

Ronald G. Walters:
Curriculum Vitae

Department of History
Johns Hopkins University
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Research and teaching interests:

My present work divides between my early interest in radical and reform movements and more recent research on nineteenth- and twentieth-century American commercial popular culture.

My undergraduate courses focus primarily on U.S. social and cultural history, 1800-1970, cultural pluralism, reform and radicalism, the American west, and popular culture.

I am especially proud of the achievements of my graduate students, whose dissertations span three centuries of U.S. history and tend to focus on some combination of gender, race, reform movements, and popular culture, and to range in methodology from quantification to literary and visual analysis. A partial list of their topics includes African American sailors; temperance and moral responsibility; Poe, Borges, and mystery fiction; education in a democratic society; women's activism and censorship; public housing; urban vice; the medical construction of homosexuality; tenancy and ideology in the early republic; orphanages; slavery and freedom in Baltimore and in eighteenth-century New England; race, power and gender in TV sitcoms; unwed motherhood; the emergence Washington as a modern city; teenage girl culture; historical memory and Vietnam; jazz; orientalism in popular music; early American cinema; information flows and the Gold Rush; the back to the land movement; and war-time propaganda in relation to gender, race, and nationalism. They have won numerous professional and teaching awards, among them at least six book prizes for revised versions of their dissertations, and the Organization of American Historians' prizes for best article and best article by a graduate student in the *Journal of American History*, and, most recently, the Bancroft Prize, and two other major book prizes from the American Historical Association.

Academic Appointments:

Professor of History, Johns Hopkins University, 1980-present
Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University, 1976-1980
Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University, 1972-1976
Instructor, Johns Hopkins University, 1970-1971
Acting Instructor, University of California, Berkeley, 1967-1968, 1969

Education:

Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, 1971
M.A. University of California, Berkeley, 1965
A.B. Stanford University, 1963

Honors and Fellowships:

Phi Beta Kappa, 1963
National Endowment for the Humanities, Younger Humanist Award, 1974-1975
Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowship, 1977-1978
United Fund of Central Maryland, Community Service Award, 1977
George E. Owen Teaching Award, awarded by the graduating class of 1991, "for outstanding teaching and devotion to undergraduates"
Outstanding teacher in the Master of Liberal Arts program, 1992

Books:

Editor, *Primers for Prudery: Sexual Advice to Victorian America* (Prentice-Hall, 1974) (new ed., with additional material, Johns Hopkins Press 2000)
The Antislavery Appeal: American Abolitionism after 1830 (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976), (paperback ed.: W.W. Norton, 1984)
American Reformers: 1815-1860 (Hill and Wang, 1978) (revised ed. 1997)
Editor, *A Black Woman's Odyssey: The Narrative of Nancy Prince* (Markus Wiener, 1990)
Editor, *The Authority of Science and Twentieth-Century America* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997) (paperback ed. 2000)

Works in progress:

Essays on radical and reform movements and on twentieth-century popular culture
An interpretive history of twentieth-century American commercial popular entertainment
A book tentatively titled *Extreme America: Political and Social Extremism, 1870-1920*

Selected other publications:

"New England Society and the *Laws and Liberties of Massachusetts*, 1648,"
Essex Institute Historical Collections, CVI (July, 1970)
"The Negro Press and the Image of Success: 1920-1939," *Mid-Continent American Studies Journal*, XI (Fall, 1970)
"The Erotic South: Civilization and Sexuality in American Abolitionism,"
American Quarterly, XXV (March, 1973)
"The Family and Antebellum Reform: An Interpretation," *Societas*, III (Summer, 1973)

- "Mid-nineteenth-century American Reform and the Problem of Sex," *Transactions of the Conference Group on Social and Administrative History*, VI (1976)
- "Sexual Matters as Historical Problems: Toward a Framework of Analysis," *Societas*, VII (1977)
- "The Boundaries of Abolitionism," in Michael Fellman and Lewis Perry, eds., *Antislavery Reconsidered* (LSU Press, 1979)
- "Signs of the Times: Clifford Geertz and Historians," *Social Research* (August, 1980)
- "Antebellum Reform," in Jack P. Greene, ed., *Scribner's Encyclopedia of Political History* (New York, 1984)
- "Radical Art/Radical Politics: Afro-American Community Murals," in *The People's Art: Black Murals, 1967-1978*, Catalogue published by the African American Historical and Cultural Museum, 1986
- "Antebellum Reform," in Milton S. Cantor, et al., *Main Problems in American History*, 5th ed. (1988)
- "Reforming Tocqueville," *The Tocqueville Review* (March, 1989)
- Review essay on *The Arrogance of Race* and the work of George M. Fredrickson, *Journal of American History*, 76 (December 1989), 894-95
- Review essay, "Fixing the Image," in *The Public Historian*, 13 (Spring, 1991), 101-6
- "Communitarian Societies," in Eric Foner and John A. Garraty, eds., *The Reader's Companion to American History* (Boston, 1991)
- "In Our Backyard," *Perspectives: American Historical Association Newsletter*, 33 (March, 1995), 1, 3-4
- "Driving Italian Style," *Reader's Digest* (July 1995), 136
- "The Mass Media and Popular Culture", in Stanley I. Cutler, et al., eds., *Encyclopedia of the United States in the Twentieth Century* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1996), IV, 1461-1490
- "Comment," *Southern Historical Association Discussion on the emergence of racial modernity in the North, 1790-1840*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, 18 (Summer, 1998), 226-32
- "Languages of The Mass Media and Popular Culture in Depression Era America," in *Brave New Words: Strategies of Language and Communication in the United States of the 1930s* (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1999)
- "Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Reform Tradition," in Cindy Weinstein, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Harriet Beecher Stowe* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004)
- "The Erotic South," revised and with commentary, in David Libby et al, eds., *Affect and Power: Essays on Sex, Slavery, Race, and Religion in Appreciation of Winthrop D. Jordan* (Oxford: University of Mississippi Press, 2005).
- "Buffalo Bill, Harry Houdini, and Real Magic," in Amy Wygant, ed., *The Meanings of Magic: From the Bible to Buffalo Bill* (Berghahn Books, 2006)

“*The Impending Crisis of the South*,” in Janet Gabler-Hoover and Robert Sattelmeyer, eds., *American History through Literature: 1820-1870* (Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2006)

“Where the Theory Hits the Road,” in Kathryn Fuller-Seeley, editor, *Hollywood in the Neighborhood: Case Studies in Small Town Movie Going*, (University of California Press, 2008)

“Afterword: Coming of Age,” in John Spitzer, editor, *American Orchestras in the Nineteenth Century* (University of Chicago Press, 2012)

Selected conferences and invited lectures:

Commentary, panel on early American reform, American Historical Association [AHA], Boston, 1970

Paper, "Antislavery and Sexuality," Organization of American Historians [OAH], New Orleans, 1972

Commentary, panel on antebellum reform, OAH, Washington, D.C., 1972

Paper, "Family and Antebellum Reform," Clark University Family History conference, 1972

Paper, "Mid-nineteenth Century American Reform and the Problem of Sex," Conference Group on Social and Administrative History, University of Wisconsin, 1973

Commentary, panel on the Civil War, Southern Historical Association [SHA], Atlanta, 1973

Chair, panel on family process in industrializing society, AHA, San Francisco, 1973

Commentary, panel on homosocial networks, Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Cambridge, Mass., 1974

Panelist, symposium on the ideal of domesticity, History of Education Society, Berkeley, 1975

Commentary, panel on antislavery, SHA, Atlanta, 1976

Public Lecture, "Women and Religion," sponsored by NEH and the College of Notre Dame of Baltimore, 1977

Panelist, discussion of recent research on sexual morality and sexual behavior in the past, OAH, 1977

Chair, panel on nineteenth-century sexual ideologies, SHA, New Orleans, 1977

Commentary, panel on radical millennialism, AHA, New York, 1979

Commentary, panel on social banditry, OAH, San Francisco, 1980

Panelist, women's history and family history, OAH, 1981

Chair, panel on nineteenth-century popular entertainment, Social Science History Association, 1983

Chair, panel on antislavery, OAH, New York, 1986

Lecture, "Radical Politics/Radical Art," African American Historical and Cultural Museum, Philadelphia, 1986

Invited Lecture, "Reforming Tocqueville," Jefferson Memorial Lectures, Conference on Alexis de Tocqueville, University of California, Berkeley, 1986

Commentary, panel on women's culture, AHA, New York, 1986

Commentary, panel on antislavery, AHA, Washington, 1987

Panelist, social history and political thought, AHA, Cincinnati, 1988

- Panelist, the boundaries of small producer radicalism, OAH, Chicago, 1992
- Chair, panel on reform, SHA, Atlanta, November, 1992
- Chair, panel on careers and gender, OAH, Anaheim, CA, April, 1993
- Chair, panel on history, media, and the public forum, "Telling the Story," New England Council for the Humanities conference on history and the media, April, 1993
- Guest lecture, Centro Interdipartimentale di study Americani ed Euro-Americani "Piero Bairati", Università di Torino, "The History of Sexuality: Recent Developments in American History Writing," December 9, 1993
- Chair, panel on race, gender, and nineteenth-century American popular culture, OAH, Atlanta, April 1994
- Chair, panel on women's education in the antebellum South, Third Annual Southern Womens' Historians Meeting, Houston, June, 1994)
- Chair, panel on public history, OAH, April 1995
- Paper, "The Languages of the Mass Media and Popular Culture in Depression America," presented at *Brave New Words: Communicative Strategies and the Invention of Language in the United States in the 1930s*, Rome, June 1995
- Panel on the Philip Kunhart/Discovery Channel film biography of P.T. Barnum, Television Critics of America semi-annual meeting, July 1995, Pasadena
- Chair and comment, panel on nineteenth-century spas, Society of Historians of the Early Republic (SHEAR), Cincinnati, July 1995
- Chair and comment, panel on identity, community, and reform, AHA, Atlanta, January 1996
- Chair and comment, panel on motion picture audiences, Pacific Branch of the AHA, San Francisco, August 1996
- Commentator, panel on gender and material culture, OAH, April 1997
- Chair, panel on "constructing the public", American Studies Association, November 1997
- Chair and commentator, plenary session on the construction of race in the antebellum North, SHA, November 1997.
- Chair, "Going Hollywood: Making Audiences Safe for Movies," Organization of American Historians annual meeting, Washington, DC, April 11, 2002
- Paper, "Cowboys and Magicians: Buffalo Bill, Houdini, and Real Magic," University of Glasgow, June, 2002
- Comment, panel on gender and antebellum reform, SHEAR, Berkeley, California, July, 2002
- Comment, American Studies Association annual meeting, Atlanta, November 004
- Comment, the Organization of American Historians annual meeting, San José, March 2005
- Paper, "Abolitionist Representations of Suffering," Conference on Humanitarian Responses to Narratives of Suffering, University of Connecticut, October 13-15, 2006
- Panel on mentoring graduate students, American Historical Association, Atlanta, January 2007
- Chair and commentator, panel on the America Colonization Society, America Historical Association, Boston, 2012

Selected professional activities:

Board of Editors, *Journal of Family History*, 1975-1995
AHA Program Committee, 1981
Chair, OAH Committee on Media, 1981-1984
Chair, OAH Barnouw Committee, 1984-1986
Co-chair, OAH Nominating Board, 1984-1985
Co-chair, OAH Program Committee, 1986
Society for the History of the Early Republic, Program Committee, 1986
AHA Committee on Women Historians, 1985-1988
Chair, AHA Program Committee, 1990
Chair, Evaluation Committee to Review the Humanities Residency Program, Rockefeller Foundation, 1991-1992
 Planning committee, National Assessment of Education Progress in History, Council of Chief State School Officers, 1991-1992
AHA, Joan Kelly Memorial Prize for best book in women's history, 1992-1994
Chair, Southern Historical Association, Owsley Prize Committee, 1993-1995
Co-editor, with Dr. Joan Cashin, *Gender Relations in the American Experience*, a series of books published by the Johns Hopkins University Press
Co-director, NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers, "American Song and Culture," 1994, The Peabody Conservatory
Board of Editors, *The History of the Family: An International Quarterly*, 1995-present
Chair, SHEAR Local Arrangements Committee, annual meeting in Baltimore, July 2001
Advisory Board, SHEAR, 2006-2008

Selected University and community activities:

Affirmative Action Committee, United Fund of Central Maryland, 1973-1977
Commencement Speaker, 1979
Academic Council, 1980-1986, 1988-1992
Special Assistant to the Provost, 1982-1986
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Tenure on the Homewood Campuses, 1986
Provost's Committee on the Status of Women, 1988-1990
Dean's committee on the recruitment of minority faculty, 1991-1992
Director, Program for Social Theory and Historical Inquiry, Charles M. Singleton Center, Villa Spelman, Florence, Italy, October - December, 1993
 Chair, Johns Hopkins University Diversity Leadership Council, 1997-99
Strategic Planning Committee, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, 2001
Director, Program in Comparative American Cultures, 2002
Chair, Johns Hopkins Press Faculty Editorial Board, 2002 – 2005
President, Johns Hopkins University chapter, Phi Beta Kappa, 2003 – 2004

Departmental Service:

Director of Undergraduate Studies
Director of Graduate Studies
Interim Departmental Chair
Chair and member of multiple search committees