The Works in Progress Seminar Series

Department of History and Anthropology  9/2/2014  Edition 1, Volume 1

Woman Driver: A Critique
The Inaugural Work in Progress Presentation

Professor Katherine Parkin, of the Department of History and Anthropology, will present “Woman Driver: A Critique” as part of the fall 2014 Works-in-Progress Seminar Series. In the early 1900s, newspaper and magazine articles on the growing number of women at the wheel of an automobile began to move beyond surprise and practical “how-to” guidance to include comparisons with men drivers. The expectation that women were to blame for everything from traffic jams to parking mishaps fueled both serious criticism and ridicule of women drivers in American culture. The rhetoric that cartoonists to Bob Newhart, from the New York Times to the New Yorker, American culture traded on disparaging women. Men and women alike shared the expectation that women could not drive, and certainly not as well as men, into the 21st century.

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The Mission

This seminar provides a forum for both full-time and part-time faculty in the Department of History and Anthropology to present their research in progress. The mission of this seminar is to foster awareness about the research interests among faculty within the department, improve communication about areas of teaching and scholarship, facilitate collegiality across disciplines, and promote collaborative research. These works in progress may include book proposals, projects concerning teaching pedagogy, books in progress, journal articles, conference papers, and dissertations. This seminar will allow faculty members of the Department of History and Anthropology to participate in peer review consultations and receive critical feedback about their work in progress.
Biography
Dr. Katherine Parkin

Katherine Parkin is an Associate Professor of History at Monmouth University. Her research interests include the social and cultural history of US women, advertising, family, and sexuality. Her first book, *Food is Love: Food Advertising and Gender Roles in Modern America* (University of Pennsylvania Press), was awarded the 2006 Emily Toth Award for best book in feminist popular culture. Her work on “Woman Driver” is drawn from her forthcoming book, *Driving While Female: A History of Women and Cars* (University of Pennsylvania Press). For more information on Dr. Parkin’s publications and research, please visit her faculty profile page: http://www.monmouth.edu/academics/history_and_anthropology/parkin.asp

Edna Purdy Walsh, *Motor Life* (1924)

The Fall 2014 Works in Progress Series

The fall 2014 series will also feature works in progress presentations by Dr. Kenneth Campbell, Dr. Karen Schmelzkopf, and Dr. Walter Greason. These works in progress include a discussion of early modern Europe, race, celebrity, and wealth in North America. These presentations will take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 1 pm to 2 pm in HH 342, unless otherwise specified, and a light lunch will be served. The works in progress seminar talks are open to the Monmouth University campus community. Please rsvp to Hettie V. Williams at hwilliam@monmouth.edu no later than a week before each event.