



Mary Lou Roberts Professor

Email: maryroberts@wisc.edu
Phone: (608)263-1973
Office: 5101 Mosse Humanities
Mailbox: 5003 Mosse Humanities

Office Hours: On Leave

Education: PhD: Brown University; MA: Sarah Lawrence College; BA: Wesleyan University

Bio Sketch:

My specialization is Women and Gender; France; the Second World War

My most recent book concerns the politics of sex during the American presence in France during the Second World War. As the GIs conquered Normandy in the summer of 1944, they pursued their fantasies of having sex with French women. Such erotic contacts—including heterosexual sex, prostitution, and rape—became the focus of conflict and debate between the US military and French officials. As these debates occurred in newspapers and official correspondence, they anchored larger struggles for authority, including the breadth of American political power in Europe, and the moral role of the United States as a new global leader.



Selected Publications:

- *D-Day through French Eyes: Memoirs of Normandy 1944*, Forthcoming, University of Chicago Press, June 2014
- *What Soldiers Do: Sex and the American G.I. in World War Two France, 1944-1946*, University of Chicago Press, 2013. French translation, Editions Seuil, June 2014.
- "A nous les petites Havraises !" *l'Histoire, les collections*, July 2012
- Co-Editor with Paul Friedland, Special issue of French Historical Studies, "Theorized History," forthcoming, March 2012
- "Out of their Orbit: Celebrity and Eccentricity in Nineteenth Century France," *The Question of Gender: Joan W. Scott's Critical Feminism*, eds. Judith Butler and Elizabeth Weed, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2011), 50-79.
- "The Price of Discretion: Prostitution, Venereal Disease and the American Military in France, 1944-1946," *American Historical Review*, 115, no. 4 (October 2010): 1002-1030
- "Rethinking Female Celebrity: The Eccentric Star in Nineteenth Century France," *Charisma, Fame, and Celebrity during the Long 19th Century*, eds. Edward Berenson and Eva Giloi, (New York: Berghahn Books, 2010), 103-116
- "The Silver Foxhole: Prostitution in Paris, 1944-1945," *French Historical Studies*, 33: 1 (Winter 2010), 99-128.
- "Wartime Flânerie: The Zucca Controversy" *French Politics, Culture & Society*, Vol. 27, no. 1, Spring 2009, 102-110. [About a controversial 2008 exhibit in Paris concerning the city during WWII]
- "En Lisant les thèses et les HDR, De la gestion à la citoyenneté. Une Histoire sociale de la consommation contemporaine de Marie-Emmanuelle Chessel," *Entreprises et Histoires*, no. 55, June 2009, 9-13.
- "Photographier le G.I.: eroticisme et photojournalisme en France pendant la Seconde Guerre Mondiale, " *Retour à l'intime au sortir de la guerre: De la Première Guerre mondiale à nos jours* (Paris: Editions Tallandier, 2009), 259-278.
- *Disruptive Acts: The New Woman in Fin de Siecle France*, University of Chicago Press, 2002.

Awards:

- Senior Fellowship, Institute for Research in the Humanities, 2010-2014
- Honorable Mention, Koren Prize, Society for French Historical Studies, 2011
- John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, 2007-2008
- Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, 2008

Courses Taught:

Lecture Courses:

- History 120 - Europe & Modern World 1815-present
- History 357 - The Second World War
- History 392 - Women in History

Undergraduate Seminars:

- History 200 - Historical Studies - Topics: "Twentieth Century as Lived Experience"
- History 600 - Advanced Seminar in History - Topics: "Women, Gender, & War in 20th Century"

Graduate Courses:

- History 891 - Pro-seminar in Modern European History - Topics: "Rise & Fall of the Domestic Ideal"; "Gender & Race in European History"; "Sexuality Across National Boundaries"

[Home](#) | [Events](#) | [General Info](#) | [People](#) | [Undergraduate](#) | [Graduate](#) | [Special Programs](#) | [Alumni & Friends](#)



[Contact information for the History Department](#) | [Site Index](#)

Feedback, questions, or accessibility issues regarding the web site: [Webmaster](#)

Copyright © 2014 The board of Regents of the University of [Wisconsin System](#)