

RWSA NEWSLETTER

June

2019

May 2021 RWSA Conference

University of Guelph, Canada



Rural Women's Studies Association
14th Triennial Conference

KITCHEN TABLE TALK TO GLOBAL FORUM

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH, ONTARIO, CANADA
MAY 13-15, 2021

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

COLLEGE of ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

For more information contact:
Catharine Wilson at cawilson@uoguelph.ca
or visit the RWSA website:
www.ohio.edu/cas/history/institutes-associations/rwsa/

Hosted by the University of Guelph and the Francis and Ruth Redelmeier Professorship in Rural History

Come and join us at the table!

Call for RWSA Conference Proposals

The theme “Kitchen Table Talk to Global Forum” emphasizes how conversations, relationships, and food shape rural communities. This theme allows for the consideration of the ways that gendered, sexual, ethnic, and racial identities affect personal power, class consciousness, individual choice, and community development. These subjects lend themselves to the exploration of rural activism, social justice, innovation, politics, business development, cultural expression, self-governance, and collective experiences — both historical and contemporary — in local, regional, national, and global settings.

RWSA is an international association founded in 1998 to promote and advance farm and rural women’s/gender studies in a historical perspective by encouraging research, promoting scholarship, and establishing and maintaining links with organizations that share these goals. RWSA welcomes public historians and archivists, graduate students, and representatives of rural organizations and communities as conference participants and members, in addition to academic scholars from diverse fields, including sociology, anthropology, literature and languages, Indigenous Studies, and history.

Presentations take many forms at RWSA conferences, including workshops, panel sessions, tours, interactive sessions, roundtable discussions, poster presentations, open-mic discussions, performances, readings, and audiovisual presentations. The RWSA encourages inter-, trans- or multi-disciplinary approaches that connect rural women’s/gender history and present-day concerns. The RWSA seeks to integrate creative work with the conference theme, and we encourage artists working in visual, film, performative, and literary genres to submit their ideas to make the conference most dynamic.

The theme: “Kitchen Table Talk to Global Forum” encourages exploration of several subthemes:

- Women and mental health
- Women and food justice
- Indigenous rural women
- Women and food tourism
- Women and technological and biological innovation (media, healthcare, equipment)
- What’s on the table (food production, preparation, rituals, hospitality, etiquette, and display)
- Women's Table talk (issues concerning family, community, politics, legislation, and markets)

Located an hour's drive west of Toronto, the University of Guelph is known as Canada's Food University and has gained international recognition for its impact on agricultural sciences and rural life.

Please submit the following information by **31 May 2020**.

1. Title of paper/panel/poster/workshop/performance (working title is acceptable).
2. 200-word description/abstract of paper, panel, poster, workshop, performance, etc.
3. Brief vita/bio of presenter or panel participants and complete contact information for all.

Call for RWSA Conference Proposals (cont.)

Please indicate if your proposal does not fit in the regular session time of 1.5 hours with three presentations and discussion. We will contact you if your proposal has been accepted. Submissions should be sent electronically (as a single Word document or combined PDF) to:
RWSA2021@gmail.com

Program Committee Co-chairs: Katherine Jellison, Ohio University, and Jenny Barker-Devine, Illinois College

Program Committee Members: Margaret Thomas-Evans, Jodey Nurse-Gupta, Tracey Hanshew, Amy McKinney, Cathy Wilson.

Information: For information on travel grants and letters of invitation, contact [Catharine A. Wilson at cawilson@uoguelph.ca](mailto:cawilson@uoguelph.ca). For additional information on the RWSA, please go to the organization website (<https://www.ohio.edu/cas/history/institutes-associations/rwsa/>).



Curious about the location of our next Triennial Conference: Guelph [Gw-elf]

The University of Guelph is internationally recognized for its impact on agricultural sciences and rural life. It was recently officially deemed to be "Canada's Food University." Underpinning this is its partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. It also has a rich history in agriculture, livestock and food that extends back to 1874 when it opened as an Agricultural College. In 1903 MacDonal Institute was established and by the 1950s it was the premier Home Economics school in North America. In 1922 the Ontario Veterinary College moved to Guelph, the oldest veterinary college in Canada and the United States. In 1964 these three colleges were amalgamated and the University of Guelph became a fully comprehensive university.

The city of Guelph (<http://guelph.ca/>) has a population of 132,000 and is located roughly one hour by car/bus west of Toronto and Pearson International Airport. It is consistently rated as one of Canada's best places to live. Downtown has a hipster feel to it. The city is recognized for its leadership in recycling, its cathedral, its art scene, and for being the home of John McCrae of "In Flanders' Fields" fame. It is situated in Wellington County where the countryside has a range of organic, precision, family, and corporate farms.

About the RWSA

Founded in 1998 as an outgrowth of the Sixth Conference on Rural and Farm Women in Historical Perspective, the Rural Women's Studies Association is an international organization for the advancement and promotion of farm and rural women's gender studies in historical perspective. The Association aims to encourage research, to promote existing and forthcoming scholarship, and to establish and maintain links with contemporary farm and rural women's organizations. The RWSA aims to encourage scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds and countries to communicate about their research and all other activities that are supportive to the Association's goals.

RWSA Officers

Co-Chairs

Katherine Jellison, Ohio University
Catharine Wilson, University of Guelph

Co-Secretaries

Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, Iowa State University
Position open for second secretary

Treasurer

Jenny Barker-Devine, Illinois College

International Membership and Communication Coordinators

Pacific—Kate Hunter, Victoria Univ. of Wellington

Canada—Jodey Nurse-Gupta, University of Waterloo

Europe—Margreet van der Burg, Wageningen University, Holland

Africa—Olubunmi Ashimolowo, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

U.S.—Vivianne Holmes, University of Maine;
Tracey Hanshew, Washington State TC

Emerging Professional & Graduate Student Coordinators

Maggie Weber, Iowa State University
Kendra DeHart, Sul Ross State University
Karissa Patton, University of Saskatchewan
Diane McKenzie, University of Lethbridge

RWSA Officers Cont.

Web Master

Katherine Jellison, Ohio University

Website:

<https://www.ohio.edu/cas/history/institutes-associations/rwsa/index.cfm>

Social Media Coordinators:

Cynthia Culver Prescott, University of North Dakota

Maggie Weber, Iowa State University

Blog:

<https://ruralwomensstudies.wordpress.com/>

Newsletter Editor

Margaret Thomas Evans, Indiana University East

Fundraising

Cynthia Culver-Prescott, University of North Dakota

Share Your Work on the RWSA Blog

We invite submissions to the RWSA blog, which publishes on a wide range of topics related to rural women, gender and sexuality. We publish scholarship and book reviews as well as more informal reflections. We also seek to highlight rural activism. Posts typically range from about 200 to 2,000 words. Send submissions and queries to Cindy Prescott at <cynthia.culver@gmail.com>.

Send Us Your News!

RWSA members would appreciate hearing of your accomplishments, awards, changes in employment, publications, and research discoveries or needs. We welcome announcements from institutions and organizations regarding historical holdings, job openings, and events. Send submissions to Margaret Thomas Evans margevan@iue.edu

We plan to have two issues per year – fall and spring.

Announcements

The EURHO is a non-profit organization concerned with promoting the study of all aspects of rural history in Europe and beyond. It organizes, through its members, a bi-annual international conference and publishes a newsletter. Membership is open to scientific institutions concerned with the furtherance of rural history and to individuals who attend the organization's conferences.

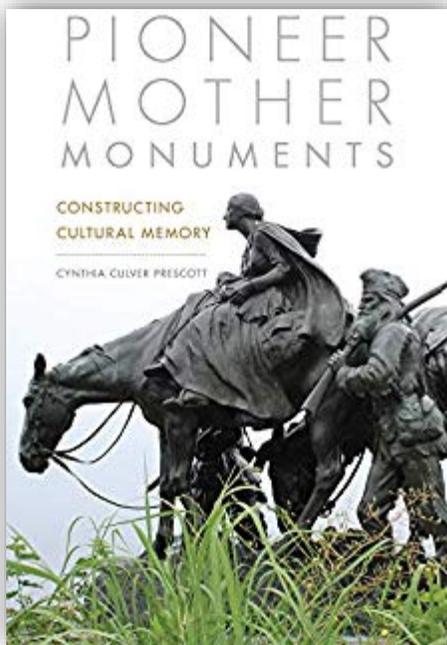
The European Rural History Organisation will hold its bi-annual conference in Paris September 10 – 13, 2019. RWSA members and others interested in RWSA are invited to participate in an RWSA meeting held during the conference on Tuesday, September 10 from 9 to 10:30 am. Contact Kathy Jellison for details.



<http://ruralhistory2019.ehess.fr/>

Member News

New Books!

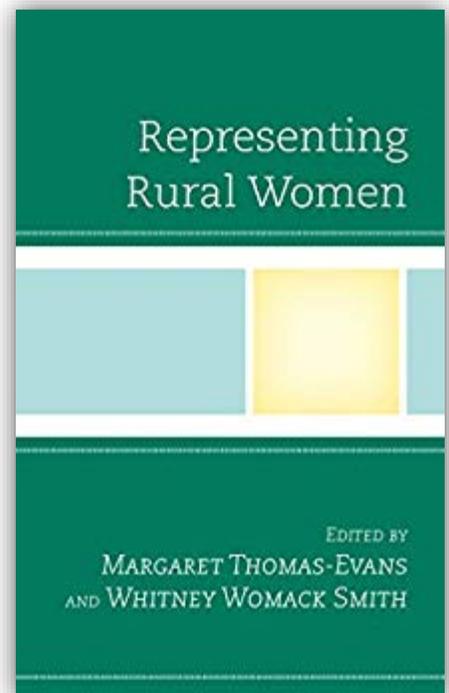


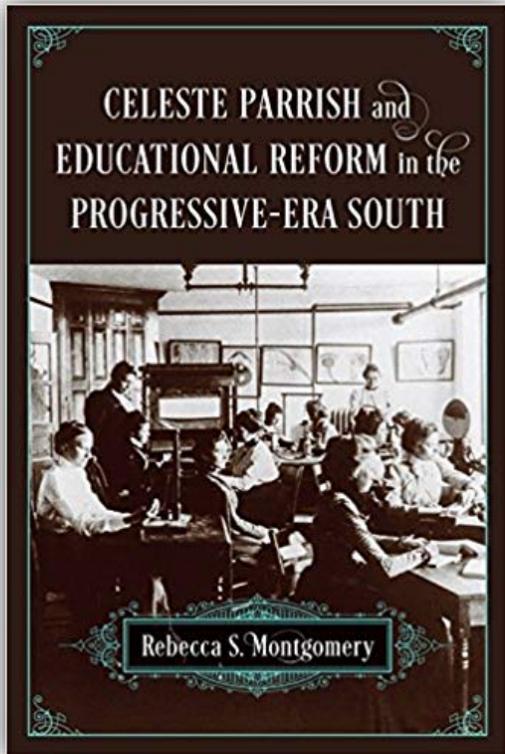
Cynthia Culver Prescott's new book, *Pioneer Mother Monuments: Constructing Cultural Memory* was released by University of Oklahoma Press in April 2019. For more than a century, American communities erected monuments to western pioneers. Although many of these statues receive little attention today, the images they depict—sturdy white men, saintly mothers, and wholesome pioneer families—enshrine prevailing notions of American exceptionalism, race relations, and gender identity. *Pioneer Mother Monuments* is the first book to delve into the long and complex history of remembering, forgetting, and rediscovering pioneer monuments.

<https://www.oupres.com/books/15070483/pioneer-mother-monuments>

Representing Rural Women, edited by Margaret Thomas-Evans and Whitney Womack Smith, was published June 2019.

Representing Rural Women highlights the complexity and diversity of representations of rural women in the U.S. and Canada from the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries. The 15 chapters in this collection offer fresh perspectives on representations of rural women in literature, popular culture, and print, digital, and social media. They explore a wide range of time periods, geographic spaces, and rural women's experiences, including Mormon pioneer women, rural lesbians in the 1970s, Canadian rural women's organizations, and rural trans youth. In their stories, these women and girls navigate the complex realities of rural life, create spaces for self-expression, develop networks to communicate their experiences, and challenge misconceptions and stereotypes of rural womanhood. The chapters in this collection consider the ways that rural geography allows freedoms as well as imposes constraints on women's lives, and explore how cultural representations of rural womanhood both reflect and shape women's experiences.





Rebecca Montgomery's new book, *Celeste Parrish and Educational Reform in the Progressive-Era South*, was published by LSU Press in December 2018. It follows a Civil War orphan's transformation from a Southside Virginia public school teacher to a nationally known progressive educator and feminist. In this vital intellectual biography, Rebecca S. Montgomery places feminism and gender at the center of her analysis and offers a new look at the postbellum movement for southern educational reform through the life of Celeste Parrish.

Because Parrish's life coincided with critical years in the destruction and reconstruction of the southern social order, her biography provides unique opportunities to explore the rise of reactionary racism and sexism in the workplace and educational system. As with many women of the last Civil War generation, Parrish's drive to acquire a college education and professional career pitted her against male opponents of coeducation and female intellectual opportunities. When coupled with women's lack of formal political power, this resistance to gender equality discouraged progress and lowered the quality of public education throughout the South. The marginalization of women within the reform movement, headed by the Conference for Education in the South, further limited female contributions to regional change. Yet, because men allowed female

participation in grassroots organization, the southern movement provided an alternate source of influence and power for women. It also restricted the impact of their social activism to mainly female networks, however, which received less public acknowledgement than the reform work conducted by men.

By exploring the consequences of gender discrimination for both educational reform and the influence of southern progressivism, Rebecca S. Montgomery contributes a nuanced understanding of how interlocking hierarchies of power structured opportunity and influenced the shape of reform in the U.S. South.

RURAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP FORM

MEMBER INFORMATION

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

AFFILIATION

MAILING ADDRESS (please circle: Work or Home)

CITY

STATE

ZIP / COUNTRY CODE

COUNTRY

E-MAIL PHONE FAX

MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO RWSA:

ANNUAL DUES are \$10.00 for students, non-academics, and adjunct and part-time faculty; \$25.00 for tenure-track faculty; and \$50.00 for contributing members.

JOAN JENSEN-MARY NETH FUND: RWSA welcomes contributions to the Joan Jensen-Mary Neth Fund to help offset registration fees for invited speakers and international participants. Memorials may be made to the Fund as well. Please designate the name of the person being memorialized.

DUES: _____ (Please circle: Annual \$10; Annual \$25; Contributing \$50)

JENSEN-NETH FUND: _____ IN MEMORY OF _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Please mail a personal check or international money order made out to RWSA to:

Jenny Barker-Devine, RWSA Treasurer
Dept. of History, Illinois College
1101 W. College Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650

(RWSA is a 501C-3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.)