

The Department of History invites you to a series of lecture lectures for Women's History Month.

Thursday, March 5, 4:30-5:30, CUE 203

Newspaper Women and the Making of the Modern, 1885-1910

At the turn of the century, hundreds of women nationwide entered newspaper reporting for the first time, drawn by mass-circulation newspapers in major cities such as New York and Chicago. Usually assigned to write for the newly-invented "woman's page," women reporters nevertheless often managed to escape its confines, creating lively features and "human interest" stories that were closely attuned to a changing modern, urban life. This talk will argue that women's journalistic writings, long neglected by both historians and literary critics, were a vital part of the creation of a new public sphere for women—and literally helped to write the modern era into being.

Alice Fahs is an Associate Professor of history at University of California, Irvine. She received an A.B. in English from Princeton University and a Ph.D. in American history from New York University. A specialist in nineteenth century US history, Dr. Fahs' research reflects her wide-ranging expertise in print culture, gender, and the Civil War. Her book, *The Imagined Civil War: Popular Literature of the North and South 1861-1865*, was a 2002 Lincoln Prize finalist. Dr. Fahs has most recently been at work on "Newspaper Women and the Making of the Modern, 1885-1910." The book is under contract with University of North Carolina Press.

Friday, March 6, 12:00-1:00, Wilson-Short 333

Womanly Qur'anic Exegesis: The Thinkable, Unthinkable and Unthought

French philosopher Mohammed Arkoun states that historicity is a major unthought in Islamic reason. I will explore the historical process of creating patriarchal orthodoxy in Qur'anic exegesis and examine the flourishing engagement with the Quran by female Muslim scholars, attempting to recover the "stubbornly egalitarian voice of Islam," and to situate it as a legitimate counter voice to the authoritarian voice of Islam.

Lipi Turner-Rahman is an ABD in the Department of Anthropology at WSU, where her dissertation focuses on Muslim women of the South Asian Diasporas' interpretation of the Qur'an.

Tuesday, March 10, 12:00-1:00, Todd 334

**Sex and God in the City of the Angels: The Kidnapping of
Aimee Semple McPherson and American Culture**

One spring morning in 1926, popular Los Angeles evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson vanished from a local beach and was thought to have drowned. A month later she reappeared in Arizona, claiming that members of the Los Angeles “underworld” kidnapped and held her for ransom in Mexico. Rumors quickly spread that she had actually been vacationing with a secret lover in the beach town of Carmel-by-the-Sea. A year long media frenzy ensued. Matthew Avery Sutton will discuss the kidnapping controversy, focusing on what it reveals about debates over women’s changing gender roles, the position of fundamentalism in public life, and the uses and influence of new forms of mass media in 1920s America.

Matthew Avery Sutton is an assistant professor of history at Washington State University. His book, *Aimee Semple McPherson and the Resurrection of Christian America*, won the Thomas J. Wilson Memorial Prize from Harvard University Press, awarded annually to the best book in any discipline by a first-time author. The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) produced a documentary for *American Experience* series based on the manuscript. His next book, which will also be published by Harvard University Press, is tentatively entitled *American Evangelicals and the Politics of Apocalypse*.

Friday, March 13, 12:00-1:00, Wilson-Short 333

Chilean Women in Politics, 1964-1989

Using archival sources, current historiography and oral history methodology, the role of Chilean conservative middle class women as political subjects was studied. The theoretical framework of analysis included gender history and history of the present. These women have been traditionally ignored in the Chilean historical record, unlike women of the elite, poor women, and leftist women, considered inconsequential as political subjects. The research and oral history proves that this large segment of women used gendered spaces to influence political opinion and three different governments: the Christian Democratic government of President Eduardo Frei, 1964-1970; the Socialist government of President Salvador Allende, 1970-1973; and the military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet, 1973-1989.

Yvonne Berliner is from Chile and Germany, but was educated in the US for her undergraduate and first graduate degrees. She also holds a Master's and PhD in History from the Universidad de Chile. She has taught history in Santiago for 25 years and has recently worked for an international educational organization in Geneva, Switzerland, 2005 to 2008. Her teaching has been primarily in History of the Americas and in World History. Her research interests lie in European immigration to Latin America and to Chile, as well as in the role of women in Latin American and Chilean politics. She moved to the Palouse six months ago and is currently teaching Latin American History at WSU.

Tuesday, March 24, 12:00-1:00, Wilson-Short 333

Women and Baseball

The presentation, "Women and Baseball," looks at the roles women have played historically in influencing the game. It also examines and provokes audience members to try to understand why women have been effectively banned from ever playing professional baseball, a ban that illegally continues to this day.

Frank Hill has taught "Baseball -and American Society," for the past 10 years at WSU. This presentation is derived from one of that course's lectures. He earned his Ph.D. in American History from WSU (1996) and did his undergraduate work at the University of Idaho.

Monday, March 30, 12:00-1:00, Wilson-Short 333

Gender in Transformation: German Mission Schools for Chinese Girls in Early 20th Century Shandong

The teachers at three women's schools run by German women missionaries in Qingdao/Shandong Province (China) in the early 20th century were explicitly required to promote Christian family life and the submission to the Confucian patriarchal system as the suitable goal for their students. But some of their students desired to become teachers themselves. Their families - by the time of their graduation frequently their in-laws - supported these goals. This research demonstrates that the traditional Chinese family model of "all generations under one roof" and the Confucian respect for learning allowed these young Chinese women a dual identity as mothers and career women. It also suggests that their Western teachers, all by necessity single women, supported their students in quietly subverting the stated program goals.

Lydia Gerber was born and raised in Hamburg, Germany. As a student and teacher, she spent four years at universities in the People's Republic of China. She received her Ph.D. in Chinese Studies and Religious Studies from Hamburg University in 1998. Her research focuses on late Qing China, German-Chinese relations and German missionaries as agents of a Chinese-German cultural exchange. She is currently working on a joint book project about the German missionary, translator and sinologist Richard Wilhelm (1872-1930).