

Abstracts

Suzanne M. Sinke, *Moved to Marry: Connecting Marriage and Cross-border Migration in the History of the United States*

From the outset marriage and transnational migration intertwined in the history of the United States. By examining some of the patterns through group and individual examples drawn from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, this paper highlights key ways marriage tied to state policy and how visions of national identity shifted not just in the face of international relations but with the arrival of various migrant groups, particularly for people considered non-white. Supporting family formation and the model of family arising from coverture for some migrants meant easy chain migration for wives through the nineteenth century, even automatic citizenship in some cases. In the twentieth century, immigration policy related to marriage contributed to female majorities, for marriage turned into one of the easiest categories for entry. From the slaves who married despite bans to the gay and lesbian couples who moved overseas to have their marriages recognized, people challenged the laws. This overview melds gendered visions of family with the power of the state and with global circuits of migration.

Johanna Leinonen and Donna R. Gabaccia, *Migrant Gender Imbalance and Marriage Choices: Evidence from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Norway, 1860–1910*

Ever since the foundational work of Ernst G. Ravenstein and his “law” on the relationship of sex and migration was published in the 1880s, scholars have noted variations in the gender composition of migrant populations and pondered their causes. Far more rarely have they documented the consequences of migrations with male or female majorities or shown how these consequences differ from gender balanced migrations. In our essay we use census microdata on five North Atlantic countries (the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Norway) of the late nineteenth century to explore whether differently gendered migrations influenced marital choices and deci-

sions of migrant men and women. Unlike Ravenstein claimed, neither all long-distance migrations were predominantly male, nor did women always outnumber men in shorter distance migrations. We are especially interested in how gender imbalance affected rates of marriage between persons of different nationality.

Annemarie Steidl and Wladimir Fischer-Nebmaier, Transatlantic Marriage Markets and Marriage Politics of Austro-Hungarian Migrants, 1870–1930

According to migration scholars, marriage markets play a key role in the process of integration. Surprisingly, only very few studies quantify gender in the history of intermarriage. Even fewer combine quantitative analysis with the analysis of the discourses of migrant elites on marriage and intermarriage. Our paper deals with the transnational marriage markets of migrants who left Austria-Hungary for the United States before World War I. We especially explore the transformations of mate choice between 1900 and 1930 and ask how migrants ‘acted’ in those markets particularly in the context of transatlantic networks. Which role did migrant gender ratios play in this transatlantic world? Which ethnic groups from Austria-Hungary tended towards in-marriage, and how did these persons react to the closure of the U.S. migration regime in the 1920s? And what impact did changes in the marriage market have on the discourses of specific migrant groups? The latter will be discussed for the case of speakers of Southwest-Slavonic languages.

Sonja Janositz, *Blueprint of a Shared Life. The Letters of Irish Migrant Annie O’Donnell*

The article conceptualizes letters as media, which create a space of communication. Against this backdrop, it analyzes the dynamics of the relationship between the Irish migrant Annie O’Donnell and her future husband James P. Phelan in O’Donnell’s letters. After having met during their passage to the USA in 1898, they settled down in different cities. Living in different places, O’Donnell and Phelan developed their relationship mainly in the three-year correspondence which ended shortly before their marriage. Which practices did O’Donnell use in her letters written from 1901 to 1904 to nurture and deepen her relationship with Phelan? Which gender concepts and gender differences can be seen? The main part of the paper examines how O’Donnell not only assured Phelan of her affection, faithfulness, and reliability, but also synchronized their plans for the future in their correspondence. O’Donnell’s networking through the letters demonstrates that the couple stayed embedded in their respective social contexts.

Vibha Bhalla, Men for Work, Women through Marriages? Gendered Migration from India to the United States

This article analyzes the gendered nature of migration from India to the United States from the 1960s to 2000. Large scale Indian migration to the United States commenced with the passage of the 1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA). Early Indian immigrants relied heavily on the labor certification provisions of the INA to migrate, and became part of the migration stream commonly known as the brain drain migration. Although Indian women were also part of the scientific workforce, their paths differed; men moved primarily for employment opportunities and educated professional, women through marriages. In my paper I look at the transformation occurring in Indian women's lives since India's independence in 1947 when women from middle class families gained access to higher education and even employment. However, education and employment in many Asian nations did not necessarily empower women to make independent migration decisions, and families and their expectations of their sons and daughters continue to shape gendered migration.

Carola Sachse, Gender as an Empty Space: A Critique of Recent Research on the Contemporary History of Human Rights

The "human rights revolution", which began in the 1970s and passed its prime by the turn of the century, was not only a global phenomenon, but also, to a large extent, a transnational feminist project. About more than ten years ago, historians of the twentieth century began to investigate the history of universal human rights that had been codified in the successive conventions of the United Nations. However, these works have largely ignored the role women played in this context: either organized in regional grassroots action groups, transnational NGOs and international institutions and actively contributing to the global fight for human rights in general or as those who were denied human rights. In this essay I will critically re-read the master narratives of the history of human rights that inform the most recent publications on the topic. I will demonstrate that these lacunae are the results of dubious periodizations, arbitrary and deliberate simplifications of feminist historiography and the neglect of gender political aspects of the modern human rights regime.

