

**SARAH POTTER**  
Department of History  
The University of Memphis  
Memphis, TN 38152-3450  
spotter1@memphis.edu

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Associate Professor, History Department  
University of Memphis  
2014-present

Director, Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities  
University of Memphis  
2016-present

Assistant Professor, History Department  
University of Memphis  
2008-2014

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. American History  
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
2008

M.A., American History  
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
2002

B.A., American History, *cum laude* and with departmental honors  
Columbia University, New York, NY  
1999

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*Everybody Else: Adoption and the Politics of Domestic Diversity in Postwar America* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2014)

“Family Ideals: The Diverse Meanings of Residential Space in Chicago during the Baby Boom,” in “Beyond White Flight: Suburban Diversity in Postwar America,” Special Issue, *Journal of Urban History*, eds. Matthew Lassiter and Christopher Niedt (Winter 2013)

“‘Undesirable Relations’: Same-sex Relationships and the Meaning of Sexual Desire at a Women’s Reformatory during the Progressive Era,” *Feminist Studies* 30, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 394-415.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

I am currently at work on new book manuscript about changing attitudes towards adultery in the postwar US, which is tentatively entitled *Your Cheating Heart: Adultery in the Age of Feminism and the New Right*.

“Thou Shalt Meet Thy Sexual Needs in Marriage’: Southern Baptists, Marriage, and Sexual Promiscuity during the Early Sexual Revolution,” under review at *Journal of the History of Sexuality*.

“Every Woman Can Put Herself in the First Mrs. Rockefeller’s Position’: The Postwar Tradition of Judging Public Men by their Treatment of Women,” short piece in development for web publication.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Nicole Hemmer, *Messengers of the Right: Conservative Media and the Transformation of American Politics* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016) in *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* (forthcoming).

Review of E. Wayne Carp, *Jean Paton and the Struggle to Reform American Adoption* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2014) in *Journal of American History* 103, no. 3 (December 2016): 817-818.

Review of Holly Allen, *Forgotten Men and Fallen Women: The Cultural Politics of New Deal Narratives* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2015) in *American Historical Review* 121, no. 3 (Summer 2016): 969-970.

## HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar, Participant in “Summer Seminar and Institutes Program: Gender, the State, and the 1977 International Women’s Year Conference,” University of Houston, June 2017

Travel Enrichment Award, University of Memphis, College of Arts and Sciences, Fall 2016

Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award, University of Memphis, 2015

Course Redesign Fellowship, University of Memphis, 2013

Professional Development Assignment, University of Memphis, Fall 2012

Travel Enrichment Award, University of Memphis, College of Arts and Sciences, Spring 2010

Faculty Research Grant, University of Memphis, 2009

Short-term Research Fellowship in African American Studies, Black Metropolis Research

Consortium, Chicago, IL, 2009

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in U.S. History, Cornell University, 2008-2010 (declined)

Center for Gender Studies Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2006-2007

Women's Studies Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 2006

Fitzpatrick Mellon Dissertation Proposal Prize, University of Chicago Department of History, 2004-2005

*Feminist Studies* Award for Best Paper Submitted by a Graduate Student, 2003

Century Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2002-2006

Mellon "First Year" Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 2001-2002

## **TEACHING**

### **UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS**

HIST 2020: US since 1877

HIST 4055/6055: History of Sexuality in the 20<sup>th</sup>-Century US

HIST 4831/6831: American Family History (in classroom and online)

HIST 4863/6863: History of American Childhood

HIST 7980/8980: The Reproductive Rights Movement in the US

HIST 7602/8602: US Historiography after 1877

HIST 7061/8061: Studies in Women's/Gender History: History of Sexuality in the US

HIST 7680/8680: Studies in US History after 1877: US post-1945

### **UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

Racialization and the Private Sphere in the US, Lecturer, Fall 2007

BA Essay Seminar, Preceptor, Winter and Spring 2005

America in Western Civilizations 2 (nineteenth-century section), teaching assistant for Professor Amy Stanley, Winter 2005

Research and Writing Methodologies in Gender Studies, Preceptor, Fall 2004

The Social History of American Sexual Subcultures, Teaching Assistant for Professor George Chauncey, Fall 2003

## **TALKS, CONFERENCE PAPERS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

"'The Real Worth and Dignity of Human Sexuality': Open Marriage, Authenticity, and the Politics of Intimacy in the 1970s," Berkshire Conference on the History of Women (Big Berks), Hempstead, NY, June 2017

"Women Rap about Sex: Feminism and Extramarital Sex in the 1960s and 1970s," Society for United States Intellectual History Annual Conference, Palo Alto, CA, October 2016

Invited Keynote Speaker for Children's Home + Aid's Annual Board of Trustees meeting and presenter in their "Experts and Insights Speaker Series," Chicago, IL, June 2014

"Something That Matters: White Working-Class Domesticity in Post-World War II Chicago," Berkshire Conference on the History of Women (Big Berks), Amherst, MA, June 2011

"The Obligations of Motherhood: Rethinking the Politics of Family in Post-World War II Chicago," Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Washington, DC, April 2010

"Do We Stay or Do We Go?: Family Ideals and the Diverse Meanings of Suburban Space in Chicago in the 1940s and 1950s," The Diverse Suburb: History, Politics, and Prospects, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, October 2009

"Inside the Baby Boom: Rethinking the Politics of Family, Race, and Class in Post-World War II Chicago," Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, October 2008

"'They've Shown Themselves to Be Very Home Loving and Community Minded Persons': Family Ideology and Civic Engagement," Political History Workshop, University of Chicago, April 2008

"'Something to Live For': Family Ideology, Personal Fulfillment, and Social Belonging," Social History Workshop, University of Chicago, October 2007

"Constructing Domestic Space: Community, Race, and Domestic Privacy in Post-World War II Chicago," Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, March 2007

"'We've All Got Acute Ghetto-itus': Domesticity in Chicago's Black Belt, 1940-1960," Seventh Annual Graduate Symposium on Women's and Gender History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March, 2006; also presented at Social History Workshop, University of Chicago, March 2006

"'A Place for Women Only': Women's Political Activity in the 1920s and the Campaign for a State Reformatory for Women in Illinois," M.A. thesis, completed under direction of Thomas C. Holt, James Westfall Thompson Professor of American History, University of Chicago, 2002

## **SERVICE**

### **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

Reviewer for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, National Archives and Records Administration, August, 2016

Participant in American Historical Association's Tuning Project on curricula and core competencies in the discipline, representing the University of Memphis, 2015-2016

Standard Setting Panelist for AP US History Exam, College Board, June, 2015

Membership Committee – Representative from Tennessee, Organization of American Historians, 2009-2016

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS**

Director of the Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities, Spring 2016-Present

Assistant Director of the Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities, Summer-Fall 2015

Moderator for National Conference on Undergraduate Research panel, Spring 2016  
 Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award Selection Committee, 2015-2017  
 University Undergraduate Council, Humanities representative from the College of Arts and Sciences, 2013-2015  
 Executive Planning Committee, Women's History Month, 2014-present  
 Faculty Advisor for Planned Parenthood Generation Action Student Group, 2014-present  
 Center for Research on Women, Faculty Affiliate, 2008-present  
 Faculty Research Grant Committee, 2014-present  
 Women's and Gender Studies Program, Faculty Affiliate, 2008-present  
 Engaged Scholarship Committee, 2009-2012

#### **SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS**

History Department Representative on College of Arts and Sciences Tenure and Promotion Committee, Fall 2017  
 Search Committee for 20<sup>th</sup>-Century African American Historian, 2016-2017  
 Chair, Search Committee for 20<sup>th</sup>-Century US Women's Historian, 2015-2016  
 Undergraduate Studies Committee Member, Fall 2015-2017  
 Tenure and Promotion Committee for William Campbell, Fall 2015  
 Director of Undergraduate Studies and Chair of Undergraduate Program Committee, Dec. 2013-Spring 2015  
 Faculty Advisor for Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, 2010- 2013  
 Search Committee for 20<sup>th</sup>-Century African American Historian, 2013-2014  
 Graduate Admissions Committee, 2010-2012  
 Search Committee for US Colonial Historian, 2012-2013  
 Endowment Committee, 2009-2010  
 Graduate Program Committee, 2008-2009, 2010-2011  
 Newsletter/Alumni Outreach Committee, 2008-2009  
 Undergraduate Program Committee, 2009-2010, 2011-2012

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE, MEMPHIS, TN**

Invited panelist for event on 2016 election, Benjamin Hooks Public Library, December 2016  
 Invited presenter for Shelby County Schools Social Studies Teacher In-Service, August, 2015  
 Invited panelist for One Billion Rising event on rape culture, February, 2015, and February, 2014

#### **RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Admissions Interviewer for Columbia University Alumni Representative Committee (ARC), 2013-present, and recipient of their 2015 Emerging Leader Award

Coordinator, Teaching Tactics Brown Bag Lunches, University of Memphis, 2009-2015

Teaching Consultant, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Chicago, Fall 2007

Project Director, "Women and the University of Chicago: History and Experience," University of Chicago Center for Gender Studies, Summer 2006

Graduate Student Representative and Co-coordinator of Student Caucus, University of Chicago Center for Gender Studies, 2005-2006

Graduate Student Mentor, University of Chicago SROP-McNair Scholars' Program, Summer 2005

Co-coordinator, University of Chicago Social History Workshop, 2004-2005

Department Administrator, Barnard College Department of Women's Studies, New York, NY,  
September 1999 to September 2001

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Historical Association, Organization of American Historians