1. Choose ONE of the following gendered historical themes—conjugality, domesticity, nationalism, feminism, religion, and education—and compare its treatment in scholarly literature of TWO geographical areas. In what ways do the two areas overlap? What are the main distinctions between them and how do you explain them? Are there particular lessons that one area might learn from another?

2. Write a preliminary outline for a syllabus for an undergraduate course on the history of women and gender at the University of Illinois. Include a paragraph articulating the central aims of the course in which you discuss how you understand the history of women and gender to be of fundamental importance if one is to understand history in general. Specify the five to six books that are required reading and explain what they are about and why you have chosen them, paying special attention to the ways they support the central aims of the course.

3. Discuss the relationship of public to private in the historiography of women and gender in Europe and its colonies. How helpful has this model been for understanding women and gender? Why has this model been criticized and how valid do you find these criticisms?

4. Assess the transition from women's history to gender history in writing about women and gender in Europe and its colonies. What comparison would you draw between the evolution of the historiography of at least two different regions over the past twenty years? Are the strengths and weaknesses of each approach the same or different in each case?

5. The relationship between sexuality and gender is a common and complicated theme in women’s and gender history. Compare and contrast the relationship between sexuality and gender in the history and historiography of Europe and its colonies. What factors help to explain the ways sexuality and gender interact in each case?

6. One of the early promises of women’s history was to challenge the reigning periodization of history. To what extent has the field fulfilled this promise? What new issues and insight into periodization is offered by your comparative reading in women’s and gender history?