Women and Gender History  
November 2012

Instructions: Answer three questions, one from each pair. You should be sure to discuss a broad range of books touching on all three of your geographic areas. Be sure your essays have a clear line of argument and engage with both history and historiography, discussing both scholars and scholarly work where appropriate.

Part A
1. Compare and contrast the treatment of domesticity in the scholarly literature on Africa, Latin America, and the United States. How have historians in each of these fields connected this topic to considerations of power? What are some of the lessons that scholars from each of these areas can learn from each other?

2. To what extent have historians in each of your main geographic areas framed women’s history in terms of national histories? What are some of the reasons for and consequences of nation-based approaches to women’s history? And finally, what are some of the pitfalls and promises of women’s history scholarship that emphasizes other scales and political units?

Part B
3. How can a comparative perspective across your three geographies help us understand the ways that women’s oppression as women has been entangled with racial and/or ethnic forms of oppression? Do such comparisons reveal significant regional differences or do they tend more to illuminate common patterns?

4. Compare the strengths and weaknesses of the campaigns for women’s suffrage in two of the nations you have studied. What were the barriers to these campaigns and what were their main impacts on wider society? In your opinion, has the subsequent historiography of those nations taken adequate cognizance of women’s voting?

Part C
5. Is it possible to write a substantive transnational history of women’s same-sex lives and sexualities, as a way of combating the scholarly tendency towards heteronormativity? What are the advantages and pitfalls of this approach?

6. Your first teaching position after leaving the University of Illinois is at a medium-sized state university, and you have been assigned to teach History 220, “Gender and Race in 20th century Latin America.” What topics would you focus on; what stories would you want to tell to these students, and why? A detailed syllabus is not required.