

KATHLEEN B. CASEY, PH.D

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Professor of History
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** **History, University of Rochester** **2010**
Dissertation, "Cross-dressers and Race-crossers: Intersections of Gender and Race in American Vaudeville 1900-1930"

Graduate Certification in Gender and Women's Studies
- B.A.** **History, University of Rochester** **2003**
Graduated with Honors, Dean's List, Cum Laude

RESEARCH, TEACHING, & PROGRAMMING INTERESTS

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies American History of Women, Gender, & Sexuality
Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century America Material Culture and Clothing
African-American History History of Race in America

COORDINATOR, GENDER, WOMEN, & SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM, Aug 2021- Present

- Doubled the number of majors and minors in one year through recruitment
- Worked with administrators to triple the program's budget
- Worked with donor, VP of Advancement, Assistant Provost, Deans and department colleagues to implement \$2,500 inaugural GWSS award for an outstanding major with financial need
- Managed curricular reform and ensured changes across LMS (Blackboard), WebAdvisor, course catalogue and marketing materials
- Managed program website, including updating curricular revisions, language, and photographs
- Collected data and write annual assessment report measuring changing trends in student competencies

- Coordinate program meetings and collaborative course schedules among colleagues
- Advertised courses and events across campus
- Organized campus events for Women’s History Month / International Women’s Day (see below)
- Collaborated with relevant partners including the Robert Nusbaum Center, the Gender Equity Center, the LGBTQ Life Center, Samaritan House, etc.

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED BOOKS

- *The Things She Carried: The Power of the Purse in America*, in progress, under contract with Oxford University Press

The Things She Carried is the first full length scholarly study of the role purses have played in American history and culture. It argues that purses have functioned as versatile toolkits which provided women with a private, female-controlled space in a world where they rarely occupied public space on equal terms with men. Covering 150 years, the book uses material artifacts, photographs, memoirs, diaries, newspaper articles, oral histories, advertisements and more to illustrate how generations of women (and men) effectively deployed purses in their efforts to move from the margins of society to the middle.

- *The Prettiest Girl on Stage is a Man: Race and Gender Benders in American Vaudeville*, University of Tennessee Press, 2015.

The Prettiest Girl on Stage examines popular representations of gender and race in American vaudeville, analyzing the lives and work of four popular performers and contextualizing their significance within contemporary cultural themes. The book explores the multiplicity of shifting gender and racial identities and contributes a more nuanced understanding of the interrelated nature of gender and race ideologies in American history. *The Prettiest Girl* has been positively reviewed by scholars in *The Journal of American History*, *The Journal of Southern History*, and *Pacific Historical Review*.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- “Pickets, Protests, and Purses in the American Civil Rights Movement,” *Gender and History*, Wiley-Blackwell, June 2022, Open Access, Forthcoming in print.
- “Sex, Savagery, and the Woman Who Made Vaudeville Famous,” *Frontiers: A Journal of Women’s Studies*, University of Nebraska Press, Vol. 36, No. 1, March 2015.
- “‘The Jewish Girl with a Colored Voice:’ Sophie Tucker and the Sounds of Race and Gender in Modern America,” *Journal of American Culture*, Vol. 38, No. 1, March 2015.

INVITED ESSAYS AND CHAPTERS

- “What We Mean When We Talk about Drag,” Reflection Essay, Tulane Working Group on Jewish Gender Performance and Drag
- “This Sack So Full”: Enslaved Women’s Use of Sacks in Antebellum America,” chapter 3 in *Pouches, Pockets and Secret Drawers*, Brill, forthcoming 2023. Anna Jamieson, Naomi Segal, and James Brown, eds.

BOOK REVIEWS

- *Vaudeville and the Making of Modern Entertainment 1890-1925* (University of North Carolina Press, 2020), *Journal of American History*, forthcoming.
- *Clothing and Fashion in Southern History* (University Press of Mississippi, 2020) *Journal of Southern History*, May 2021.
- *Exporting Perilous Pauline: Pearl White and the Serial Film Craze*, for *Women and Social Movements*, Vol. 18, No. 1, March 2014.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PANELS

- “The Things They Carried: The Possibilities of Purses in Queer History,” National Women’s Studies Association, annual conference, Minneapolis, MN, Nov 2022
- “Queer History and the Possibilities of Purses,” invited speaker, LGBTQ History Month, Christopher Newport University, Oct 2022
- “‘I Have Got My Pocketbook By My Machine:’ Place, Space, and Women’s Pocketbooks at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory,” American Historical Association, New Orleans, Jan 2022
- “Women’s Work, Clothing, and Contestations of Power in America and Africa,” Panel Organizer, American Historical Association, New Orleans, Jan 2022
- “Enslaved Women’s Pockets, Sacks, and their Pursuit of Autonomy,” Presenter, Institute of Modern Languages Research, School of Advanced Study, University of London, Dec 2021
- “The Power of the Purse: Resistance and Repression through Twentieth Century American Handbags,” Presenter, Berkshires Conference on the History of Women, Genders, and Sexualities, Johns Hopkins University, May 2020 (cancelled due to Covid-19)
- “Gendered Objects: Identity, Agency, and Activism through Material Culture,” Panel Organizer, Berkshires Conference on the History of Women, Genders, and Sexualities, Johns Hopkins University, May 2020 (cancelled due to Covid-19)

- “The Politics of Purses and Routines of Resistance,” American Studies Association, Honolulu, Hawaii, Nov 2019
- “The Performative Role of the Purse in American Visual Culture, 1890-1920,” Conference on the Global Status of Women and Girls, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA, March 2018
- “The Performative Role of the Purse in American Visual Culture, 1890-1920,” The Berkshire Conference on Women, Genders, and Sexualities, Hofstra University, June 2017
- “The Things She Carried,” Invited Speaker, Center for Sacred Music, Virginia Wesleyan University, Feb 2017
- “The Prettiest Girl on Stage is a Man,” Invited Speaker, Institute for Learning in Retirement, Norfolk, VA, Nov 2016
- “The Perfect Crime: Purse-Snatchers, New Women, and the Power of the Purse,” Popular Culture/American Culture Association National Conference, Seattle, March 2016
- “The Things She Carried,” 19th Century American Material Culture, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, Bard Graduate Center, NYC, July 2015.
- “The Power of the Purse,” Works in Progress Regional Interdisciplinary Conference of Feminist Scholarship, Virginia Wesleyan University, March 2015.
- “The Promises and Perils of Teaching the History of Fun,” American Historical Association, New York City, Jan 2015.
- “Performing the Primitive in a Nerve-Wracked World,” Western Association of Women’s Historians, California Polytechnic University, Pomona, California, May 2014.
- “The Prettiest Woman on the Stage is a Man,” Popular Culture Association/American Cultural Association, Washington D.C., March 2013.
- “Sex, Savagery and the Woman Who Made Vaudeville Famous”, Women, Professions, and Politics: A Historical Symposium in Memory of Lynn D. Gordon, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, Oct 2012.
- “‘She is What She Aint’: Lillyn Brown and the Meaning of Black Male Impersonation,” The Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, June 2011.
- “‘Making a Woman of Himself’: Julian Eltinge and the Art of Female Impersonation,” Invited Speaker, Humanities and Social Sciences Lecture Series, Schenectady Community College, March 2011.
- “‘I Don’t Care’: The Gender and Racial Transgressions of the Irreverent Eva Tanguay,” The Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, June 2009.

ACADEMIC HONORS, AWARDS and NOMINATIONS

- Recipient, Summer Faculty Development Grant, Queer History and the Possibilities of Purses, Virginia Wesleyan University, Summer 2022
- Nominee, Best Educator in Hampton Roads, Outwire757 Readers' Poll, 2019
- Nominee, Samuel Nelson Gray Distinguished Teaching Award, 2019
- Nominee, Frank and Jane P. Batten Distinguished Scholar Award, 2016, 2018
- Recipient, Mednick Memorial Fellowship, Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges, 2016-2017
- Semi-Finalist, Nancy Weiss Malkiel Junior Faculty Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 2016-2017
- Recipient, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, American Material Culture Summer Institute, Bard Graduate Center, Summer 2015.
- Recipient, Summer Faculty Development Grant, "The Prettiest Girl on Stage is a Man," Virginia Wesleyan University, Summer 2014.
- Recipient, Innovative Teaching and Engaged Learning Grant, "Making Public History Matter," Virginia Wesleyan University, 2014-2015.
- Recipient, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, 2011-2012, Declined.
- Recipient, Susan B. Anthony Dissertation Award for the most distinguished dissertation in women's and gender studies, 2010.
- Recipient, Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2009-2010.
- Finalist, Woodrow Wilson Women's Studies National Fellowship Competition, 2009.
- Recipient, Writing Across the Disciplines Teaching Fellow, College Writing Program, 2005- 2009.
- Recipient, Research grant from Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender Studies, 2006, 2008.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

PROFESSOR of WOMEN, GENDER, and SEXUALITY STUDIES; PROFESSOR OF HISTORY
 Furman University
 August 2023

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY and GENDER, WOMEN, & SEXUALITY STUDIES,
 Virginia Wesleyan University
 August 2018 – May 2023

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of HISTORY and GENDER, WOMEN, & SEXUALITY STUDIES
Virginia Wesleyan University
August 2012 – May 2018

DEAN'S VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY
Honors College, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2011-2012

POST-DOCTORAL TEACHING FELLOW
College Writing Program, University of Rochester, 2010-2011

Courses taught include:

- FYE 101: First-Year Experience Seminar
- HIST/GWSS 101: History of American Sexuality
- HIST 116: History of the United States (survey)
- GWSS 219: Introduction to Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies
- HIST 234: African American History Since the Civil War
- HIST/GWSS 101: Apparel in American History
- HIST 101: The Pursuit of Pleasure: A History of Recreation in America
- HIST 260: Introduction to Historical Thinking
- HIST 337: Museums, Monuments, and Memorials
- HIST 338: Public History Internship
- HIST 349: Race and the American City
- HIST 349: Reinterpreting the Roaring Twenties
- HIST/GWSS 352: US History of Women (writing intensive)
- GWSS 391: Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies Internship
- HIST 400: The Long Civil Rights Movement
- HIST / GWSS 440 W: Big Brother in the Bedroom (writing intensive)
- HIST 460: Senior Thesis Seminar (writing intensive)

PEDAGOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- Ms. Workshop, Writing for the Popular Press, NWSA, Minneapolis, Nov 2022
- Participant, Working Group of Anne Moody Scholars, Organized by Drs. Deborah Gray-White, Tracey Jean Boisseau, and Leigh Ann Wheeler, May 2022
- Jewish Gender Performance and Drag Working Group, Tulane University's Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience, 2021-2022
- Participant, Liberal Arts Colleges Racial Equity Leadership Alliance (LACRELA) Workshop, USC Race and Equity Center, Aug 2021
- Seventeenth Annual "Reacting to the Past" Faculty Institute, Barnard College, NYC, 2017
- Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy, Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research, Virginia Tech, 2016
- Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy, Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research, Virginia Tech, 2015

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Invited speaker, "Racism in the Suffrage Movement," Salon Talk Series, *Eleanor's Norfolk*, local intersectional feminist bookstore, Norfolk, VA, Dec 2022
- Invited presenter/consultant, "Exploring the Intersection of Gender and Race in Academia," Equity in Academia Series, Children's National Hospital, George Washington University, Jun 2022
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Aug 2022
- Invited Presenter, Women's History and Equality Commemoration, Norfolk, VA Naval Base, Aug 2021
- Invited presenter, "Race, Gender, and the Fight for Women's Suffrage, 1890-1920," Invited Speaker, Virginia Beach Historical Society, Virginia Beach, VA, March 2018
- Invited Presenter, "Apparel in American History," Four-part series, Institute for Lifelong Learning, Westminster-Canterbury Retirement Community, Virginia Beach, VA, Nov 2017
- Member, Planning Committee, "Entangled Identities: Legacies of 1619," Event Series, Virginia Wesleyan University funded by a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 2015-2016

COLLEGE-WIDE SERVICE

- Presenter and co-organizer, "A Brief History of Abortion in America," the Robert Nusbaum Center, AAUW, and the GWSS Program, Sept 2022

- Organizer, campus-wide event, Women’s History Month, Dr. Laura Puaca, “Betty Crocker and the Business of Blindness: Gender Disability, and Post World War II Consumer Culture,” March 2022
- Member, Faculty Standards and Welfare Committee, Virginia Wesleyan University, 2013-2015; 2020-Present
- Invited Speaker, Women’s History Month, “Pickets, Protests, and Purses in the Civil Rights Movement,” Virginia Wesleyan University, March 2021
- Member, Planning Committee, Africana Studies Program, Virginia Wesleyan University, 2019-Present
- Moderator, “Ask a Trans Person” Panel, Equality Virginia and VWU Spectrum, 2019
- Member, Women and Gender Studies Advisory Board, 2012-2021
- Batten Honors College Advisory Committee, 2018-2021
- Co-organizer, “Transgender Identity and Religion” Panel, Virginia Wesleyan University, 2018
- Member, Academic Affairs Reorganization Task Force, Virginia Wesleyan University, 2018–2019
- Member, Educational Programming Committee, Virginia Wesleyan University, 2016–2018
- Member and Steering Committee Representative, President’s Council for an Inclusive Community, Virginia Wesleyan University, 2014-2018
- Faculty Advisor, Spectrum (LGBTQ+ student organization), Virginia Wesleyan University, 2015-Present
- Reviewer, Mednick Memorial Grant Applications, Virginia Wesleyan University, 2018
- Co-organizer, campus-wide event, “Transgender Rights: Building Bridges Across Communities,” Virginia Wesleyan University, 2017
- Member, Internship Task Force Committee, Virginia Wesleyan University, 2016-2017
- Panelist, “An Equal Fight for Reproductive Freedom,” Women’s Resource Center, Virginia League for Planned Parenthood, and Black Lives Matter 757, 2016
- Organizer and Panelist, “Women and the Pill: Highlights of Student Research,” Virginia Wesleyan University, 2016
- Member, Institutional Review Board, Virginia Wesleyan University, 2015-2016
- Reviewer, Summer Faculty Development Grants, VWU, 2015-2017
- Organizer, campus-wide event, “Illegal Love: Tim Bostic on Politics, Religion and Marriage Equality,” Virginia Wesleyan University, 2014

- Member, Social Science Course Review Committee, VWU, 2013-2015
- Co-Organizer, Women's Resource Center Undergraduate Research Symposium, VWU, 2013, 2014
- Organizer, campus-wide event, "Desegregation in Norfolk: A Student's Perspective," 2012
- Member, Women's Forum, Virginia Wesleyan University, 2012-Present
- Member, Honors College Advisory Committee, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Member, 2011-2012
- Member, Honors College Study Abroad Scholarship Committee, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2011

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- Coordinator, Gender, Women, & Sexuality Studies Program, Virginia Wesleyan University, 2021-2023
- Content Advisor, Senior Theses, History Department, VWU, 2012-2019
- Internship Coordinator, History Department, VWU, 2015-2018
- Content Observer, Pre-Service Social Studies Teachers, VWU, 2013-2018
- Co-founder, VWU Oral Histories of Hampton Roads Project, 2013-2016

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Certified Foster Parent, Embrace Therapeutic Foster Care, Hampton Roads, VA, 2019-2020
- Co-organizer, Hershee Action Coalition, activist group working to preserve LGBTQ history of Hampton Roads, 2019
- Ambassador, Dining Out for Life, Fundraiser for The LGBT Life Center, Norfolk, VA, April 2019
- Member, Samaritan House, LGBTQI Committee, Norfolk, VA, 2016

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Berkshires Conference of Women Historians
- American Historical Association
- Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History

- American Studies Association
- National Women's Studies Association

MEDIA

- "The First Self-Proclaimed Drag Queen Was a Formerly Enslaved Man," by Cari Shane, Jun 9, 2023
- "The Renaissance of Feminist Bookstores" *Ms. Magazine*, Jan 21, 2023
- "Teaching the Deep Roots of Abortion in America," *Ms. Magazine*, Nov 30, 2022
- "What was fun?" by Rachel Sugar, *Vox*, Oct 26, 2020
- "A Century of Votes for Women," co-authored with Dr. Leslie Caughell, *Coastal Virginia Magazine*, May 2020
- "Historic Virginia Lesbian Bar to be turned into dog park," *The Washington Blade*, Nov 13, 2018
- "It's in the Bag," *Marlin Magazine*, 21, Fall 2016
- "History Professor Receives Mednick Award," VWU Website, Jun 2, 2016
- "Who's That Girl?" *Marlin Magazine*, 28-30, 2015
- "Publisher's Desk: New Book by Kathleen Casey," VWU Website, Sept 16, 2015
- "CNY Books and Authors," *Syracuse.com*, Sept 4, 2015
- "Pop History," *Inside Higher Ed.com*, Jan 5, 2015
- "Marriage Equality for all a Reality," *The Marlin Chronicle*, Nov 13, 2014
- "Tim Bostic to Speak at Virginia Wesleyan," VWU Website, Oct 17, 2014
- "Keeping History Alive," Faculty Feature, VWU Website, Nov 5, 2013; *Marlin Magazine*, 2014