2014 Report and 2015 Budget Request

The Center for the Historical Study of Women and Gender

Thomas Dublin, Co-Director  Wendy Wall, Co-Director

Steering Committee

Thomas Dublin, History
Wendy Wall, History
Leigh Ann Wheeler, History
Ami Bar-On, Philosophy
Pamela Gay, English

Scholars Associated with Center

Binghamton University

Ami Bar-On  Philosophy and Women's Studies
Anne Bailey  History
Elisa Camiscioli  History
Elizabeth Casteen  History
Pamela Gay  English & Women's Studies
Leslie Heywood  English
Jean Quataert  History
Benita Roth  Sociology
Dara Silberstein  Women's Studies
Wendy Wall  History
Leigh Ann Wheeler  History

Other Scholars:

Rui Kohiyama  Tokyo Woman’s Christian University
Barbara Reeves-Ellington  Knutsford, England
Connie Shemo  SUNY Plattsburgh

Binghamton Graduate Students in U.S. Women's History

Tiffany Baugh  Deneil Hill  Amanda Molina
Katie Brown  Denise Ireton  Eve Snyder
Jessica Derleth  Sarah King  Katie Stankiewicz
Julia Devin  Kelly Marino
Chelsea Gibson  Marcella Micucci

Center Staff:  Jessica Derleth, Research Project Assistant, 0.5 FTE
The purpose of the Center is to promote research, teaching, and intellectual exchange on historical issues related to women and gender. The Center builds upon the University's traditions and existing strengths in Women’s History and engages faculty and graduate students from other departments. The Center facilitates the focusing of individual energy into collaborative channels to promote increased grant-supported research activities, graduate training, and interaction among students, faculty, and staff.

Center Accomplishments in 2014

A major development his year has been the acceptance by Professor Wendy Wall of the History Department of an invitation to serve as Center Co-Director, now that Kathryn Sklar has formally retired and Tom Dublin anticipates his own retirement in 2 ½ years. We are beginning discussions of succession issues as we look to the future. We expect to have more to say about future plans in the late spring.

The primary focus of the Center is two Worldwide Web sites, "Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000," and “Women and Social Movements, International—1840 to Present.” The latter has been public for four years and was completed in April 2014. Our United States-focused site has become the premier resource on the Worldwide Web for teaching and scholarship in U.S. Women's History. The site publishes document projects, making original contribution to scholarly knowledge through the analysis and interpretation of groups of primary documents. The U.S. website is now seventeen years old and has become the leading journal in the field of U.S. Women’s History, publishing scholars from throughout the English-speaking world. Beginning in March 2004, the website became an online journal/database/ website co-published by the Center and an online publisher, Alexander Street Press. We have published for eleven years in this new format, adding to the website seventy new or expanded document projects as well as teaching tools, book reviews, and full-text sources. Our website makes Binghamton University a leader in the use of information technology to deliver new knowledge in the humanities, a development in line with the perspective of SUNY to make information technology one of the system's leading priorities.

WASM International has occupied project staff at the Center for five years now and has entailed the creation of a major online digital archive, "Women and Social Movements, International--1840 to Present." We have assembled an online database of about 150,000 pages, consisting of a diverse collection of manuscript and published sources generated by women’s international activism since the middle of the nineteenth century. We have identified more than 80 organizations and a similar number of individuals and have published an array of resources reflecting the work of these groups and individuals. We established an international editorial advisory board of more than 130 scholars to help identify and select the material for the database. In addition, we solicited secondary essays written by 26 scholars whose research expertise relates to these areas of international women’s history. We published the first of these essays October 2012 and the last one was posted online in March 2014. WASM International is now complete.
As we completed work on WASM International, we began a new collaboration with Alexander Street Press for a supplementary database, WASM Global, “Women and Modern Empires.” This will be an online archive and data base consisting of 75,000 pages and 20 scholarly essays. We are lining up an international editorial team to identify appropriate primary sources for inclusion. Our graduate assistant, Jessica Derleth, and three undergraduate work-study students are providing valuable scanning support for the project. We held a meeting of project editors at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New York City in early January with twelve editors in attendance. We expect to post the first segment of the project on a website by January 2016 and to complete additions over the next two years.

Even with all the work of mounting this new international database, we continue to publish our online journal, *Women and Social Movements in the United States*, twice a year. Alexander Street Press handles the publishing and technical sides of the collaboration, and we at SUNY Binghamton handle the editorial work. We solicit proposals and then review document projects from scholars in U.S. Women's History. We have a national editorial board, maintain a peer-review system for the review of submissions, and have a strong editorial operation here at Binghamton University. We have secured the services of historians who have taken editorial responsibility for book, website, and movie reviews and the submission of additional teaching tools to the website.

In the past year we totally reorganized the websites’ editorial advisory board, bringing in a younger generation of women’s history scholars to advise us on new directions for our online journal and website. We anticipate turning over WASM’s editorial reins to new editors in 2018 and with that transition in mind, we are beginning to discuss that transition with members of our editorial board. We should have more to say about this development in next year’s report.

**Future Directions:**

A new initiative at the Women and Social Movements has been the appointment of an editor charged with soliciting and reviewing Digital Humanities projects for publication on our two databases. Michelle Moravec of Rosemont College brings training in computers and linguistics to her research in U.S. Women’s History. We are working together with staff at Alexander Street Press to launch several research projects employing large groups of documents using the new techniques developed in the Digital Humanities. We will publish a scholarly article in WASM in March 2015 that will show the potential for these analytic techniques. We will accompany that first article with a call for proposals from historians and the designation of half a dozen WASM archive collections that will be “open” for Digital Humanities research. We are drawing here on the pioneering work of Google and JSTOR in making digitized historical sources accessible in new ways. Because of our focus on publishing document collections and full-text sources in Women’s History for seventeen years, we have unique resources. The two databases include more than 300,000 pages of digitized, full-text searchable primary documents written by and about women in the United States and the World. We think this resource will generate important new knowledge. It will be a new departure for our web sites, but we think potentially a very creative one. We should have more to report about this initiative in next year’s annual report.
Looking further ahead, we will be able to complete current and anticipated projects with the current space we occupy in LNG 89. Identifying long-range goals will be the focus of brainstorming and discussion in the year ahead as we anticipate the transition that will occur with the end of Tom Dublin’s Bartle appointment in the summer of 2016. We are beginning discussions with a younger generation of colleagues in Women’s History as they establish new directions for the Women and Social Movements websites moving ahead.

We expect that the initial editorial work on the *Women and Social Movements Global* database will engage us in the coming year. We will also continue publishing our twice-yearly issues of *Women and Social Movements in the United States*. Both of these projects will provide excellent editorial experience for a US History graduate student. We are applying to the graduate school for funding to support a graduate research assistant for the coming year to work on this new project and expect to hear sometime in March about this possibility.

**Proposed Budget for the Center, 2015-2016**

To carry out our research and programmatic agenda we need the following resources:

- S&E support $ 2,500
- Graduate Research Assistant 16,000

We need continuing S&E support to cover office expenses and to replace some of our computers so we can keep student staff well equipped for our website work. In addition to our graduate RPA, we anticipate employing three or four work-study undergraduates who provide needed support for our editorial efforts. We also need funds to provide supplies and support for unfunded activities of the Center that may lead to future grants.
Center Productivity

Thomas Dublin:


*Women and Social Movements, International—1840 to Present* (Alexander Street Press, Jan. 2011-March 2014). Co-editor, online database of publications, indexed and fully searchable, includes 150,000 pages of published and manuscript materials focusing on women's international conferences and organizations since the mid-19th century. Resources are in English, Spanish, French, and German.


Black Woman Suffragists Database, March 2014-Sept. 2016, consisting of 1,500+ writings of 70 Black women suffragists, in *Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000*. To include an edited collection of 18 original scholarly essays by noted scholars of African American women. We plan to publish this resource in six installments over the course of three years. Two segments have been posted in 2014, with four more scheduled for 2015 and 2016.


Wendy Wall:


Conference Presentations and Talks at Other Campuses:

Thomas Dublin:

January 2014—invited lecture, Kings College, Wilkes-Barre, PA, Mining History Week

April 2014—Luncheon talk on the Black Woman Suffragists database, annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Atlanta, GA
May 2014—Computer workshop presentation on the Women and Social Movements, International database, Berkshire Conference on Women’s History, Toronto

Wendy Wall:


Dissertations completed in U.S. History in 2014:


Current Sources of Support/Space:

Past Grants:

Editing of WASM website, Alexander Street Press, January 2003-present, $348,000.

This funding was supplemented by a contract for $48,000 for the period May 2008-June 2010 to support development of the WASM International database.

The contracts with Alexander Street Press were the direct result of seed money from the university in the first years of the Women and Social Movements web site. The development of a high-quality online resource with a combination of university support and grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities brought our work to the attention of the Press and permitted us to work out a partnership between the Center for the Historical Study of Women and Gender and Alexander Street Press. The success of our early work permitted us to bring $396,000 of contract support for the two web sites we eventually developed.

Current Support: During last year and the current year, all funding has come from Binghamton University in the form of support for a graduate RPA and S&E funds. Center activities are conducted in LNG 89, which space should prove adequate for the immediate future.

Future Funding:

Once we have had further discussion of future directions for the Center, we anticipate new grant applications to support activities beyond the online publishing that has been the focus of Center work in recent years.