

JOAN SHELLEY RUBIN

Joan Shelley Rubin, Professor of History at the University of Rochester, has been an evaluator for the American Studies Program at the University of Maryland and for the graduate program in History and Literature at Drew University. Her own interdisciplinary training and her current interests in cultural history especially suited her to those assignments. As Director of Graduate Studies at Rochester (and as Director of Undergraduate Studies from 2000-2006), however, she is also well-equipped to evaluate curricula entirely within the discipline of history. In the fall she will serve as evaluator for the graduate program in History at the University of Western Ontario.

BORN: December 30, 1947, Washington, DC

ADDRESS: 25 Wilshire Rd., Rochester, NY 14618

TELEPHONE: 716-473-4296

EDUCATION

A.B. Harvard University (American History and Literature) magna cum laude, 1969

M.Phil., Yale University (American Studies), 1972

Ph.D., Yale University, 1974

Dissertation: A World Out of a Wilderness: Constance Rourke and the Search for a Usable Past

Dissertation Supervisor: David Brion Davis, Sterling Professor of History, Yale University

Area of Specialization: 19th & 20th century American cultural and intellectual history.

Other Fields: American political and social history since 1865.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Professor of History, University of Rochester, 1995-

Visiting Professor, Princeton University, Fall 1994

Professor, American Studies and History, State University of New York College at Brockport, 1993

Director, American Studies Program, SUNY Brockport, 1984-95

Associate Professor, SUNY Brockport, 1985-1993

Assistant Professor, SUNY Brockport, 1979-85

Assistant Professor, University of Western Ontario, 1977-79

Assistant Professor, McMaster University, 1976-77

Instructor, Yale University, 1974-76

HONORS

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, 1997-98

Hooker Distinguished Visiting Professor, McMaster University, February,

1994
Honorable Mention, John Hope Franklin Prize, American Studies Association
1993
George Queen Award for Excellence in the Teaching of History, 1992
Spencer Foundation Small Grant, 1988-89
American Council of Learned Societies Research Fellowship, 1988-89
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for College Teachers,
1983-84
American Council of Learned Societies Research Fellowship for Recent Ph.D.
Recipients, 1976
John Addison Porter Prize, Yale University, 1974
Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities, 1973-74
Danforth Graduate Fellowship, 1969-73

PUBLICATIONS

- "Constance Rourke in Context: The Uses of Myth," American Quarterly, Winter 1976. Reprinted in Leila Zenderland, ed., Recycling the Past, (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1978).
- Constance Rourke and American Culture (University of North Carolina Press, 1980).
- "Makers and Finder," Canadian Review of American Studies, Spring, 1981.
- "Information, Please: Culture and Expertise in the Interwar Period," American Quarterly, Winter, 1983.
- "Swift's Premium Ham: William Lyon Phelps and the Redefinition of Culture," in Catherine L. Covert, and John D. Stevens, ed., Mass Media Between the Wars, (Syracuse University Press, 1984).
- "Self, Culture, and Self-Culture in Modern America: The Early History of the Book-of-the-Month Club," Journal of American History, March, 1985.
- "In Retrospect: Henry May's The End of American Innocence," Reviews in American History, March, 1990.
- "A Convergence of Vision: Constance Rourke, Charles Sheeler, and American Art," American History, March, 1990.
- The Making of Middlebrow Culture (University of North Carolina Press, 1992).
- "Between Culture and Consumption: The Mediations of the Middlebrow," in Richard Fox and Jackson Lears, eds., The Power of Culture: Critical Essays in American History (University of Chicago Press, 1993).
- "'They Flash Upon That Inward Eye': Poetry Recitation and American Readers," Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, Vol. 106, Part II (1997); rpt. in Barbara Ryan and Amy M. Thomas, Reading Acts: US Readers Interactions with Literature, 1890-1950 (University of Tennessee Press, 2003).
- "Listen, My Children: Modes and Functions of Poetry Reading in American Schools," in Karen Halttunen and Lewis Perry, eds. Moral Problems in

American Life, (Cornell University Press, 1998).

"The Boundaries of American Religious Publishing," Book History (Vol. II 1999)

"Modernism in Practice: Public Readings of the New Poetry," in A Modern Mosaic:

Art

and Modernism in the United States (University of North Carolina Press, 2000).

Preface to Lisa Botshon and Meredith Goldsmith, eds., Middlebrow Moderns:

Popular

American Women Writers of the 1920s (Northeastern University Press,

2003).

"What is the History of the History of Books?," Journal of American History, Sept.

2004.

"Silver Linings: Gentility and Print in the World of Johnny Tremain," Porticus, 2001;
rpt. in Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, Vol. 113, Part I

(2005).

"Making Meaning: Analysis and Affect in the Study and Practice of Reading," in A
History of the Book in America, Vol. IV, (University of North Carolina

Press,

forthcoming).

"The Genteel Tradition at Large," Raritan, Winter 2006.

"The Scholar and the World: The Popularization of the Humanities in the Postwar
Period," in David Hollinger, ed., The Humanities and the Dynamics of

Inclusion,

(Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006).

Songs of Ourselves: The Uses of Poetry in America (Harvard University Press,
2007).

"The Enduring Reader," in A History of the Book in America, Vol. V, (University of
North Carolina Press, forthcoming).

Co-editor, A History of the Book in America, Vol. V, (University of North Carolina
Press, forthcoming).

"The United States of America" [since 1890] in The Oxford Companion to the Book
(Oxford University Press, forthcoming).

Associate Editor, The Oxford Companion to the Book (Oxford University Press,
forthcoming).

"The Book-of-the-Month Club," in New Literary History of America (Harvard

University

Press, forthcoming).

Book Reviews in American Historical Review, Journal of American History, Journal
of Southern History, Reviews in American History, New York Times Book
Review, Library Quarterly.

Articles in Dictionary of American Biography, Encyclopedia of World
Biography, and American National Biography.

PRESENTATIONS

- "Constance Rourke in Context: The Legacy of Progressivism," American Historical Association Annual Meeting, 1976.
- "Constance Rourke," seminar, Cornell University, Fall, 1979
- "Life Choices: Career versus Marriage in Early 20th Century America," University of Western Ontario, April, 1980
- "Swift's Premium Ham: William Lyon Phelps on the Air, 1934-35," Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, 1981
- Comment: "Reports from the Field: The Uses of Cross-Cultural Analysis," Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, 1981
- "Media, Culture, and Expertise in the Interwar Period," conference on "Mass Media and the Unexpected: Cultural Tension Between the Wars," University of Michigan, 1981
- Comment: Historical Exhibitions workshop for New York Council on the Humanities, Albany, 1982
- "The Book-of-the-Month Club and the Popularization of Culture," Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, 1984
- Comment: "Rose Wilder Lane and Laura Ingalls Wilder: Joint Shapers of American Myth," Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, 1984
- "The Making of Middlebrow Culture," International Congress of the Historical Sciences, Stuttgart, Germany, 1985
- "Classics and Commercials: John Erskine, Great Books, and the Making of Middlebrow Culture," American Studies Association Annual Meeting, 1985
- Comment: "Alternative Models of the Ideal," Canadian Association for American Studies Annual Meeting, 1986
- "A Convergence of Vision: Charles Sheeler and Constance Rourke," Yale University Art Gallery, 1987
- Comment: "Technology Makes Private Spheres Public," Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, 1987
- "'Merchant of Light': Will Durant and the Story of Philosophy," American Historical Association Annual Meeting, December 1988
- Comment: "Youth, Popular Culture, and Community Morality in the 1920's," Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, March 1988
- "Reconsideration: Henry May's The End of American Innocence After Forty Years," Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, March 1989
- "A Convergence of Vision: Constance Rourke, Charles Sheeler, and American Art," Wilson Center Conference, June 1989
- Comment: "Women Journalists in Twentieth Century America," Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, 1990
- Comment: "Visions of Community in the Progressive Era," Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, April 1991
- "The Making of Middlebrow Culture," Authors Series, St. John Fisher College, November 1992

- Comment: "Urban Visuality," Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, April 1993
- Comment: Session on popularization, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, January, 1996
- "The New Poetry in Public" Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, April, 1996
- "Listen, My Children: Poetry Recitation and American Readers," Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing Biennial Meeting, July, 1996
- "Publishers' Archives as Primary Sources," Symposium on Publishers' Archives in the 1990s, sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, Columbia University, et al, October, 1996
- "Poetry, Gentility, and Modernism in the Marketplace," History of the Book seminar, Committee on Literary and Cultural Studies, Harvard University, December, 1996
- Comment: Session on middle-class formation, Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, March, 1997
- "Sites, Practices, Values: Exploring Poetry Reading in American Culture," keynote address, Central New York Conference on Languages and Literature, SUNY Cortland, October 1997; Wesleyan University Center for the Humanities, November 1997; American Studies Graduate Colloquium, Yale University, November 1997; Drew University, February 1999
- Seminar on the practice of cultural history, Harvard University graduate student colloquium, 1997
- "The Boundaries of American Religious Publishing," SHARP/American Society for Church History/American Historical Association Annual Meeting, January 1998
- "Exploring Poetry Reading in American Culture," invited presentation as OAH lecturer,
University of Illinois at Springfield, spring 1998
- "Slim Volumes, Weighty Feelings," American Studies Association Annual Meeting, October 1999
- Invited presenter, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University, December 1999
- Symposium organizer and presenter on the occasion of Poetry Laureate Robert Pinsky's presentation of the Favorite Poem Project to the Library of Congress, April 2000
- "Silver Linings: Gentility and Print in the World of Johnny Tremain," Copley Symposium, Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester, April 2000;
- repeated November, 2000
- "Poetry in Practice," University of Wisconsin, Madison, November 2000
- Comment, Session on evangelical writing and publishing, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, January 2001

- “The Genteel Tradition at Large: John Ciardi, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, and Postwar Critical Authority, Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, April 2001; revised for Neilly Lecture, University of Rochester, September 2001
- “Poetry in Practice: Production and Consumption in Late-Nineteenth and Early Twentieth-Century American Culture,” History of the Book Seminar, Harvard University, October 2001
- panelist, American Studies Conference in honor of Alan Trachtenberg, Yale University, January 2002
- “John Burroughs in the Open”: The Poet-Naturalist of the Hudson Valley and His Readers,” Vassar College and Oakwood Friends School, April 2003.
- Panelist, symposium on Poetry and History, American Antiquarian Society, January 2003.
- “Listen, My Children,” Roger Sipher Lecture, SUNY Cortland, 2004.
- “The Scholar and the World: Academic Humanists and General Readers in the Postwar Period,” American Academy of Arts and Sciences conference “The Humanities and the Dynamics of Inclusion,” October 2004.
- Invited lecturer, York University, October 2004.
- “Poetic Passages: Immigrants, “Americanizers,” and the Uses of Verse,” SHARP, Lyon, France, July 2004.
- “Modes of Reading Longfellow in School,” Longfellow Symposium, Maine Historical Society, October 2004.
- “Reading Practices and the Practice of History,” American Reception Study Conference, University of Delaware, September 2005.
- “Poetry in Practice: American Readers and the Uses of Verse,” McKay Lecture, Dalhousie University, March 2006.
- “New Approaches to the History of Reading,” SHARP, The Hague, Netherlands, July 2006
- Comment: session on American popular religion and print culture, Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting; April 2007
- “Songs of Ourselves,” California Polytechnic University, October 2007
- “Make It News: A Symposium on Poetry and Journalism,” panelist, Columbia University School of Journalism, October 2007 (co-sponsored by Poetry Foundation)
- “Living Still: American Readers and the Uses of Poetry,” Longfellow 150th Birthday Symposium, Maine Historical Society, October 2007
- “Poetry in Place and Practice,” Brownell Lecture, University of Iowa Center for the

Book,

November 2007

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Member, Pelzer Award Committee, Organization of American Historians, 1984-87

Consultant, Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum, 1985-86

Member, American Quarterly Prize Committee, 1985-88; Chair, 1987-88

Consultant, Ontario County Historical Society, 1988

Consultant, Annenberg/CPB Project, 1988

Speaker in the Humanities, New York Council on the Humanities, 1985-90

Member, Program Committee, 1989 Annual Meeting, Organization of American
Historians

Member, Editorial Board, Canadian Review of American Studies, 1987-92

Member, Editorial Advisory Board, American Quarterly, 1990-93

Speaker, Strong Museum Advanced Placement Conference, 1992, 1993, 2000, 2005

Member, Advisory Board, Program in the History of the Book in American Culture,
and member Editorial Board, Collaborative History of the Book in American
Culture, American Antiquarian Society, 1992-

Member, Nominating Committee, American Studies Association, 1993-96

Member, Executive Board, Organization of American Historians, 1993-96

External Examiner, American Studies Department, University of Maryland, 1995

Member, Editorial Board, University of Massachusetts Press series in the
History of the Book and Print Culture, 1995-

Application Evaluator, Newcombe Fellowship Program, 1996-

Program Evaluator, New York State Council for the Humanities, 1996

Co-leader, "Getting Into Print," seminar on the History of the Book in American
Culture, American Antiquarian Society, June 9-15, 1997

Member, Editorial Board, Journal of American History, 1998-2001

Chair, John Hope Franklin Prize Committee, American Studies Association, 2001

Member, Program Committee, Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and
Publishing Annual Meeting, 2001

Member, American Historical Association Gutenberg-e Prize Committee, 2004

External Examiner, Modern History and Literature Ph.D. Program, Drew University,

2007

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