

July 2008

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Education

1992 Ph.D. History, Case Western Reserve University
1988 M.A. History, University of California, Santa Barbara
1984 B.A. Music, University of California, Santa Cruz

Academic Employment

1998-present Associate Professor, History Department, University of Delaware
1992-98 Assistant Professor, History Department, University of Delaware
1997-1999 Joint Appointment in Women's Studies, University of Delaware

Selected Publications

Steam Laundries: Gender, Technology and Work in Great Britain and the United States, 1880-1940 (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999)

His and Hers: Gender, Technology, and Consumption, co-edited volume with Roger Horowitz (Charlotte: University of Virginia Press, 1998)

Gender and Technology: A Reader, co-edited with Nina Lerman and Ruth Oldenziel (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003)

“On the Frontier of the *Empire of Chance*: Statistics, Accidents, and Risk in Industrializing America” *Science in Context* 8(September 2005) 337-357.

“Labor and Technology” in *A Companion to American Technology*, Carroll Pursell, ed. (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2005) 212-230.

“Designed for Thrills and Safety: Gender, Technology, and the Commodification of Risk in the Amusement Park Industry,” *Journal of Design History* 14 (Fall 2001): 291-306.

"Laundrymen Construct Their World," *Technology and Culture* 38(1997) 97-120.

"Why Mrs Harisson Never Learned to Iron: Gender, Skill, and Mechanization in the Steam Laundry Industry," *Gender and History* 8(1996) 231-251.

Translations and Reprints

Nina Lerman, Arwen Mohun and Ruth Oldenziel, "L'Histoire des techniques et la question du genre," in Danielle Chabaud Rychter and Delphine Gardey, eds., *L'Engendrement des Choses : Des Hommes, des Femmes et des Techniques* (Paris: Editions des Archives Contemporaines, 2002).

Work in Progress

Book manuscript: *Better Safe than Sorry: How America Became a Risk Society*

Recent Professional Presentations

2008 “Dangerous Fun: Technology and the Commodification of Risk in Early 20th Century Amusement Parks,” Australia New Zealand American Studies Association Meeting, Sydney Australia, July 4

2008 Invited Paper: “How Does a Risk Society Evolve? Controlling Fire in Early America,” PACHS Colloquium.

2007 “Inscribed on the Body: Reading Industrial Disabilities in the Age of Kafka and the Wizard of Oz,” Society for the History of Technology, Washington, D.C.

2007 “Duty, Obedience, and Skill: American Risk Cultures before the Machine,” RISK! Series

2007 “Narrative Identity and the Construction of Risk in the Age of Early Automobility”, CCCC, New York.

2006 “What’s a Gun Good For,” Pre-circulated paper, Hagley Museum and Library Research Seminar Series.

2006 “Consumer Product Safety and the Law: Making an American Risk Society, 1945-1990,” Organization of American Historians, Washington, D.C.

2006 “What’s a Gun Good For? Technology and the Social Construction of Risk,” History and

Sociology of Science, Technology, and Medicine Workshop, University of Pennsylvania.

2004 “Use, Misuse, and Abuse: Product Liability and Risk in Post-War America” Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

2004 “Negotiating Risk: Technology and Accidents in American History,” University of Manchester Center for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine.

Teaching Experience and Fields of Specialization

Research and Teaching Interests

American History, Social and Cultural History of Technology, Risk, Bodies, Gender, Food History

Courses Taught

United States History, 1865-Present
Seminar, Anonymous Americans (History 268– Sophomore Research and Writing Seminar)
American Industrial Society, 1790-Present
Food in History--200-level survey
Do It Yourself America, Senior Seminar
Time, Space, and Technology (senior/graduate seminar)
Women and Technology (senior/graduate seminar cross-listed with Women’s Studies)
Technology in American Culture (grad seminar)
Historiography of Technology (grad seminar)
20th Century America (grad seminar)
Research and Writing Seminar: American since 1865
Seminar: Hagley Museum and Library
Cultures of Consumption (grad seminar)
Independent graduate reading tutorials

Dissertations Directed

Kevin Borg, “From the Village Blacksmith to Mr. Good Wrench: Creating Auto Mechanics in Technology’s Middle Ground” (2000). Published as *Auto Mechanics: Technology and Expertise in Twentieth-Century America* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007). Kevin is currently Associate Professor of History at James Madison University.

Douglas Jerolimov, “Between Passengers and Shipowners: A Technological and Commercial Transformation of Transatlantic Travel, 1818-1895” (2007). Doug is Visiting Assistant Professor of History at the University of Virginia.

Katina Manko, “Ding Dong! Avon Calling!: Gender, Business, and Door-to-Door Selling, 1890-1955,” (2001). Tina is an Assistant Professor of History at Ramapo

College.

Mark Mapes, "Losing Steam: The Decision Making Process in the Dieselization of the Pennsylvania Railroad" (2000). Mark currently works in the computer industry.

Gabriella Petrick, "The Arbiters of Taste: Producers, Consumers, and the Industrialization of Taste in America, 1900-1960" (2007). Gabriella is Assistant Professor of History at New York University. A book based on her dissertation is under contract with Johns Hopkins University Press.

William Thiesen, "From Practical to Theoretical Shipbuilding: The Rationalization of an American Craft, 1820-1920" (2000). Published as *Industrializing American Shipbuilding: The Transformation of Ship Design and Construction, 1820-1920* (University of Florida Press, 2006). Bill is now the Atlantic Area Historian for the United States Coast Guard.

Dissertations in Progress

"Jennifer Armiger, The Women of Western Electric: Reconsidering Deindustrialization, Gender Discrimination and Title VII in the Long 1970s."

Andrew Bozanic, "The Acoustic Guitar in American Culture, 1880-1970."

Alan Meyer, "Why Fly?: A Social and Cultural History of Private Aviation in Post-WWII America."

Cristina Turdean, "Betting on Computers: Digital Technology and the Rise of the Casino Industry in the United States, 1960-2000."

Bess Williamson, "The Right to Design: Disability and Access in the United States, 1945-2000."