RACHEL BUNKER

Bio: Rachel Bunker is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at Rutgers University. Her research focuses on the history of American finance and politics in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. Originally from Florida's Gulf Coast, Rachel holds a BA in History from Agnes Scott College, an MA in History from the University of Georgia, and an MAT from Lewis & Clark College. Besides her passion for researching and writing about the past, she is also an avid follower of baseball. Her favorite team is the Toronto Blue Jays. Her least favorite team is the New York Yankees.

Project Abstract: Rachel is currently researching and writing a dissertation entitled "Insuring Empire," which examines the role American life insurance companies played in "managing the risk" of U.S. imperial expansion from the 1890s to the 1930s.

SANDRA CHIRITESCU

Bio: Sandra is a PhD candidate in Yiddish Studies at Columbia University where she is also pursuing certificates in Comparative Literature and Gender Studies. When she isn’t teaching Yiddish or processing archival materials at Columbia’s Rare Books and Manuscript Library, she works on translation projects, such as the Yiddish children’s stories in the volume In the Land of Happy Tears (Penguin Random House, 2018). She is also a research assistant for the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum and an editorial board member of In Geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies.

Project Abstract: Sandra’s dissertation project - tentatively titled Yiddish Traces in American-Jewish Feminism? English and Yiddish Life-Writing 1970-present - explores Jewish women’s writing during second- and third-wave feminism with a focus on gendered modes of personal writing, such as memoirs and essays, in American literature in Yiddish and English. I explore how authors of English-language works - as second-generation immigrants - implicitly or explicitly draw on a Yiddish cultural archive in their negotiations of hyphenated Jewish-feminist identities. Such a juxtaposition of American-Yiddish and American-Jewish feminist literature challenges the current understanding of Jewish-inflected secular feminism, Jewish
womanhood, and gendered Jewishness as it emerges in the American postwar period. My
dissertation combines readings of marginal Yiddish authors with more canonical works of
second-wave feminism thus challenging monolithic and monolingual understandings of
American-Jewish feminist literature.

DEVON GOLASZEWSKI
Bio: Devon Golaszewski is a seventh-year doctoral student in African history at Columbia
University, where her research focuses on the history of gender and sexuality, and the history of
medicine, in 20th-century francophone West Africa. Prior to beginning her PhD, Devon worked
for four years in Bamako, managing a public health non-profit focused on increasing access to
primary health care services. Alongside Malian colleagues, she is currently the co-organizer of
the Projet Archives des Femmes, a Bamako-based public archive of Malian women's activism
from the independence movement to the 1990s.

Project Abstract: “Reproductive Labors: Local Reproductive Expertise and Biomedical
Legibility in Mali, 1935-1999” examines the intertwined and competing practices by which
Malian families sought to ensure successful conception, pregnancy, and childbirth in the context
of high maternal and infant mortality. Even as biomedical maternal health facilities expanded,
Malian families continued to rely on local reproductive specialists who used physical, medicinal,
and esoteric interventions to prepare young women for adult motherhood: birth attendants,
excisers, and nuptial counselors (who provided sexual education at marriage). Using
interdisciplinary methods, this project examines how the resiliency of these ‘traditional’ practices
sparked repeated debates between women and their families, government officials, gender-rights
activists and medical professionals over the place of homebirth, excision, and marital seclusion
in ‘modern’ Mali.

BROOKE LANSING
Bio: Brooke Lansing is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at Johns Hopkins
University. Her primary academic interests are in histories of gender, medicine, and the body in
nineteenth-century America.

Project Abstract: Brooke’s dissertation uses the career of “notorious” New York City-based
abortionist Madame Restell to access how women controlled their reproduction from the 1840s
through the 1870s. Restell’s commercial success instigated new arguments about the meanings
of abortion and contraception, provoking anxiety about women’s reproductive autonomy that
would contribute to widespread legal restrictions on abortion and contraception by the end of the
century. The dissertation will foreground how women understood and navigated possibilities of
and pushback against reproductive control.
MIRIAM LIEBMAN

Bio: Miriam Liebman is a History PhD Candidate in early American history at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She is also the Gardiner Archival Dissertation Fellow at the Institute for Thomas Paine Studies at Iona College for the 2019-2020 academic year. She earned her B.A. in history from Queens College, CUNY.

Project Abstract: My dissertation “‘Thus Much for Politicks’: American Women, Diplomacy, and the Aftermath of the American Revolution,” argues that American women acted in diplomatic capacities abroad in the Age of Revolutions. I examine the diplomatic activities of six elite women — Abigail Adams, Sarah Jay, Abigail (Nabby) Adams Smith, Ruth Barlow, Anne Bingham, and Mary Stead Pinckney — in London and Paris during the Age of Revolutions. Using their letters as the main primary source, each chapter focuses on several themes including, letter writing, politics and political intrigue, money and economic diplomacy, social networks, and republicanism and aristocracy abroad. These themes highlight the non-republican methods of politicking these women used on behalf of the United States during their time abroad.

NICOLE MAHONEY

Bio: Nicole Mahoney is a PhD candidate in American History at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her primary research interests include early American social and cultural history, the eighteenth-century Atlantic World, and comparative literature. She is a Consortium Dissertation Fellow at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies for the 2019-2020 academic year. Nicole earned a B.A. in History and French Studies from Wagner College and an M.A. in History and Literature from Columbia University.

Project Abstract: Nicole’s dissertation, “Liberty, Gentility, and Dangerous Liaisons: French Culture and Polite Society in the Early Republic, 1775-1800,” a study of the ways in which aristocratic American women and men used the values and vestiges of French courtly culture to proclaim that they were sovereign actors in transatlantic communication, economic, and intellectual networks after the Revolutionary War. She argues that Francophilia—rather than Anglophilia—was the organizing concept in post-Revolutionary American social and cultural history.

NATALIE SHIBLEY

Bio: Natalie Shibley is the Postdoctoral Fellow for the Program on Race, Science, & Society at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research interests include African American history, the history of medicine and public health, and the history of gender and sexuality. Natalie earned a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, where she was the first recipient of a joint doctoral degree in Africana Studies and History.
Project Abstract: Natalie’s manuscript is about race, homosexuality investigations, and notions of disease in the U.S. military from the 1940s to 1990s. It discusses administrative investigations and discharges of troops accused of both homosexual acts and identities, criminal prosecutions for sodomy, HIV criminalization, and civilian court challenges to the ban on gay service members. It also shows how service members experienced, participated in, or objected to these investigations.

BRENANN SUTTER

Bio: Bren earned her BA in history and sociology from the University of California, San Diego in 2010. In 2012, she completed her MA in history at New York University. Bren is currently pursuing her PhD in twentieth-century American history at Rutgers University-New Brunswick with a concentration in women and gender.

Project Abstract: Bren’s dissertation project, “Consuming the Centerfold: Sexuality and the Fantasy of the American Good Life,” foregrounds the voices and experiences of marginalized men and women as they navigated the changing sexual ethos known as the “sexual revolution.” She examines Playboy magazine “imitators” made by and for those other than heterosexual white men in the second half of the twentieth century. By strategically appropriating elements of the consumerism and sexual liberalism espoused in the likes of Playboy, such magazines worked to construct new, distinctive sexual identities predicated on the fantasy of integration into American life.

SARAH TEMPLIER

Bio: Sarah Templier is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at Johns Hopkins University. Her research focuses on the history of commerce, consumer and material cultures, gender, and crime in North America. Originally from Montréal, Canada, Sarah obtained her BA and MA in History at the Université de Montréal. She is currently the Barra Dissertation Fellow in Art and Material Culture at the McNeil Center for the Early American Studies, in Philadelphia.

Project abstract: Sarah’s dissertation, "The Power of Consumer Desires: Textiles and Clothing in French and British North America, 1713-1760," explores how the trade and consumption of textiles shaped the political economy of eighteenth-century Canada and New York. In this project, she investigates the power and impact consumers' needs and desires for specific fabrics, fashionable apparel accessories and small luxuries on licit, informal and illicit commercial practices such as textile importation from Europe, contraband, retail, and thefts and exchanges in shadow economies. Sarah pays particular attention to the gender dynamics within these exchanges, and highlight the role of women as traders and consumers throughout her
dissertation. Her research suggests striking similarities in the ways French and British colonial settlers' commercial and consumer practices and desires.

**KAITLIN TONTI**

Bio: Kaitlin Tonti is a newly minted PhD in Literature and Criticism from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). She is currently navigating the job market while teaching First Year Writing at Seton Hall University and Brookdale Community College in New Jersey. Her broader areas of interest include 18th - 19th century American literature, and the politics of modern archival practices. More specifically, her dissertation titled "Public Thoughts, Private Communication: Circulating History in Early American Women's Life-Writing, 1750-1812" focuses on how life-writing genres, including letters and diaries, afforded early American women agency through expressions of the daily. She was selected as the Society of Early Americanists' Junior Scholar of the Month for April 2019.

Project Abstract: Kaitlin's current project focuses on turning some of her dissertation chapters into journal articles, with the hope of putting together a book manuscript over the next two years. In extending her research subjects beyond colonial America, Kaitlin's goal is to focus on the temporality of correspondence and the complexities of women's transatlantic life-writing networks in the Revolutionary period. She is looking forward to being a part of the third cohort and learning from so many amazing scholars.

**ELIZABETH WEINFELD, PhD**

Elizabeth Weinfield (PhD, Historical Musicology, CUNY Graduate Center, 2019) is Lecturer in Music History at The Juilliard School. She is also the artistic director of the acclaimed chamber music ensemble, Sonnambula. Dr. Weinfield specializes in early modern women composers in the Jewish diaspora and in the cultural lives of female conversos in the seventeenth century.

**CAITLIN WIESNER**

Bio: Caitlin is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at Rutgers University- New Brunswick, specializing in the history of women, gender, and sexuality in the 20th century United States. She earned a Bachelor of the Arts with Distinguished Honors in History and Women's & Gender Studies from The College of New Jersey in 2015. Her research has been supported by the Graduate School of New Brunswick, the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, Rutgers Oral History Archives, Smith College Libraries, and the P.E.O. International. She is currently the Andrew W. Mellon Predoctoral Fellow in Women's History at the New-York Historical Society.