

KIRSTEN SWINTH

Professor of History and American Studies
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., American Studies, Yale University, 1995

M.A., American Studies, Yale University, 1989

B.A., *cum laude*, Individually Designed Major, “Modernism and Culture,” Stanford University, 1986

POSITIONS

Professor of History and American Studies, Department of History, Fordham University
(2019-present)

Associate Professor (2002-2019)/**Assistant Professor** (1997-2002)

Magis Distinguished Professor (2005-2008)

Director, American Studies Program (2002-2007)

Chair, Department of History (2012-2016)

Associate Dean for Curriculum and Planning, Arts & Sciences (2014-2016)

Visiting Assistant Professor, American Studies Department, George Washington University
(1995-1997)

MAJOR AWARDS and HONORS

Distinguished Research in the Humanities Award, Fordham University, 2024

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2023-2024 (awarded December 2022)

Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar, 2021-2022

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, 2007

Fulbright Scholarship to Mozambique, 2001 (declined)

John Paul Getty Postdoctoral Fellowship in Art and the Humanities, 1997-1998

Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, 1987-1992

Harry S. Truman Scholarship, 1984-1989

OTHER AWARDS and HONORS

Research Grant, O’Connell Initiative in the Global History of Capitalism, 2022, 2020

Research Support Grant, Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, 2020, 2008

Undergraduate Teaching in the Social Sciences Award, Fordham University, 2017

Faculty Research Grant, Fordham University, 2020, 2015, 2014

Public Voices Fellowship, The OpEd Project, 2011-2012

Travel Grant, Sophia Smith Collection, 2008

Ames Fund Grant for Junior Faculty, 1998-2000

Dissertation Fellowship, Alumni Fund, Yale University, 1992-1993

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Books and Edited Collections:

Inventing the Working Family: An American History. In progress.

Care and Capitalism in the Twentieth Century, co-edited volume with Sarah Knott. Duke University Press, under review.

As part of *Care and Capitalism*:

~ Kirsten Swinth and Sarah Knott, “Four Genealogies of Care”

~ Kirsten Swinth and Sarah Knott, “Theorizing and Historicizing Care and Capitalism”

~ Kirsten Swinth, “U.S. Labor Feminists and Care as a Labor Right.”

Feminism’s Forgotten Fight: The Unfinished Struggle for Work and Family. Harvard University Press, 2018.

Reviews and media: *American Historical Review* (featured); *Journal of American History*; *Journal of Social History*; *Labor*; *Gender & Society*; *Reviews in American History*; *International Social Science Review*; *Australasian Journal of American Studies*; *Publishers Weekly*; *New Yorker*; *Atlantic*; *Jacobin*; *Weekly Standard*; *Five Books*; *Real Change News*; *New-York Historical Society Blog*; *Pop Matters*; *WFUV*; *Forthright Radio*.

Book talks: O’Connell Initiative, Fordham University; Salon, Joyce Linehan, Deputy Mayor, Boston, MA; Harvard Coop, Cambridge, MA; Shakespeare & Co., New York, NY; Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, MT.

How Did Settlement Workers at Greenwich House Promote the Arts as Integral to a Shared Social Life? Edited document collection for *Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000*. Alexander Street Press, 2006.

Painting Professionals: Women Artists and the Development of Modern American Art, 1870-1930. University of North Carolina Press, 2001.

Reviews: *American Historical Review*; *Journal of American History*; *American Quarterly*; *American Studies*; *Feminist Studies*; *Art Journal*; *American Art*; *Woman’s Art Journal*; *College Art Association Reviews*; *H-Net*.

Essays:

“Debating the Fate of the Homemaker: The ERA and the Death of the Family Wage.” *Gender and History* 36 (July 2024): 734-54. (online version/January 2023). [doi: 10.1111/1468-0424.12679](https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-0424.12679).

“Household Matters: Engendering the Social History of Capitalism,” co-author, with Eileen Boris. *International Review of Social History* 68 (December 2023): 483-506. DOI: [doi: 10.1017/S0020859023000408](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020859023000408)

Published in translation: “La Importancia De La Unidad Doméstica: Hacia Una Historia Social Del Capitalismo Con Perspectiva De Género.” *Revista Latinoamericana de Trabajo y Trabajadores* 7 (February 5, 2024): 67–100. [doi: 10.48038/revlatt.n7.88](https://doi.org/10.48038/revlatt.n7.88).

“The Homemaker as Worker: Second Wave American Feminist Campaigns to Value Housework,” in *Working Alternatives: American and Catholic Experiments in Work and Economy*, ed. John Seitz and

Christine Firer Hinze, 121-47. Fordham University Press, 2020.

“Post-Family Wage, Postindustrial Society: Reframing the Gender and Family Order Through Working Mothers in Reagan’s America,” *Journal of American History* 105 (September 2018): 311-35.

“The 1970s—A Historiographical Survey,” in *The Routledge History of the Twentieth-Century United States*, ed. Jerold Podair and Darren Dochuk, 71-83. Routledge, 2018.

“‘Women Artists of Real Ability and with Serious Purposes’: Anna Richards Brewster Among Her Peers,” in *Anna Richards Brewster, American Impressionist*, ed. Judith Kafka Maxwell, 89-110. University of California Press, 2008. Catalogue essay for traveling exhibition, *Anna Richards Brewster, American Impressionist*. (2008-2009).

“Emily Sartain and Harriet Judd Sartain, M.D.: Creating a Community of Women Professionals,” in *Philadelphia’s Cultural Landscape*, ed. Katharine Martinez and Page Talbott, 138-48. Temple University Press, 2000.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

Organizer of “Carework and the Hidden Labor of Capitalism: Bringing the History of Caregiving to the History of Capitalism,” O’Connell Initiative in the Global History of Capitalism, Fordham University, New York, NY, October 20-22, 2022.

Organizer of “Reinserting Gender and Social Reproduction into the History of Capitalism,” O’Connell Initiative in the Global History of Capitalism, Fordham University, New York, NY, February 23, 2021.

PUBLIC HISTORY

“A Playbook to Transform How America Cares: The Care Movement’s Winning Tactics, Lessons, and Case Studies from the Pandemic Era and Beyond,” Reviewer and expert consultant, for report by Katherine Goldstein, for the Better Life Lab, New America Foundation (2023).

<https://www.newamerica.org/better-life-lab/reports/a-playbook-to-transform-how-america-cares/>.

“Celebrating FMLA and 30 Years of Unpaid Job-Protected Leave,” Historical consultant, for Center for Parental Leave Leadership on “What We’re Learning from FMLA Thirty Years On,” by Amy Beacom (2023). <https://cplleadership.com/fmla-at-thirty/>.

Women & the American Story, Editor, online curriculum, “The Information Age, 1974-2018” for the New-York Historical Society (2022). <https://wams.nyhistory.org/end-of-the-twentieth-century/>.

“Rethinking American Feminism, 1948-1977,” Lecturer, NEH Summer Institute for K-12 Teachers, New-York Historical Society (2022).

“Iconic Women in Legal History,” Commentator and historical consultant, “2nd Wave of Feminism” for the Texas Young Lawyers Association (2021). <http://iconicwomen.tyla.org/>.

Women & the American Story, Editor, online curriculum, “Growth and Turmoil, 1948-1977,” for the New-York Historical Society (2021). <https://wams.nyhistory.org/growth-and-turmoil/>.

The Progressive Era: Creating Modern America, 1900-1917, Writer and expert consultant. Traveling exhibition for the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (2007).

REVIEWS and SHORT PIECES

Review of Gary Gerstle, *The Rise and Fall of the Neoliberal Order: America and the World in the Free Market Era.*, *The American Historical Review*, 129, no. 2 (June 2024): 732–733. [doi: 10.1093/ahr/rhae065](https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhae065).

“Divorce, American Style: Fighting for Women’s Economic Citizenship in the Neoliberal Era.” *Labor* 21, no. 1 (March 1, 2024): 134–36. [doi: 10.1215/15476715-10949077](https://doi.org/10.1215/15476715-10949077).

“Sara Matthiesen, Reproduction Reconceived: Family Making and the Limits of Choice after Roe v. Wade.” *The Journal of African American History* 109, no. 1 (January 2024): 157–59. [doi: 10.1086/727091](https://doi.org/10.1086/727091).

Review of *The Rise of Corporate Feminism: Women in the American Office, 1960–1990*, by Allison Elias. *Business History Review* 97 (September 2023): 667–70. [doi: 10.1017/S0007680523000831](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007680523000831).

“What Ruth Bader Ginsburg Learned from Swedish Social Democracy,” *Jacobin* (online), September 30, 2020. <https://jacobinmag.com/2020/09/ruth-bader-ginsburg-swedish-social-democracy-olof-palme>.

Review of *Sisters and Rebels: A Struggle for the Soul of America*, by Jacquelyn Dowd Hall. *Journal of Social History* 54 (Winter 2020): 695–98. [doi: 10.1093/jsh/shz084](https://doi.org/10.1093/jsh/shz084).

“The Square Deal: Theodore Roosevelt and the Themes of Progressive Reform,” *History Now* 17 (September 2008).

“Strangers, Neighbors, Aliens in a New America: Migration Stories for the Twenty-First Century,” *American Quarterly* 57 (June 2005): 507-21.

“Categorizing the Female Type: Images of Women as Symbols of Historical Change,” *Reviews in American History* 30 (December 2002): 604-13.

“Making Sense of America,” review of *American Century: Art & Culture, 1900-2000* (2 vols.) and exhibition *The American Century* at the Whitney Museum of American Art, *American Quarterly* 52 (December 2000): 720-41.

“The Life Cycle of Buildings: Structures in Social and Cultural History,” *Reviews in American History* 28 (June 2000): 263-69.

“Cultural Leadership in America: Art Matronage and Patronage,” *American Studies International* 37 (June 1999): 108-9.

Review of exhibition *Metropolitan Lives: The Ashcan Artists and Their New York* at the National Museum of American Art, curated by Robert Snyder, Rebecca Zurier, and Virginia Mecklenburg, *The Public Historian* 19 (Winter 1997): 132-4.

“Levy, Florence Nightingale,” in *Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia*, ed. Paula E. Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore, 840. Routledge, 1997.

INVITED LECTURES and KEYNOTES

Invited speaker, “U.S. Women’s Labor History,” for Women and the American Story Teacher Ambassador program, New-York Historical Society, New York, NY (2024).

Invited speaker, “U.S. Women’s History,” for Women and the American Story Teacher Ambassador program, New-York Historical Society, New York, NY (2023).

Invited plenary organizer and moderator, “Debating Care and Social Reproduction as Analytical Frames for Labor History,” Labor and Working-Class History Association Conference, New Brunswick, NJ (2023).

Invited paper, “What Happened to Motherwork When Labor Bargained for ‘Work and Family,’” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA (2023).

Invited panelist, on “The ERA: How We Got Here,” for Forward Together, Backward Never! The History and Future of the Equal Rights Amendment Symposium, New Jersey Law Center, New Brunswick, NJ (2023).

Invited panelist, “America’s Child Care Crisis,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, solicited by Committee on Women in the Historical Profession, Boston, MA (2022).

Invited lecturer, “Feminism and Women’s Liberation,” New-York Historical Society, New York, NY (2021).

Invited panelist, “State of Research of Business and Labor History for Art and Design Curriculum,” Art/Works: Teaching Labor and Capitalism in Art and Design Symposium, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, NY (2021).

Invited webinar, Interview with Julie C. Suk on *We, The Women: The Unstoppable Mothers of the Equal Rights Amendment*, for Constitution Day 2020. New York Public Library, New York, NY (2020).

Invited webinar, Association of Corporate Counsels Women's Network, panel on Women and the Law (2020).

Invited lecture, on *Feminism's Forgotten Fight*, with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and Feminist Majority Foundation President Eleanor Smeal, East City Bookshop, Washington, DC (2019).

Keynote speaker, "Women Organizing for Change: Feminism's Forgotten Fight for Work and Family," Women's Philanthropy Summit, Fordham University, New York, NY (2018).

Invited lecture, "Unraveling the Bonds of Womanhood: Late Twentieth-Century Feminisms," for Celebrating the Work of Nancy F. Cott, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (2017).

Invited lecture, "Painting Professionals: How Women Artists Remade the American Art World at the Turn of the Century," symposium for exhibition *Making Her Mark: Women Artists of the Providence Art Club, 1880*, Providence, RI (2017).

Keynote speaker, "Integrating Women into the American History Curriculum," New York City Department of Education, Women's History Month Seminar, New York, NY (2017).

Invited lecture, "Having it All: A Real Feminist History," Women's History Month Guest Lecture, Cedar Crest College, Allentown, PA (2017).

Invited lecture, "Challenging Essential Femininity: Gender, Modernism, and the American Art Market," Women Modernists Symposium, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL. In honor of exhibition *O'Keeffe, Stettheimer, Torr, Zorach: Women Modernists in New York* (2016).

Invited lecture, "Beading Birds: Commissioning a Lilac-Breasted Roller in Maputo, Mozambique or Migrations, Circuits of Knowledge, Crafts, and Consuming Nature," for *Material Girl: Ann Fabian and the Cultural History of Everyday Life*, New Brunswick, NJ (2016).

Invited lecture, "Theresa Bernstein's Art World: Women's Art Groups, Female Networks, and Women Artists' Careers," symposium on Theresa Bernstein, *A Century in Art*, Baruch College, City University of New York, New York, NY (2013).

Invited lecture, "Women's Struggle for Civil Rights," Junior Historians' Forum, Milwaukee, WI (2012).

Invited lecture, "The Unraveling of the Family Wage: Working Mothers on the Frontiers of Cultural Change," Catalyst, Inc., New York, NY (2010).

Invited lecture, "Women and the American Dream," New York Public Library, New York, NY (2008).

Invited lecture, "American Women in Paris: The Female Artist's Experience, 1860-1900," National Gallery of Art, London, England (2006).

Invited lecture, “Integrating Images of the American West in U.S. History,” NEH Learning to Look Seminar, Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY (2002).

Invited lecture, “‘A Thousand Dollars a Piece’: Women Artists’ Strategies on the Art Market,” symposium on Choosing the Arts: Creative Boston Women, 1900-2000, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA (2001).

Invited lecture, “‘Illustrious Men, Noble Examples, Friendly Words and True Companionship’: American Women Art Students in Paris,” symposium for the Dahesh Museum exhibition *Overcoming All Obstacles: The Women of the Académie Julian*, New York, NY (2000).

Invited lecture, panelist for “Visual Literacy and the Politics of Studying American Art,” Association of Historians of American Art, College Art Association Meeting, New York, NY (2000).

PAPERS

“Care and Capitalism in the Twentieth Century: Unexpected Histories,” session organizer and chair, Organization of American Historians Conference, Chicago, IL (2025).

“Union Mothers and the Fight for Employer-Supported Childcare in the 1980s: A Case Study of SEIU Local 1199,” Labor and Working-Class History Association Conference, Chicago, IL (2025).

“U.S. Labor Feminists and the Fight for Work-and-Family Benefits in the 1980s and 1990s,” New-York Historical Society Women & Gender History Writing Group, New York, NY (2023).

Chair, “For the Kids: Exploring Late Twentieth-Century Women’s Activism on Behalf of Children,” Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, Santa Clara, CA (2023).

“U.S. Labor Feminists and the Fight for a Work and Family Bill of Rights,” Labor and Working-Class History Association Conference, New Brunswick, NJ (2023).

“Engendering the Social History of Capitalism,” with Eileen Boris, International Social History Association Conference, Bonn, Germany/virtual (2022).

“What Will it Take to Achieve Paid Family Leave in the U.S.: Lessons from the 1980s Fight for the FMLA,” Work and Family Researchers Network Conference (2022).

“Capitalism and the Rise and Fall of the Male Breadwinner Family,” Newberry Library Seminar in the History of Capitalism, Chicago/virtual (2021).

Panelist, “The Home is an Essential Workplace,” Labor and Working-Class History Association Conference, virtual (2021).

Presenting *Feminism's Forgotten Fight*, for "New Ideas from Old Movements: Other Futures from the History of Social Movements," American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI (2019).

Panelist, "Motherhood and the #MeToo Movement," Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY (2019).

"Recovering History, Correcting the Record: U.S. Women's Movements and Feminism for the Future," for What is Feminist Politics?, Radical Democracy Conference, The New School for Social Research, New York, NY (2019).

"Feminism's Forgotten Fight: The Struggles for Work and Family Worth Resurrecting for Today's America," Guest speaker, College at 60, Fordham University, New York, NY (2018).

"'Having it All' in Graduate School: Balancing Work and Family Life Historically and Today," Fordham University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, New York, NY (2017).

"'Work and Family' in Second-Wave U.S. Feminism, 1963-1978," Society for the History of Women in the Americas, University of Oxford, Oxford, England (2017).

"The Homemaker as Worker: Second Wave American Feminist Campaigns to Value Housework," invited contributor for *Working Alternatives*, working paper session, Fordham University, New York, NY (2016).

"'A Mother's Choice': The Long Reach of Neoliberalism into the World of Work and Family in the 1980s," American Studies Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA (2014).

Organizer and panelist, "Families and Work Institute at 25: Looking Back at a Quarter Century of Work-and-Family Activism," Work and Family Researchers Network Conference, New York, NY (2014).

"Founding 'Work and Family': Paradigm Shifts in Reagan's America and the History of the Work and Family Ideal," Work and Family Researchers Network Conference, New York, NY (2014).

Co-Facilitator, session on "Care Labor and Social Rights," Seminar on Social Rights After the Welfare State, Columbia University, New York, NY (2014).

"Reinterpreting the ERA's Failure: Debating the Fate of the Housewife in the New Postindustrial Order," for The Equal Rights Amendment in the 21st Century: Where Have We Come From, and Where Will We Go?, Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI (2013).

"'Caring is Not a Free Resource': The Literature of Care and the Invention of a New Politics of the Working Family," Work and Family Researchers Network Conference, New York, NY (2012).

“How Can We Care in a Competitive Society?,” Growing Research at Fordham, Fordham University, New York, NY (2011).

“Rights and Responsibilities in American History: Women—Have They Come a Long Way?,” Teaching American History, New York, NY (2009).

“Debating Day Care in the 1980s: Working Motherhood and Threats to the Nation,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, New York, NY (2008).

“Deconstructing the Mommy Wars: Working vs. Stay-at-Home Mothers,” *Communitas* Alumni Reunion, Fordham University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, New York, NY (2007).

“Displacing the Global Nanny: Caring Dads on TV and Film, 1983-1993,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Oakland, CA (2006).

“Before the ‘Problem of the Working Mother’: Early Second Wave Feminism and Mothers Working,” British Association for American Studies Annual Conference, Canterbury, England (2006).

“Situating Jane Addams and the Arts: Hull-House, Social Democracy, and Public Culture in America,” for Exploring Jane Addams, Richard R. Baker Philosophy Colloquium, Dayton, OH (2002).

“Theorizing Visual Literacy,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (2001).

“Modernism in the High Sierra: Marguerite Zorach and the Invention of a New Western Landscape Tradition,” Western History Association, San Diego, CA (2001).

“Reassessing Jane Addams: Art, Hull-House, and Social Democracy,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA (2001).

“Modernism, Women Artists and the Break with the Past,” for Twentieth-Century Matters: History, Memory, Knowledge, East Lansing, MI (1999).

“Modernism in the High Sierra: Marguerite Zorach’s Shaping of a Female Landscape Tradition,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (1997).

“Emily Sartain and Harriet Judd Sartain: Female Influence and A Community of Women Professionals,” for The Sartain Family and Philadelphia’s Cultural Landscape, Moore College of Art, Philadelphia, PA (1997).

“Thousands Upon Thousands of Girl Art Students: Gender and the Professionalization of American Art Schools, 1865-1900,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (1995).

MEDIA and OP-ED

Op-ed

[“What I Want for Mother’s Day: Let Political Protest, Not Saccharine Commercialism, Define the Holiday,”](#) *New York Daily News*, May 12, 2019.

[“What Really Matters to Women in this Election,”](#) *CNN.com*, October 24, 2012.

[“Ann Romney-Hilary Rosen Dust-Up Can’t be Reduced to a Question of ‘Choice,’”](#) *Christian Science Monitor* (print) and *CSMonitor.com*, May 3, 2012.

[“Equal Pay Day: It’s Time to Close the Earnings Gap,”](#) *Huffington Post*, April 17, 2012.

[“Hillary Clinton, Cookies and the Rise of Working Families,”](#) *CNN.com*, March 16, 2012.

Media contributions

Comments in:

Claire Cain Miller, [“Today’s Parents: ‘Exhausted, Burned Out and Perpetually Behind,’”](#) *The New York Times*, September 14, 2024.

Amy Littlefield, [“How Does Reproductive Justice Win?,”](#) *The New Republic*, September 28, 2022.

Cody McDevitt, [“Universal Daycare: Is It Something that Could Happen Now?,”](#) *Repro Rights NOW*, April 29, 2022.

Allan Smith, [“50 Years Later, the Culture Wars Debate over the Child Care Crisis Has Barely Budged,”](#) *NBC News*, May 24, 2021.

Jamelle Bouie, [“Biden is Saying Things Amazon Doesn’t Want to Hear,”](#) *New York Times*, March 2, 2021.

Gracie Bonds Staples, [“Kamala Harris: The Hope, Excitement and Trepidation of Black America,”](#) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, August 21, 2020.

Claire Cain Miller, [“Why Mothers’ Choices About Work and Family Often Feel Like No Choice at All,”](#) *New York Times*, January 17, 2020.

Hannah Natanson, [“Jane Fonda Spent a Night in Jail in 1970. Her Mug Shot Defined Feminist Rebellion,”](#) *Washington Post*, November 22, 2019.

Claire Cain Miller, [“A Very Unwelcome Feeling’: The First Women at Yale Look Back,”](#) *New York Times*, October 30, 2019.

Audrey Goodson Kingo, “If We Want Men to do More Housework, We Have to Start With Our Kids,” *Working Mother*, March 21, 2019.

Appearances:

CNN International

PRI’s “To the Point”

Radio stations WFUV and WNYC

OTHER PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

United Nations International School (2017)

Fordham University: Matteo Ricci Society (2020); History Day (2017); Manresa Scholars Program Dinner Colloquium on “Unfairly Excluded?: How Current Debates about Voter Fraud and Voting Rights affect College Students” (2017)

PUBLIC and PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity, coach (2025-present)

Scholarly Advisory Board, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (2021-present)

Board, *Journal of American History* (2020-2023)

Board, Fordham University Press (2019-2023)

Grant/fellowship evaluator—Russell Sage Foundation (2022)

Grant/fellowship evaluator—NEH (2019, 2022)

Grant/fellowship evaluator—ACLS (2015-2017)

Manuscript reviewer—including *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Women’s History*, *Environmental History*, Bloomsbury, Anthem, *Frontiers*, *Gender & History*, *Modern American History*, Columbia University Press

Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History—professional education, middle- and high-school teachers (2006-2017)

Vice Chair, School Board, American International School of Mozambique (2009-2011)

LANGUAGE COMPETENCY

French—Advanced (reading and speaking)