




**SHIFTING THE LENS:
Empowering Women's
History in Academia**

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Arts & Literature, Politics & Government

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RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK

Institute for Women's Leadership


The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.



This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to *practice* leadership *through* action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women's Leadership's website at <http://iwlrutgers.edu>.






What is “Shifting the Lens”?



Shifting the Lens is a filmed roundtable discussion about women’s history with a panel of distinguished Rutgers professors and affiliates in the field. In this film, we engaged in a rich dialogue about the development, current state, and future directions of the field. We discussed pivotal research, emerging trends, and the broader impact of women’s history on academia and society.



THE PROBLEM

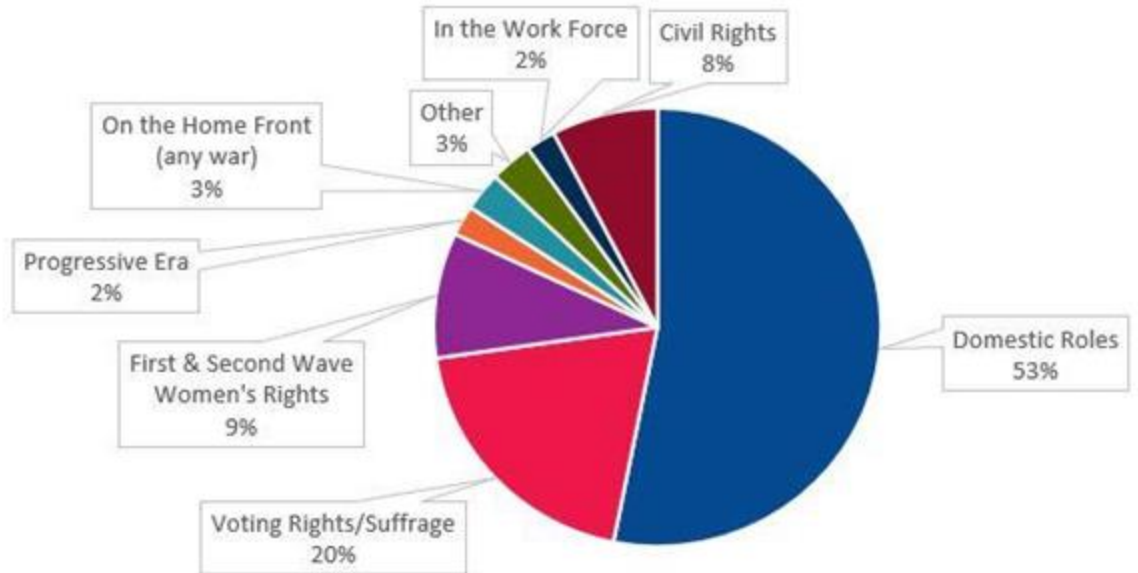
Women in State Standards



Women are severely underrepresented in history textbooks and curriculum.

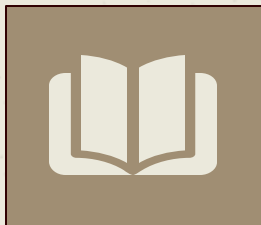
178 women are named in state standards. 98 women appear one only time. Only 15 women are named 10 or more times.

Topics Discussing Women:





THE PROBLEM (cont.)



Women in the Archives

- **Q: What gets preserved? Why? By who?**
A: books, legal documents, autobiographies; deemed “important”; upper-class, white, men.
- **SYMBOLIC ANNIHILATION**

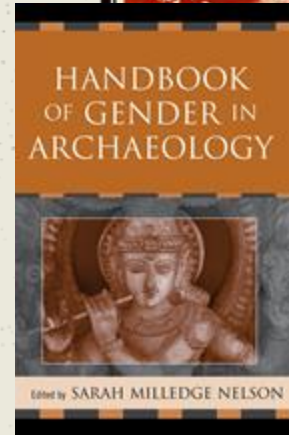
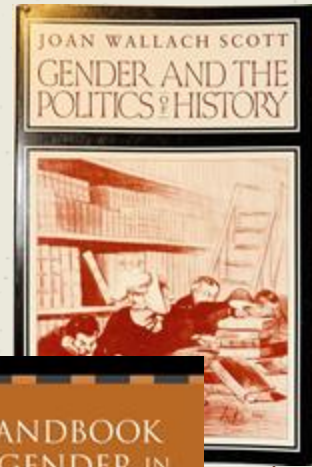


THE PROBLEM (cont.)



Presentism & Bias

- **Misconception:** women's history = family and sex
Reality: women's history = social history (of everyone!)
- Modern projections of gender onto the past
- Need to shift what we think of as traditionally historically significant
- Establish gender as a category of analysis





Goals & Mission Statement



Facilitate Understanding



Spark Curiosity & Engagement



Use an Accessible Format

Mission Statement:

Through a round table discussion, explore the development of women's history as a field of study and how Rutgers came to have the best women's history program in the country through the eyes of those who pioneered the field, and broadcast the value of women's history in understanding and contextualizing the truth of our past, present, and future.





TIMELINE

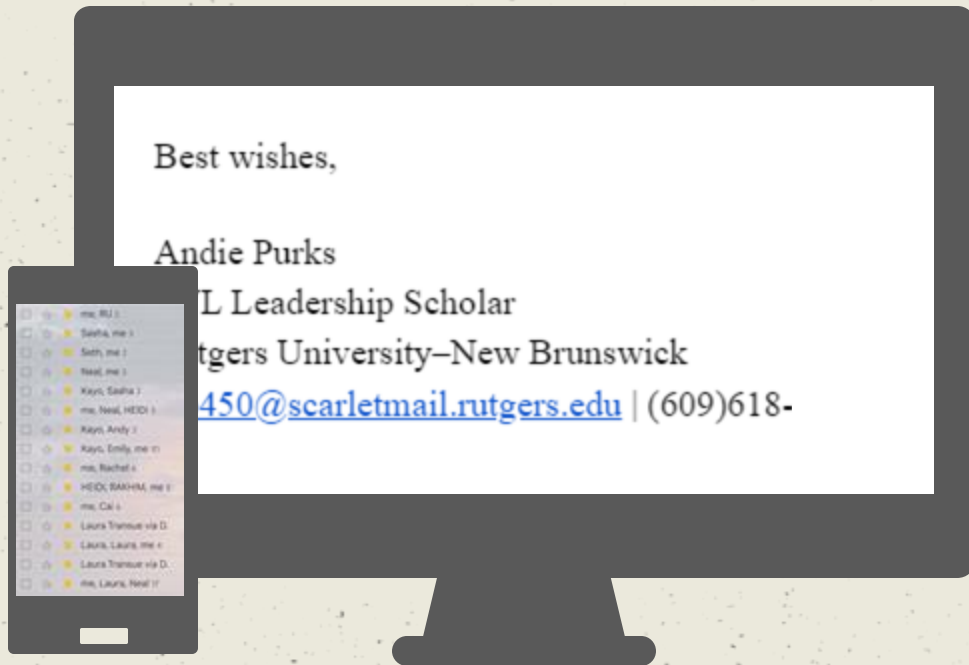


Task	Description	Date	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	N-D
Task 1	Research, grant proposal, and approval	April - May							
Task 2	Outreach	Jun - Oct							
Task 3	Scriptwriting, booking room, media collab	Aug - Oct							
Task 4	Host roundtable!	Oct 29th							
Task 5	Editing	Oct 30th - Nov 13th							
Task 6	Watch party!	Dec 4th							



Outreach

- Drafting emails
- Practicing professionalism
- Creating a sign-off
- Troubleshooting



Scriptwriting

- Development
- Refinement
- Collaboration and friendly insights



Media Collaboration

- Zoom meetings
- Team assignment
- Production, vision, editing





Roundtable!

Left to right:

Dr. Seth Koven

Dr. Chie Ikeya

Me! – Andie Purks

Cai Barias

Dr. Rachel Devlin



Editing

roundtable CUT one
Rakhim Rakhimov



me, RAKHIM 16

Roundtable Editing



narrow-mindedness and Prejudice and racism

▶ 🔊 29:09 / 50:13

TIMESTAMPS

- 2:48 - I ask a new question and Seth Kevan cuts in to answer the previous one asking this question (especially because we do not return to it?)
- 8:40 - **Emma Goldman**
 - **TEXT:** Emma Goldman (1869-1940) was a Lithuanian-born anarchist, activist renowned for her advocacy of free speech, labor rights, feminism, and efforts in the United States.
 - **PICTURE:** Courtesy of the Library of Congress.
- 11:24 - **Definition of "Global South" on screen:**
 - **TEXT:** The "Global South" refers to regions, primarily in Latin America and Oceania, characterized by histories of colonialism and economic relation to wealthy, industrialized nations in the "Global North."
- 13:45 - **1st big Berkshire Conference on the History of Women hosted**
 - **TEXT:** The 1973 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, College, marked a pivotal moment in academic history as one of the gatherings focused on women's history.
- 13:56: **Mary Hartman**
 - **TEXT:** Mary Hartman is an American historian and academic known for her work in women's studies and her scholarship on gender, family, and social history at Douglass College and is the founding director of Women's Leadership at Rutgers University.
 - **PICTURE:** Courtesy of Rutgers University Libraries.
- **From 16:14 to about 16:23** there is a long silence that I think can be cut or Chit Iveys speaks again at 16:24

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS:
DR. RACHEL DEVLIN
DR. SETH KOVEN
DR. CHIE IKEYA
& CAI BARIAS

SHIFTING THE LENS

Empowering Women's History in Academia

Learn the nuances of women's history through a filmed roundtable exploring the perspectives of four distinguished women's historians from Rutgers University.

JOIN US!
DEC 4TH 6-7PM
RUTH DILL JOHNSON
CROCKETT BUILDING
1ST FL CONF. ROOM



Register to Attend!



Watch Party!

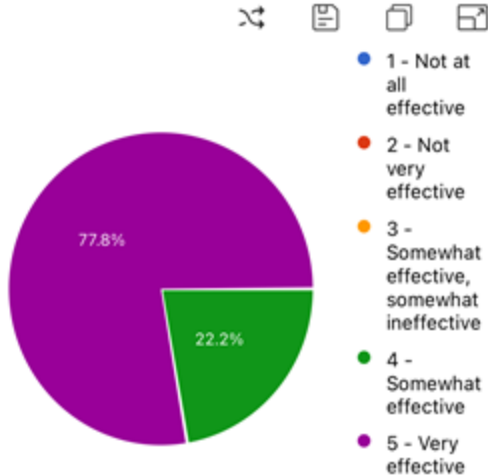




Impact & Evaluation

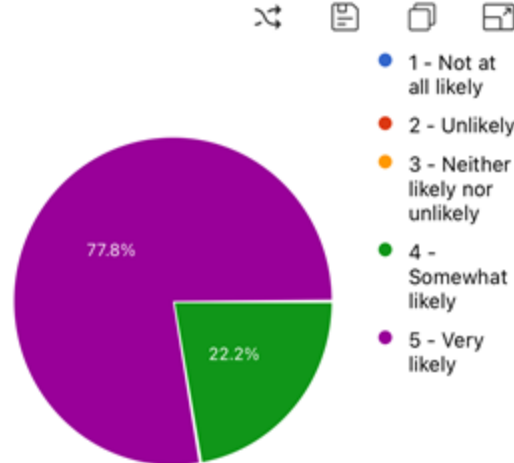
How effectively do you feel "Shifting the Lens: Empowering Women's History in Academia" empowered women's history as a field and those who study it?

9 Responses



How likely are you to recommend this documentary to a friend or colleague who is interested in women's history?

9 Responses



What aspect(s) of the documentary resonated with you the most?

It was just very motivating and inspiring to see how there's people actively trying to have women's history come to the surface and be acknowledged and fighting for this.

Dr Rachel's quote in the beginning - history often buries what it seeks to reject and the fact that Rutgers was at the forefront of bringing women's history to light and as a path of study.

After watching the documentary, do you feel more compelled to engage with women's history as a field of study? Why or why not?

I feel more compelled to learn much more about women's history especially with the state of our government these days and regarding women's rights specifically and how these rights or lack of are shaped by our history.



Lessons Learned

- Partnerships
- New thoughts on leadership
- Broader impact than expected

Please share any additional thoughts, opinions, or feedback on the film or watch party. Anything is appreciated!

This was a really beautiful piece of history you just made.



Acknowledgements

Kayo Denda

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My panelists

Heidi Schoderbek, Rakhim Rakhimov, Charlee Crawford

Neal Bennett

My fellow Leadership Scholars!



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