

Louis: Interesting that people all ended up arguing about the differences between the two communities, but what they did was similar.

What is Gender Equality?

equality of women and men *versus* balancing their sexualities, complementing

Kara: It's harder to measure how well communities met their goals of complementary gender roles than it is to measure *equality* or *gender neutrality*

Bill: Foster says gender equality was not Noyes's first goal or principle

Bill: What does "liberation" mean? (Foster's closing question)

Clare: Difference between ideals and reality (Becca: in Oneida in particular there was a huge disconnect, and the goal was to make "female men," so it's surprising that anyone even says that it pursued equality)

Tara sees a contradiction even in Oneida's own ideas; he believes in inferiority of women to men, but also criticizes the enslavement of women to men. (Bill would say that in his religious worldview, these were compatible; women's inferiority a cause of the Fall, a fact that had to be dealt with, but it was the result of sin and so doesn't excuse enslavement)

Bill and Judy: If we strip away our own assumptions about modern feminism, then they do seem to have achieved complementary work (Women the helmsmen at night, men the helmsmen at day); also The Farm viewed both farm and home work as valuable work (and TJ amplifies this)

Kara: Were men and women *allowed* to switch? (Tara: in that sense, no---the idea of *yin* and *yang* meant that they had to be in different jobs)

Broader Culture

Bill: How did rural Tennesseans see The Farm? Could they have been seen as conservative or unthreatening? (Opposed abortion, supported having babies)

Kara: Gaskin was particularly aware of the neighbors, more so than other communities we talked about.

Broader context

Matthew quotes Kern saying that the extent of change in women's roles in Oneida was not as great as in the larger society.

Louis: In 1960s, women had greater roles available to them in the society than in the 1860s

Clare: We needed more about the broader society to know how radical Oneida was. For example, would women have had such prominent roles in the newspaper

Becca says there wasn't as much about masculinity in The Farm, not much evidence of men coming into the domestic sphere.

Leaders' Roles

Faith: differences between Noyes and Gaskin---Noyes seems to be even more authoritarian, was picking his ideologies to fit his own interests

TJ: You don't see Gaskin mentioned as much in the Farm articles, as you do see Noyes in the Oneida articles (And Clare says that you also see Ina May; though Bill says Stephen seems to have done the talking more often)

Differences among the Articles

Clare: Why more focus on Oneida than on the Farm? (Faith says the two Farm articles were more on the same page, more in agreement.)

Bill: Kern's article was a little more descriptive than Hodgdon's

Bill: Easier to find women's voices in Oneida than in The Farm because of source problems?

Faith: All the articles end up in the same place?

Determining Success

Louis: Ideas alone were pretty radical---even if they only partially achieved them, were they still a success?