

## REBECCA L. DAVIS

Department of History  
University of Delaware  
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### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

#### **University of Delaware, Newark, Del.**

Assistant Professor, Department of History (fall 2007 to present) and Program in Women's Studies (since Spring 2008). Post-1800 U.S. history of sexuality, immigration, ethnicity, and religion.

#### **Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion (2006-2007)

### EDUCATION

#### **Yale University, New Haven, Conn.**

##### **Ph.D., United States History** (2006)

*Dissertation:* "The Wife Your Husband Needs?: Marriage Counseling, Religion, and Sexual Politics in the United States, 1930-1980"

*Dissertation Committee:* Jon Butler, Co-Director; Joanne Meyerowitz, Co-Director; Paula E. Hyman; Jill G. Morawski (Wesleyan University); Ludger Viefhues

M.Phil., History (2004)

M.A., History (2002)

##### **B.A., History, cum laude**, with distinction in the History Major (1998)

#### **Columbia University, New York, N.Y.**

Introductory Course in Yiddish (Summer 2001)

Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture, co-sponsored by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

### PUBLICATIONS

*Saving Marriage: Couples and Conflict in Twentieth-Century America* (under contract with Harvard University Press)

Chapter on sexuality in *American Christianities*, edited by Catherine Brekus and W. Clark Gilpin (forthcoming, University of North Carolina Press).

"Embodying Salvation: A Brief History of How Evangelical Marriage Guides Engender the Heterosexual Family," in *Eros and the Christian Tradition: Theological Reflections on Sexuality*, edited by Margaret Kamitsuka (under review, Fortress Press)

"Family," in *The Blackwell Companion to Religion in America*, edited by Philip Goff (forthcoming 2008, Blackwell)

“Not Marriage at All, But Simple Harlotry”: The Companionate Marriage Controversy,” *Journal of American History* 94, no. 4 (March 2008): 1137-1163.

### **BOOK REVIEWS & ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES**

Review of Deborah Dash Moore, *G.I. Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation*, in *Women in Judaism: A Multidisciplinary Journal* 4, no. 2 (Fall 2007),  
<http://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/wjudaism/index>.

Entries in *Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia*, edited by Paula E. Hyman and Dalia Ofer (2006), DVD.

“Elga Wasserman”

“Jewish Women’s Activism in the American Birth Control Movement”

### **AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS**

Travel Grant, American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming (2008)

George Washington Egleston Historical Prize for the Dissertation, Yale University (2006)

Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities, Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation, Yale University (2005-2006)

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation (2005-2006; declined)

Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research in the Humanities in Original Sources, Council on Library and Information Resources (2003-2004)

Margaret Storrs Grierson Fellowship, Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Northampton, Mass. (Spring 2004)

Schlesinger Library Dissertation Support Grant, The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. (Spring 2004)

John F. Enders Fund Grant for Dissertation Research, Yale University (Summer 2003)

Audre Rapoport Fellowship, Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio (Spring 2003)

Mellon Foundation Gender History Research Fellowship, Harvard University (Summer 2002)

Best Graduate Student Paper 2001-2002, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion at Yale, awarded for “Total Women and Real Men: Conservative Evangelicals, Marriage Guides, and Antigay Politics, 1950-1980”

Research Fellowship, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion at Yale (Summer 2001)

Frances Krasnow Memorial Fund Scholarship for the study of Yiddish, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. (Summer 2001)

Howard M. Holtzman Endowment Fellowship for the study of Yiddish, Program in Judaic Studies,  
Yale University (Summer 2001)

University Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Yale University (Fall 2000 to Spring  
2003; Fall 2004; Summers 2001 and 2002)

### **INVITED LECTURES & PANELS**

“Family First: How American Jews Put Marriage in Its Place, 1935-1980,” Program in Jewish  
Studies, University of Delaware (April 2008)

“Transparent in America,” Women’s History Month Film Series, University of Delaware (March  
2008)

“Saving Marriage: Women and Marital Conflict in Twentieth-Century America,” Research on  
Women lecture series, Program in Women’s Studies, University of Delaware (Fall 2007)

“Same Sex Marriage in New Jersey: History and the Next 180 Days,” Princeton University Program  
in American Studies and Modern America Workshop (2006)

“‘The Pre-Marital Interview is a Supreme Occasion’: Reform Rabbis and Premarital Counseling,  
1930-1960,” Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio  
(2003)

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Finding the Jewish Family in the Suburbs: Reform Rabbis and Premarital Counseling in the United  
States, 1945-1965,” Jewish Family and Migration, Cape Town, South Africa (2009)

“‘The Loneliness of Lovers’: Marriage Encounter, Catholicism, and Pro-Marriage Politics in the  
1970s,” Fourteenth Berkshires Conference on the History of Women, Minneapolis, Minn.  
(2008)

“The Science of Love: Marriage Prediction, Modern Romance, and Marriage Counseling,”  
Organization of American Historians, Annual Conference, Minneapolis, Minn. (2007)

“Making Total Women: Sexual Bodies and Sexual Identity in Evangelical Marital Advice Guides,  
1963-1980,” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. (2006)

“Class, Race, and Marriage: Marital Counseling among ‘Other’ Americans, 1940-1960,” Thirteenth  
Berkshires Conference on the History of Women, Claremont, Ca. (2005)

“Not Marriage at All, But Simple Harlotry’: Companionate Marriage, Religion, and ‘Scientific’  
Morality, 1927-1942,” American Religious History Forum, Yale University (2004)

“Personality Testing, Protestants, and the Science of Heterosexual Marriage, 1935-1957,” Social  
Science History Association, Annual Conference, Baltimore, Md. (2003)  
*SSHLA-Rockefeller Graduate Student Award*

Cheiron: The International Society for the Study of the Social and Behavioral Sciences,  
University of New Hampshire, Durham, N.H. (2003)  
*Graduate Student Travel Fellowship*

“Total Women, Real Men, and the New Christian Right, 1963-1978,” New England American  
Studies Association Regional Conference, Hartford, Conn. (2003)

“Consent, Chastity, and Capital: The WCTU’s Crusade to Protect Pure Christian Womanhood,  
1885-1896,” American Religious History Forum, Yale University (2001)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Department of History, University of Delaware**

Marriage in American History  
History of Sexuality in the United States  
Ethnicity and American Identity  
U.S. History Since 1865

### **Department of History, Yale University**

Marriage and Sex in American History, 1787-2004 (Fall 2004)

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

### **University of Delaware, Newark, Del.**

#### **Department of History**

American Civilization Steering Committee (2007-2008)  
Departmental Recorder (2007-2008)  
Graduate Studies Committee (Spring 2008)  
Mentoring Committee (2008-2009)  
Social Committee & United Way Campaign Liaison (2007-2008)  
Undergraduate Studies Committee (2008-2011)

#### **Program in Women’s Studies**

Core Faculty Member

#### **Program in Jewish Studies**

Affiliated Faculty Member

## **MANUSCRIPT READER / REFEREE**

*Journal of American History*

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion  
American Historical Association  
Organization of American Historians