

Women, Work, and Family in Latin America History  
HILA 164/264 – Spring 2015 Christine Hunefeldt  
OHs: at H&SS 6072, Tu 12:15h-13:30h, or by appointment

We will examine women's experiences in Latin American countries throughout time and space, with two questions in mind: how have historians and social scientists approached the study of women and gender; are there differences in how this topic is dealt with in Europe and the U.S.? The second related question concerns the life experiences of women of different classes, races, and ethnicities, from rural and urban areas, during 'normal' and 'turbulent' times.

For a general introduction to Latin American history, resort to John Ch. Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America* (2001, third edition forthcoming).

The class is organized around discussion of assigned readings. On an alternating basis, each student will lead the discussion of a week's readings (40%). A research paper (60%) will be part of the requirements for this class, with two choices: a. standard research paper (20 pp.) on a topic to be discussed over the course of the quarter with the instructor, including the elaboration of an annotated bibliography; b. write a paper based on oral history based on secondary literature and interviews with women of Latin American descent. Interview questions should be linked to the topics included in our readings/discussions.

Papers will be presented by each student during finals week in lieu of a final exam. Papers need to be turned in one week ahead of finals week, i.e. the Friday before finals week. To date (04/27) there are five students in this class, i.e. each student will be invited to do two presentations throughout the quarter.

#### Required Books/Articles

Isabel Allende, *The House of the Spirits*; Silvia Arrom, *The Women of Mexico City, 1790-1857*, 1985; Ruth Behar, *Reflejos/Reflections. Translated Woman: Crossing the Border with Esperanza's Story*, 1993. Susan Besse, *Susan, Crimes of Passion: The Campaign Against Wife Killing in Brazil, 1910-1940*, *Journal of Social History*, 22:4, 1993; Marguerite Bouvard, *Revolutionizing Motherhood*; Barbara Bush, *Slave Women in Caribbean Society*; Sandra Lauderdale Graham, *House and Street: The Domestic World of Servants and Masters in 19th-Century Rio de Janeiro*; June Hahner, *Emancipating the Female Sex: The Struggle for Women's Rights in Brazil, 1850-1940*; Donna Guy, *Sex and Danger in Buenos Aires: Prostitution, Family, and Nation in Argentina*, 1991; Christine Hunefeldt, *Liberalism in the Bedroom*, 2000 and *Paying the Price of Freedom*, 1992; Asunción Lavrin, *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America*; Gerda Lerner, *The Creation of Patriarchy*, 1986 and *The Creation of Feminist Consciousness*, 1993; Irene Silverblatt, *Moon, Sun, and Witches: Gender Ideologies and Class in Inca and Colonial Peru*; Amelia Simpson, *Xuxa: The Mega-Marketing of Gender, Race and Modernity*, 1993; Lois Smith and Alfred Padula, *Sex and Revolution: Women in Socialist Cuba*; Lawrence Stone, *The Use and Abuse of Herstory. The New Republic*, 210:18 (issue #4, 137), 1994; Lynn Stoner, *Directions in Latin American Women's History. Latin American Research Review*: 22(2), 1987

## Readings and Discussion

Week 1 Don't Cry for Me Argentina, "Evita" (you tube, Madonna). Women in high politics. Also check out: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cristina\\_Fernández\\_de\\_Kirchner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cristina_Fernández_de_Kirchner); Asuncion Lavrin (as indicated in email of 04/26)

Week 2 Indigenous Women; the Development of Gender Roles. The meanings of 'family', household, and kinship (Silverblatt, Lavrin)

Week 3 Women and Work, 19th century (Graham, Hahner)

Week 4 Women and Work, 20th Century (Smith/Padula)

Week 5 Other Expressions. Chile (Allende, or a novel of your choice)

Week 6 Women and Ideology (Hunefeldt)

Week 7 Women, State, and Nation (Arrom, Besse, Guy)

Week 8 Patriarchy and Feminism (Behar, Lerner)

Week 9 New Directions (Simpson, Stone, Stoner)

Week 10 (actually week 11) Summary discussion (re-read Lavrin, 1981)