

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

NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 2026

SEMINAR SERIES

The next exciting instalment of our seminar series is entitled “Wherefore Art Thou, Trans Men? Transgender Identities in United States National Television News,” by Naomi Smith (Birbeck). The seminar is **free** to attend and will take place **on 10th March at 6pm**. Find more information and book at the following link: <https://www.history.ac.uk/news-events/events/wherefore-art-thou-trans-men-transgender-identities-united-states-national-television-news>

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“Over the last twenty years, transgender people have not only become more visible but have also increasingly been exploited as a tool to create political division, forcing them into an unwanted spotlight and placing them at risk. This exploitation partially occurs in the news media via the stories that are told about transgender people, and the ways that they are talked about and portrayed within these stories.

Using archival data from evening news broadcasts on four national television networks from 2004 and 2022, this paper considers how transgender identities are – and have been – communicated to the public via television news in the United States. What stories are told about them and how are those stories told? How might audiences interpret the meanings embedded in those stories? And has this changed over time?

Drawing on Kimberlé Crenshaw’s work on intersectionality, it discusses the relative complexities – or lack thereof – in the ways transgender people are represented in these stories. In particular, it asks who is seen on camera and who gets to be heard? How does this intersect with race, indigeneity and other forms of gender identity?

Using Stuart Hall’s “encoding/decoding” theory, it also discusses the differing ways in which audiences might interpret these stories and how those interpretations might be influenced by the myriad identities of audiences, journalists and networks.

Finally, it considers how we might place these representations of transgender people in historical context and looks ahead, considering what newsrooms might do to more accurately, fairly and safely represent transgender Americans and the issues that matter to them most.”

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Events and opportunities:

BAAS Annual Conference – Registration is open for the BAAS conference, to be held at **University of Glasgow, April 9th-11th 2026**. Find more information and register here: <https://baas.ac.uk/conferences/baas-2026-university-of-glasgow-9-11-april-2026/>

HOTCUS Annual Conference CFP – HOTCUS are inviting panel proposals for their conference, to be held **July 1-3, 2026** at the **University of Manchester**. Professor Beth Bailey, Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions, 2025-26, Cambridge University, will be the keynote speaker:

“We invite panel and roundtable proposals on **any and all topics concerning the history of the United States – broadly conceived – from 1890 to the present**. Please note, we are only accepting full panel proposals not individual submissions. We have set up an online [Panel Finder](#) document in order to facilitate connections for those looking to set up a panel. Postgraduate students unable to find other panel members are welcome to ask for assistance from the program committee.

Please email all submissions to events.hotcus@gmail.com by midnight, UK time on March 25, 2026.”

SASA Annual Conference – Scottish Association for the Study of America’s 27th Annual Conference will be held at University of Highlands and Islands in Inverness on 7 March 2026. Details on how to register can be found here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sasa-27th-annual-conference-2026-tickets-1980939781211>

Call for Abstracts: Sex, Reproduction, and the Politics of Knowledge - call for abstracts for our upcoming workshop on Sex, Reproduction, and the Politics of Knowledge at UCL Institute of the Americas. The workshop will be held on **Tuesday 26 May 2026** at **UCL Institute of the Americas**. We are delighted to welcome Professor Lina-Maria Murillo (UT Austin) as our keynote speaker. **Please email submissions to emma-day@ucl.ac.uk or sandra.rodriquez.24@ucl.ac.uk by midnight, UK time on Friday 6th March.**

JOB OPPORTUNITY - 3 Year Teaching Fellow in the History of the USA, Department of History, University of Warwick, Due March 8, 2026. The Department of History seeks to appoint a Teaching Fellow in the History of the USA on a full-time basis for a fixed-term period of 36 months from 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2029. Full details: <https://warwick-careers.tal.net/vx/lang-en-GB/mobile-0/appcentre-1/brand-4/user-11595/xf-287774c8e052/candidate/so/pm/1/pl/3/opp/3866-Teaching-Fellow-in-History-of-the-USA-111334-0226/en-GB>

SHAW Steering Committee 25-26 (to be updated):

CHAIR

Dr. Olivia Wright (Leeds Beckett University)

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

Dr H el ene Charlery

H el ene is an Associate Professor at the University of Toulouse Jean Jaur es. H el ene 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. H el ene 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

Dr Rachell S anchez-Rivera

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

N.B. The post of treasurer is still available, if you are interested, please contact Olivia Wright to discuss the role.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE EDITOR

Gabrielle Tymk ow

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

Dr Emma Day

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

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POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE

Genevieve Johnson

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).

k.m.dossett@leeds.ac.uk

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

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