



Susan Johnson Professor

Email: sjohnson5@wisc.edu

Phone: (608)263-1848

Office: 5117 Mosse Humanities

Mailbox: 5018 Mosse Humanities

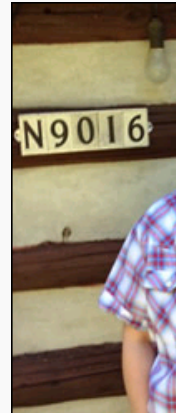
Curriculum Vitae: [View PDF](#)

Office Hours: On Leave

Education: PhD: Yale; MA: Arizona State University; BA: Carthage College

Bio Sketch:

I am a historian of the North American West, and I specialize in the study of gender; of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity; and of desire and embodiment. I work primarily in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but I teach and take interest in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as well. My scholarship has focused on relations of power in western North America both as a place of lived experience and as an imagined space. I work with graduate students interested in multiracial gender histories; U.S. western, borderlands, Pacific, and other place-based histories; Latino, American, American Indian, and Asian American histories; histories of sexual minorities and majorities; histories of whiteness; and social and cultural histories more broadly defined. In addition to teaching in the History Department, I'm also a faculty affiliate of the Chican@ and Latin@ Studies Program and the Gender and Women's Studies Department, reflecting my ongoing commitment to the intellectual projects of ethnic studies and gender studies and the political project of social justice. I'm engaged in academic work that reaches beyond the boundaries of the university. So, for example, I published my first book, *Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush*, with a trade publisher; I served as a consultant to the PBS American Experience documentary, *The Gold Rush*; and I participated in a special on-the-road summer course in 2005, "The Santa Fe Trail: In Search of the Multiracial West." I took thirty-five undergraduate and graduate students on a two-week bus trip from Wisconsin to the Southwest and back again.



Research Interests:

North American West; Borderlands; 19- and 20th-century U.S. history; race/ethnicity/indigeneity/embodiment/desire.

Selected Publications:

- *Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2000).
- "Queer Wests: A Historiographical Conversation," coauthored with Christopher Hommerding, S. Johanna Lanner-Cusin, Special issue, "Queer History in the West," *Western History Association* Spring 2013.
- "Writing Kit Carson in the Cold War: 'The Family,' 'The West,' and Their Chroniclers," in *On the Edge of Power: Families and Kinship in the Intercultural American West*, ed. David Wallace Adams and Greg Hise (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012)
- "Nail This To Your Door: A Disputation on the Power, Efficacy, and Indulgent Delusion of Western Historians that Neglects the Challenge of Gender and Women's History," *Pacific Historical Review* 79, no. 4 (2008).
- "My own private life': Toward a History of Desire in Gold Rush California," in *Rooted in Barbaric Culture, and Community in Gold Rush California*, ed. Kevin Starr and Richard Orsi (Berkeley: University of California Press for the California Historical Society, 2000).
- "'A memory sweet to soldiers': The Significance of Gender in the History of the 'American West,'" *Historical Quarterly* 24, no. 4 (1993). Reprinted in *A New Significance: Re-envisioning the History of the West*, ed. Clyde Milner (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996), and in *Women and Gender in the West: Jensen-Miller Prize Essays from the Coalition for Western Women's History*, ed. Mary Ann Irwin and Brooks (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2004).

Awards:

- Bill and Rita Clements Research Fellowship for the Study of Southwestern America, Clements C

- Southwest Studies, Southern Methodist University, Fall 2011.
- Lloyd Lewis Fellowship in American History, Newberry Library, Spring 2007
- Resident Fellowship, Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Feminist Scholars' Fellowship, Women's Studies Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Faculty Research Award, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Brigham Young University, 2004-05, 2007-08
- Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation Award, Graduate School, University of Wisconsin-Madison 2005-06, 2008-09, 2009-10
- Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Huntington Library, 2001-02
- Frederick Beinecke Fellowship in Western Americana, Beinecke Library, Yale University, 2001
- Bancroft Prize in American History and Diplomacy, for *Roaring Camp*, 2001
- W. Turrentine Jackson Prize, for *Roaring Camp*, 2001
- Joan Jensen-Darlis Miller Article Prize, for "A memory sweet to soldiers," 1994
- Don D. Walker Article Prize, for "A memory sweet to soldiers," 1994

Courses Taught:

Lecture Courses:

- History/CLS 461 - The American West to 1850 - [Syllabus 2013 \(pdf\)](#)
- History/CLS 462 - The American West Since 1850 - [Syllabus 2013 \(pdf\)](#)

Undergraduate Seminars:

- History 600 - Advanced Seminar in History - Topics: "Men and Masculinity in US History" - [2013 \(pdf\)](#); "American Southwest" - [Syllabus 2005 \(pdf\)](#); "Trail and Rail: How the Santa Fe and the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad Created and Connected North America and Places" - [Syllabus 2009 \(pdf\)](#)

Graduate Courses:

- History 900 - An Introduction to History for U.S. Historians - [Syllabus 2013 \(pdf\)](#)
- History 901 - Studies in American History - Topics: "Men and Masculinity in US History" - [Syllabus 2012 \(pdf\)](#)
- History 902 - Research Seminar: American History - Topics: "North American Regions, Languages, and Peoples" - [Syllabus 2010 \(pdf\)](#)
- History 965 - Seminar in the History of the American West - [Syllabus 2012 \(pdf\)](#)

Special team-taught summer course:

- Chican@ & Latin@ Studies 330, The Santa Fe Trail: In Search of the Multiracial West - [Syllabus 2005 \(pdf\)](#)

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



[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