

FRANCESCA CONSTANCE MORGAN

Department of History
Northeastern Illinois University
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EMPLOYMENT

Professor, Department of History, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago: August 2022-current

Associate Professor August 2010-August 2022
Assistant Professor August 2006-August 2010
Visiting Lecturer (Instructor) January 2003-August 2006
Teaching fields: The United States since 1800; U.S. women and gender; sexuality; family.

Newberry Library, Chicago

Scholar-in-Residence 2001-2005; 2007; 2015-present

Department of History, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

Departmental Associate September 2002-June 2006

Department of History, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

Assistant Professor August 1998-May 2002
Teaching fields: Gilded Age/Progressive-era United States; U.S. women and gender.

PUBLICATIONS

Works in Progress

Article: "Race, Science, and Family History." Solicited for the planned *Oxford Handbook of Family History and Genealogy*. In progress, due April 2024.

Article: "After the *Mayflower*: Representations and Commemorations of Pilgrims since 1970." In progress.

Article: "Genealogy and History since 1990: Recent Rapprochements." In progress.

Book: "After the *Mayflower*: The Long History of a Usable Past, 1650 to the Present." In progress.

Published Works

Books

A Nation of Descendants: Politics and the Practice of Genealogy in U.S. History. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2021.

Reviews of *A Nation of Descendants*:

- Jacob Sherman in *Library Journal* (August 13, 2021).
- Jackie Hogan in *Journal of Arizona History* 63, no. 1 (Spring 2022): 97-99.
- Caroline Fraser in *New York Review of Books* (May 12, 2022).

- Reagan Grimsley in *The Public Historian* 44, no. 3 (August 2022): 179-81.
- Emily Coffman Richardson in *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 126, no. 2 (October 2022): 266-68.
- Cassandra Good in *Journal of Social History* 56, no. 2 (Winter 2022): 517-19.
- Thomas Laqueur in *London Review of Books* 45, no. 7 (March 30, 2023): 1-11, <https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v45/n07/thomas-laqueur/the-pocahontas-exception>
- Edward Slavishak in *Journal of American History* 110, no. 1 (June 2023): 122-23.
- Meaghan E. H. Siekman in *American Historical Review* 148, no. 3 (September 2023): 1466-67.

Favorable mentions:

- Adam Hjorthén, "Reframing the History of American Genealogy," *Genealogy* 6 (March 7, 2022): 21, <https://doi.org/10.3390/genealogy6010021>.
- Maya Jasanoff, "A Critic at Large: Ancestor Worship," *The New Yorker* (May 9, 2022): 69-73.

Women and Patriotism in Jim Crow America. Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 2005.

Reviews of *Women and Patriotism*:

- Kim E. Nielsen in *Women and Social Movements*, Alexander Street Press (2005), https://search.alexanderstreet.com/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cbibliographic_details%7C2602063?account_id=28190&usage_group_id=85013.
- Rebecca Edwards in *American Historical Review* 111, no. 2 (April 2006): 492-93.
- Sidney R. Bland in *North Carolina Review of History* 83, no. 2 (April 2006): 279-80.
- Sandra D. Harmon in *Journal of American History* 93, no. 2 (September 2006): 556-57.
- Julie Des Jardins in *Journal of Southern History* 73, no. 1 (February 2007): 210-211.
- Cristina R. Nelson in H-Net Reviews in Humanities and Social Sciences (April 2007): 1, <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=13063>.
- Kelly McMichael in *Arkansas Review* 38, no. 1 (April 2007): 54-55.
- Barbara J. Steinson in *Indiana Magazine of History* 103, no. 2 (June 2007): 215-17.
- Jane Turner Censer in *Journal of Social History* 40, no. 4 (Summer 2007): 1045-47.
- Jennifer Ritterhouse in *The Historian* 69, no. 2 (Summer 2007): 346-48.
- Shani D'Cruze in *Journal of Contemporary History* 42, no. 4 (October 2007): 693-705.
- Chris Erickson in *American Studies* 50, nos. 1-2 (Spring/Summer 2009): 184-85.

Articles and Essays

- "My Furthest-Back Person': *Roots* and the History of Black Genealogy." In *Reconsidering Roots: Race, Politics, and Memory*, edited by Erica L. Ball and Kellie Carter Jackson, 63-79. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2017.
- "A Noble Pursuit?: The Embourgeoisement of Genealogy, and Genealogy's Making of the Bourgeoisie." In *The American Bourgeoisie: Distinction and Identity in the Nineteenth Century*, edited by Sven Beckert and Julia Rosenbaum, 135-52. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.
- "Lineage as Capital: Genealogy in Antebellum New England." *New England Quarterly* 83, no. 1 (June 2010): 250-282.

“Regions Remote from Revolutionary Scenes’: Regionalism, Nationalism, and the Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution, 1890-1930.” *Annals of Iowa* 56, nos. 1 and 2 (Winter/Spring 1997): 46-79.

Publications with Co-Authors

With Joan Marie Johnson and Michelle Nickerson. “Introduction” to the panel “The *Feminine Mystique* at Fifty: Reflecting on the Book That Inspired, Angered, and Forever Changed America.” *Frontiers: A Journal of Women’s Studies* 36, no. 2 (2015): 1-2.

Guest Blog Posts

"Just Twelve Words, and the Long History of American Genealogy." University of North Carolina Press blog, October 20, 2021, <https://uncpressblog.com/2021/10/20/just-twelve-words-and-the-long-history-of-american-genealogy/>.

EDUCATION

May 1998

Ph.D. in History, Columbia University.

Dissertation: “‘Home and Country’: Women, Nation, and the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1890-1939.” Nominated for Columbia University’s Bancroft Prize.

Sponsor: Elizabeth S. Blackmar.

May 1992

M.A. in History, Columbia University.

June 1990

B.A. in History, magna cum laude with highest honors in field, Harvard University.

AWARDS

Yearlong sabbaticals, administered by the Office of Academic Affairs, Northeastern Illinois University (2014-2015, 2021-2022).

Committee on Organized Research Award, administered by the Advisory Committee on Faculty Awards, Office of Academic Affairs, Northeastern Illinois University (2013).

Summer Research Project Stipend, administered by the Office of Academic Affairs, Northeastern Illinois University (2012).

New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, administered by the Massachusetts Historical Society (2006-2007).

Junior Faculty Summer Research Fellowship, Office of the Vice Provost for Research, University of North Texas (2000, 2001).

Faculty Research Grants, Office of the Vice Provost for Research, University of North Texas (1998-1999, 1999-2000).

INVITED PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS (Recent)

In-person talk about my book *A Nation of Descendants: Politics and the Practice of Genealogy in U.S. History*. Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Ky. (October 25, 2022).

Online talk about *A Nation of Descendants*. Southington (Conn.) Public Library (August 18, 2022).

In-person and hybrid community conversation about *A Nation of Descendants*, with Tim Libretti (Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, NEIU) as moderator. Albany Park branch, Chicago Public Libraries (August 4, 2022).

Podcast interview about *A Nation of Descendants*. For John Fea (Messiah University), Episode 99, Apple podcast entitled "The Way of Improvement Leads Home: American History, Religion, Politics, and Academic Life" (March 18, 2022). Available at <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/ep-99-historicizing-the-search-for-roots/id1071244872?i=1000556850325>

Podcast interview about *A Nation of Descendants*. For N'Kosi Oates (Brown University), African American Studies Channel, New Books Network podcast (March 15, 2022). Available at <https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9mZWVkcyc5tZWdhcGhvbmUuZm0vTEIUMzM2MDI3NTY5Ng/episode/NDgxMjUyMjUyYTYwMy0xMwVjLWFmNWVtZmY5NmY2NDFIYjE0?ep=14&fbclid=IwAR2zY-Tpy69R2YcdOXIIfYH6kWrM0Q7jomjN9v9zhknckjSv6flsbyMJOZs>

In-person brown-bag talk for faculty on *A Nation of Descendants*. Department of History, University of Illinois at Chicago (February 23, 2022).

Online talk about *A Nation of Descendants*, with Ed Remus. Ronald Williams Library, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago (January 26, 2022): <https://youtu.be/XE6kEctJvss>

Online "Meet the Author" webinar on *A Nation of Descendants*, with Matt Rutherford, Newberry Library, as interlocutor. Newberry Library, Chicago (December 9, 2021): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOfIzuoedcA>

Online book launch talk of *A Nation of Descendants*, with Karin A. Wulf, Brown University, as interlocutor. National Archives Museum Online, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington (October 20, 2021): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Up59qG0p24>

Brown-bag talk for faculty on “The Racialization of Genealogy Practice in America, 1860s onward.” Department of History, University of Illinois at Chicago (April 12, 2017).

Faculty workshop and presentation on “Nation of Descendants: Mormon Genealogy in U.S. History.” Department of History, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah (March 24, 2017).

Women’s History Month presentation on “‘The Chatty Old Lady’: Explorations in Gender and Genealogy.” Women’s Studies Program, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah (March 24, 2017).

Brown-bag presentation on “Nation of Descendants: Genealogy and the Self in America.” Department of History, Loyola University, Chicago (September 30, 2015).

I have also been invited to present my research at the Massachusetts Historical Society brown-bag (2006), at a similar event at the New Hampshire Historical Society (2006), St. John’s University in New York (2006), NEIU’s Phi Alpha Theta chapter in the History Department (2003, 2007), the Freeman and Southern Intellectual History Circle Conference in Richmond, Va. (2002), Washington College in Maryland (2001), Iowa State University (2001), Assumption College (2001), and Southern Methodist University (1999).

CONFERENCE AND MEETING ACTIVITY (Recent)

“Patterns in *Mayflower* and Pilgrim Commemoration since 1970.” Paper to be presented at annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, New Orleans (scheduled for April 11, 2024).

“African American Genealogy Before and After *Roots*.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, New Orleans (April 6, 2017).

Co-discussant (with seven others) in the NCPH Working Group “Building Capacity to Challenge Exclusive Uses of the Past.” Conducted at the annual meeting of the National Council on Public History, Baltimore (March 19, 2016).

“‘The Chatty Old Lady’: Explorations in Gender in American Genealogy.” Presented at the Newberry Seminar on Women and Gender, Dr. William M. Scholl Center for American History and American Culture, Newberry Library, Chicago (February 19, 2016). I also organized the panel.

“Nation of Descendants: Genealogy and the Self in America.” Presented at the Sixth Annual Faculty Research and Creative Activities Symposium, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago (November 13, 2015).

Co-organized (with Joan Marie Johnson and Michelle Nickerson) the day-long conference “*The Feminine Mystique* at 50: Reflecting on the Book That Inspired, Angered, and Forever Changed America.” Held at the Newberry Library, Chicago (November 8, 2013).

I have also presented my research to the American Studies Association (2009), the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (2007), the Mormon History Association (2006), the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (2003), the American Historical Association (2003), the Organization of American Historians (1996, 1999, 2001, 2012), the Southern Association for Women Historians (1997), the Second National Women in Historic Preservation Conference (1997), and the Social Science History Association (1996).

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Historical Association.

Mormon History Association.

National Council on Public History.

Organization of American Historians.

SERVICE TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

January 2007-June 2020. Co-founder and co-organizer of the **Newberry Seminar on Gender and Sexuality Studies**, formerly known as the Newberry Seminar on Women and Gender, with Joan Marie Johnson, Michelle Nickerson, Kathleen Belew, Elizabeth Son, and Ronak K. Kapadia. Dr. William M. Scholl Center for American History and Culture, Newberry Library.

Spring 2017. Member, Review Committee for the Short-Term Fellowship in American History for 2017-2018, Newberry Library.

Book reviews for *Journal of the Early Republic* (2022); *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* (2019); *Mormon Studies Review* (2019); *Gender and History* (2008); *Journal of American History* (2004, 2006, 2019), and *Peace and Change* (2001).

Book publicity (blurb for book cover) for Johns Hopkins University Press, November 2022.

Referee work on unpublished manuscripts

Books and book proposals: for University of Chicago Press (2023); Routledge (2022); for Wiley Publishing (2019); University of North Carolina Press (2017); Wadsworth Cengage Learning (2010-2011).

Articles: for the *Journal of Southern History* (2023); the *Journal of Social History* (2021); *Journal of American Studies* (2014); *New England Quarterly* (2014); *Massachusetts Historical Review* (2012); *Journal of American History* (2011); *Journal of Women's History* (2007, 2012); *Journal of American Ethnic History* (2006).

UNIVERSITY SERVICE. Northeastern Illinois University, 2006-present

Department of History

Chair, Departmental Personnel Committee, Fall 2022-present.

Member, Scholarship Committee, Spring 2021.

Undergraduate advisor to history majors (2008-2012, 2016-2019, 2020-2021, 2022-2023).

Presentations on issues in historical research for the Chicago History Fair and Research-Palooza, for high-school students. Ronald Williams Library, NEIU (February 19, 2018; January 18, 2020).

Coordinator, Graduate Program, and graduate advisor (2012-2014, 2019-2020, Fall 2023).

M.A. theses supervised in History:

- Tim R. Lane, "Industrial Independence: Working-Class Women's Creation of the Public, Political Female in Antebellum America" (2019)
- Marc Arenberg, "Lesbian and Gay Teachers in Chicago, 1950-1979" (2015)

Writing Intensive Program coordinator (2017-2021, Fall 2022-present).

Chair, search and screen committee in early modern Europe (2017-2018).

Presentation entitled "The Rise of Immigration Restrictions in America" for the "Past in the Present" lecture series, aimed at fostering interest in the history major. Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs, NEIU (February 20, 2018).

Chair, search and screen committee in early modern Europe (2016-2017). This search ended with an offer that was later rescinded.

Head of assessment of history majors (2015-2016, Fall 2017); committee member (2017-present).

Chair, search and screen committee in twentieth-century U.S. history (2011-2012).

Secretary, search and screen committee in Islamic history (2008-2009).

Departmental secretary and scribe (2006-2010).

Committee on fiscal affairs (2006-2009).

College of Arts and Sciences

Member from outside field, search and screen committee in communications for the Department of Communications, Media, and Theatre, 2020-2021.

"Historical Contexts Surrounding the 1969 Moon Landing." Remarks for the campus screening of *First Man* (2018), NEIU Society of Physics Students (April 18, 2019).

"The Personal and the Political: Family History and Histories of Family in the High School Classroom." Interdisciplinary Seminars for Illinois Teachers, 2018-2019 (March 1, 2019). Administered by the Department of English.

Member, Assessment Committee, Women's and Gender Studies Program (2016, 2018).

Committee to develop a multi-disciplinary research community, for students, regarding the history of lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender communities of color (with Vicki Byard and Timothy Barnett, both Department of English) (2013).

Member, committee to evaluate student-faculty research proposals for summer funding (2012).

Member, committee on developing a minor and certificate in Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer Studies (2010-2011).

Women's and Gender Studies Program Faculty Affiliate (2007-present).

University level/ Professional development

Completed Hypothesis Academy course "Social Annotation in the Age of AI," Cohort 2, July 2023.

Participated in the workshop “Faculty Institute: Beat the Machine? Exploring ChatGPT and Artificial Intelligence in Teaching and Learning,” with Elizabeth Rodriguez, NEIU Center for Teaching and Learning, February 2023.

Secretary and chair, Brommel Distinguished Professor Award Committee, for 2023 award.

Delivered history lecture for LGBTQ+ Awareness Month panel at the Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs, NEIU, October 2022.

Attended and completed a textbook review for the Faculty Workshop on Open Educational Resources with Michelle Oh and Robin Harris, Ronald Williams Library at NEIU, April 2021.

Completed the “Designing Your Online Course” training with Jennifer Dahlen and Quality Matters, August 2020.

Completed the Online Teaching Training course with Elizabeth Rodriguez and the NEIU Center for Teaching and Learning, August 2019.

Completed Safe Zone training to become a designated ally of NEIU’s LGBTQ+ community, April 2019.

Chair, University Personnel Committee, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020.

Alternate member, University Personnel Committee, Spring 2017.

Introduced panelists at and moderated the “Keynote Panel: What is Revolution? A Retrospective and Prospective Exploration of Revolutions,” at the conference “The Past and Future(s) of Revolutions: A Global Exploration,” Office of Academic Development, Northeastern Illinois University (March 2009).

Community

In-person talk about my book *A Nation of Descendants: Politics and the Practice of Genealogy in U.S. History*. For the National Society of Colonial Dames in Illinois. Fortnightly Club, Chicago (September 12, 2022).

Member, "Broadway: The Heart Behind the Headlines" panel following performance of the Disney musical *Newsies*, Paramount Theatre, Aurora, Ill. (September 28, 2019).

Lunch speaker, “The History and Influence of American Women’s Clubs.” Woman’s Club of Wilmette (Ill.) (May 15, 2019).

RELATED EMPLOYMENT

Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. History Distributed Reader, Educational Testing Service, May-June 2016. I scored short-answer questions, online, on AP exams taken by high-school students for college credit.

Archival technician, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, 1990-1991.

November 9, 2023