical eugenic studies and reproductive and reparative justice.

Rachell Sánchez-Rivera is a Research Fellow in the Study of Race and Anti-Racism in Gonville & Caius College and an Affiliate Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Cambridge. In 2020, they were an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow in Sociology at Cambridge after they completed their Ph.D. in Latin American Studies at the University of Cambridge. Their areas of expertise are in the sociology of health and illness and historical sociology with a focus on scientific racism, critical eugenics studies, and reproductive justice in the Americas.

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CFPs:

SASA (Scottish Association for the Study of America) are holding their annual conference at the University of Sterling on **2nd March, 2024**. Registration is open, and can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sasa-25th-annual-conference-2024-tickets-805744462377?aff=erelexpmlt>

American Nineteenth Century History journal's new editors invite new manuscripts to be considered for publication, with particular encouragement towards doctoral students. More information can be found at this link: https://baas.ac.uk/news-and-events/2023/11/american-nineteenth-century-history-new-editors/?utm_content=bufferc2922&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

BrANCH have opened their CFP for their annual conference, to be held **4th-6th October 2024** at **Madingley Hall, Cambridge**. Send your proposal and a one page CV by **March 22nd** to the conference secretaries, Emily West and Liz Barnes at branch19conference@gmail.com. More information here: <https://www.branch.org.uk/events>

HOTCUS have opened their CFP for their annual conference, to be held **19th-21st June 2024** at the **University of Southampton**. Send a 200-300 word abstract and a two page CV, all in one document, by **March 1st** to events.hotcus@gmail.com. More information here: <https://hotcus.org.uk/2024-annual-conference/>

Radical Print Cultures in the US South are holding a one day conference on **15th February** at University of Leeds – there's still time to register! More information here: <https://ahc.leeds.ac.uk/history/events/event/2951/conference-radical-print-cultures-in-the-us-south>



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CHAIR

Olivia is an interdisciplinary scholar of the United States based at Leeds Beckett University. Her research explores how different communities have historically used cultural tools and artistic expression to navigate and theorize various manifestations of confinement—both physical sites, such as prisons, psychiatric facilities and reformatory schools, and the various racial, gendered, and socioeconomic confinements that impact upon society more broadly. Her current book project, *Caged Sister: Women's Prison Zines in the United States*, is the first study to collect, analyse, and theorise the long history of collective writing from women's prisons, and is grounded in an analysis of over fifty different publications and nearly 1,000 individual issues gathered through original archival research.

Co-SECRETARY

Hélène is an Associate Professor at the University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès. Hélène specializes in American Studies and Film and Television Studies. More specifically, her recent research has focused on contemporary black women filmmakers, aesthetics, and distribution strategies. Her research is grounded on the theoretical background developed by the black feminist scholarship. Hélène brings a wealth of experience to the role and will help expand SHAW's reach into Europe and help to cultivate existing and new connections.

Co-SECRETARY

Rachell is a scholar from Cambridge University, and her interests lie in Eugenics, Racism, Reproductive Justice, Historical Sociology, Sociology of Health and Illness, Critical Race Theory, Disability Studies, Gender, and Queer/Cuir Theory. Her first book, *What Happened to Mexican Eugenics: Racism and the Reproduction of the nation* is currently under review with Cambridge University Press. Her current project focuses on *The Cultural Politics of Reproduction in Latin America* (alongside Dr. Rebecca Ogden, University of Kent). Rachell is a tech guru and plans to record some / all our seminar series and make them available on YouTube to further broaden our reach.

TREASURER

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE EDITOR

Gabrielle is an MA History graduate from the University of Plymouth, where she specialised in African American History of the early 20th century. In 2020, Gabrielle was the recipient of the Maureen Attrill Bursary from the The Box Museum, looking at the history of the Plymouth Porcelain collection and its connection to colonialism in the late 1700s. Gabrielle is currently the ceramics technician at the University of Plymouth and continues her studies as an independent researcher. gabrielle.tymkow@plymouth.ac.uk

EARLY CAREER REPRESENTATIVE

Emma is a Research Fellow in American History at the Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford. Specialising in the histories of gender, sexuality, activism, and disease in the twentieth century United States, she completed her PhD in History at Oxford in 2020 and her first book, *In Her Hands: Women's Fight Against AIDS in the United States* is forthcoming from the University of California Press in August 2023. Her work has also appeared in *Modern American History*, *Theatre Annual: A Journal of Theatre and Performance of the Americas*, *Working Papers in Critical Disaster Studies: Historical Approaches to Covid-19*, and the *Washington Post*. She is the early career representative of SHAW and lives in London with her partner and whippet. emma.day@rai.ox.ac.uk / Twitter: @emmaroseda

POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE

Genevieve Johnson-Smith

Genevieve is a PhD candidate in the history department at Newcastle University, working on a project around fugitive abolitionism, emancipatory activism and anti-slavery radicalism in the UK, particularly Wales. She has carried out extensive research on forced and coerced Indigenous sterilisation and remains dedicated to this very important work. She contributed a chapter to the collective *Sacred Bundles Unborn* (2021) and has also contributed her research and writing to the BBC history/comedy podcast *You're Dead To Me*. She is the postgraduate representative of SHAW and a member of the Northern Bridge EDI group.

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OFFICERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

Prof. Kate Dossett

Kate is Professor of American History at the University of Leeds where she researches and teaches Black cultural histories, women and gender history. Her most recent book is *Radical Black Theatre in the New Deal* (2020).

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For any general SHAW enquiries please email shawsociety@gmail.com or visit the SHAW website at <https://shawsociety.net>.



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