

HISTORIES OF WOMEN AND GENDER IN LATIN AMERICA: *A Special Teaching and Research Collection for The Americas*

In July 1994, historian Donna J. Guy published a methodological reflection on Latin American gender history in *The Americas*. This marked the journal's first contribution of a series aimed at conveying the remarks of the Conference of Latin American History (CLAH)'s annual speaker. The invitation of Guy, a historian specializing in women and gender studies, as the annual speaker at CLAH in January 1994 was not accidental. It revealed the growing interest among Latin American academic communities in the field of gender history and the possibilities it offered to set new directions to Latin American history. According to Guy, by 1994, things were changing for gender historians. In the 1970s, when she first became interested in gender history, women and gender studies were marginal within the discipline. However, by the 1990s, she could "appreciate how accepted gender studies [had] become for Latin American historians."¹

The publication of Guy's talk for CLAH in *The Americas* was also representative of the development of women and gender histories within the journal itself. Since its first issue in 1944, women have figured as social actors in the histories presented by Latin American historians in the journal. Yet, the understanding of the category of "women" as well as the methods, concepts, and approaches used to comprehend women's roles and gender relationships have changed over time. The trajectory of *the Americas* reveals these changes, and the multiple discussions and questions grappled with by Latin American historians when addressing the question of gender in the historical field. Particularly, in her 1994 reflection, Guy highlighted a recurring question among Latin American historians that has also influenced *The Americas'* academic production on gender and women's histories: Are the gender theories from the United States and Western Europe

I would like to extend a special thank you to *The Americas'* editorial board for giving me the invaluable opportunity to be a part of the journal's processes as a Vault Associate. I am especially grateful to Professor Ivonne Wallace Fuentes for her unwavering support and guidance throughout this process. I also want to express my gratitude to Carlos Munoz-Serna for his close guidance in utilizing digital humanities tools, which were crucial to this essay, and to Professor Arlene Diaz for providing feedback on earlier versions of this manuscript.

1. Donna J. Guy, "Future Directions in Latin American Gender History," *The Americas* 51:1 (July 1994), 2.

suitable for understanding gender relationships in Latin America? “Which approach was best for Latin American historians?”²

In 1983, historian Joan Scott published an essay on the development of the field of women’s history during the 1970s and early 1980s. According to Scott, at least in the United States, the 1970s marked a peak in the production of studies on women’s history. During this period, there was a significant increase in academic publications, forums, and journal issues on various topics related to women, such as women’s suffrage, reproduction, women and wars, and women workers. This growth in “the new knowledge of women” showed promise for continued expansion in the future.³ Scott argues that, at that time, there was no unified set of methods or theories guiding the development of the field. Instead, historians of women were more concentrated on making “women a focus on inquiry, a subject of the story, an agent of the narrative.”⁴ For Scott, unlike histories that situated men as the agents of history and historical change (*his*-stories), women’s histories (*her*-stories) aimed to center women’s experiences in analyzing historical processes. The *her*-stories of the 1970s and 1980s sought to make explicit and address the omission of women’s experiences and voices from the narratives on the major historical processes, while revisiting and reinterpreting the past from the perspective of women as historical agents. Instead of considering women as mere epiphenomena of history, *her*-stories aimed to restore agency to women by emphasizing their pivotal roles in enabling historical change and social processes in the past.

A few years after the publication of this essay on women’s history, in 1986, Scott published “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis” in the *American Historical Review*. Historians concur that this article signaled a significant shift in the field of women and gender histories. This 1986 essay opened new directions for research and proposed deep questions regarding the limitations of women’s history in historicizing and interrogating the category of “women.” Although *her*-stories played a crucial role in challenging the male-centered narratives of history, they also tended to overlook the historical and contextual nature of gender experiences by assuming a universal and unchanging essence that applies to all women throughout history.⁵ As per Scott, shifting the focus from “women” to “gender” would provide opportunities to examine gender identities and experiences as historical constructs rooted within power systems that intersect and influence wider social, political, cultural, and economic processes at various points in history.⁶

2. Guy, “Future Directions,” 3.

3. Joan W. Scott, “Women’s History,” in *Gender and the Politics of History* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), 16.

4. Scott, “Women’s History,” 17.

5. Joan W. Scott, *The Fantasy of Feminist History* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2011).

6. Joan W. Scott, “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis,” *The American Historical Review* 91:5 (December 1986), 1053–75.

Latin American historians of women and gender were familiar with Scott's call to expand the scope of analysis by integrating gender as an analytical perspective for Latin American history. For instance, Guy's 1994 reflection for CLAH in *The Americas* mentioned the potentialities of a gender approach to study masculinities and the formation of a heterosexual ideology within Latin American states.⁷ However, the uses and transitions from "women" to "gender" have not been linear or uniform within the field of Latin American history. In 2001, Sueann Caulfield argued that "gender analysis has not been as central a concern in the different national historiographies in Latin America."⁸ Similarly, Heidi Tinsman, in her 2008 article "A Paradigm of Our Own: Joan Scott in Latin American History," highlighted the differences in the way gender was studied in US and Latin American scholarship. She noted that while US historians readily embraced Joan Scott's ideas, feminist scholars in Latin America were dealing with a Cold War context where women were striving for recognition and inclusion in their social and political movements. This led to a situation where, in countries such as Chile, "women" was the primary focus of analysis rather than "gender."⁹

The academic output in *The Americas* provides crucial insight into the main discussions, categories, and approaches of Latin American women and gender histories. In line with Tinsman's argument, tracing the development of the scholarship in *The Americas* sheds light on how Latin American historians have proposed gender-based frameworks and categories that extend beyond Scott's ideas and highlight the inadequacies of US approaches when it comes to capturing the particularities of Latin American gendered realities. This essay will argue that, in line with Tinsman and Caulfield, the development of women and gender histories in the journal shows that "women"—rather than "gender"—has been the main focus of Latin American scholarship. Yet, the transition, or lack thereof, from "women" to "gender" does not necessarily indicate progress or backlash. Instead, in the academic production of *The Americas*, historians have critically examined the category of "women". They have highlighted how the meanings and power dynamics associated with "women" and femininity vary across contexts and interact with class, ethnic, racial, and generational identities and social systems. Ultimately, in studying women and gender histories, scholars publishing in *The Americas* have questioned simplistic understandings of "women" as an unchanging essence and have rather critically examined the social origins of "women" and the power systems that have shaped this category in Latin American gendered societies. Furthermore, while the journal has primarily focused on "women," gender analysis has also influenced the historiographical contributions of Latin American historians in *The Americas*. This is particularly evident in their examination of the connections between gender, class, and race in Latin American past societies.

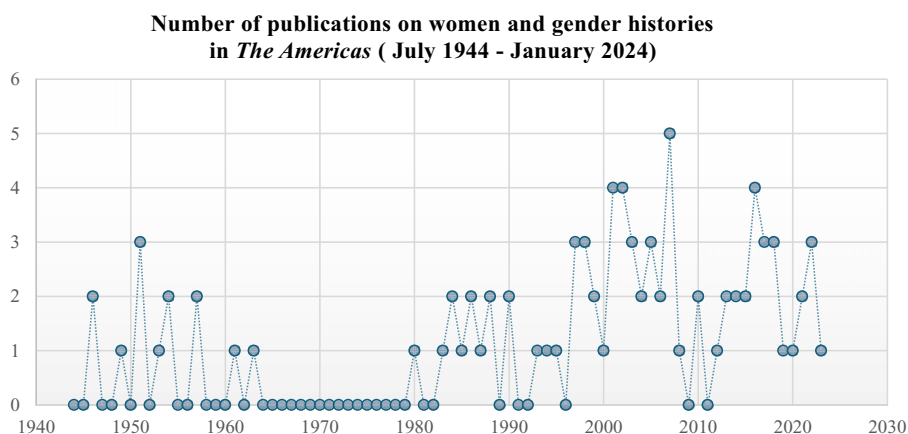
7. Guy, "Future Directions," 1–10.

8. Sueann Caulfield, "The History of Gender in the Historiography of Latin America," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 81:3–4 (August–November 2001), 450.

9. Heidi Tinsman, "A Paradigm of Our Own: Joan Scott in Latin American History," *The American Historical Review* 113:5 (December 2008), 1357–74.

CHART 1

Number of publications on women and gender histories in *The Americas* (July 1944–January 2024)



This essay combines quantitative tools and text analysis methods with a qualitative approach to explore the evolution of academic research on women and gender histories in *The Americas* from Volume 1, Number 1 (July 1944), to Volume 81, Number 1 (January 2024). In total, throughout this period, *The Americas* published 88 articles on women and gender histories. A graph illustrating the number of publications over the years (Chart 1) helps us visualize three periods where the number of publications increased, and a decline from the mid-1960s until 1980, during which there were no publications on this subject in the journal.

The regions and countries most frequently analyzed by women and gender historians in the journal are Mexico, followed by Argentina and Chile (Chart 2), and the time period most commonly studied in this scholarly field is the twentieth century (Chart 3).

To identify and examine the major themes, categories, and methodologies used by Latin American historians to study women and gender histories in *The Americas*, this essay employed a text analysis methodology. This involved using the open-source web-based software Voyant Tools to count the frequency of words used in all 88 articles curated for this online edition. The text analysis was conducted for the three periods that showed the highest number of publications on women and gender histories in the journal. The purpose was to identify any continuities or changes in the most common categories used by historians during each period.

CHART 2

The most frequently studied countries for analysis in *The Americas* from July 1944 to January 2024

| Country of Analysis | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| Argentina | 10 | 11.4 |
| Brazil | 6 | 6.8 |
| Chile | 10 | 11.4 |
| Colombia | 2 | 2.3 |
| Colonial Quito | 1 | 1.1 |
| Cuba | 1 | 1.1 |
| Dominican Republic | 1 | 1.1 |
| Ecuador | 1 | 1.1 |
| N/A | 1 | 1.1 |
| Guatemala | 3 | 3.4 |
| N/A | 2 | 2.3 |
| Mexico | 28 | 31.8 |
| Multi-regional | 10 | 11.4 |
| N/A | 1 | 1.1 |
| New Spain | 2 | 2.3 |
| Paraguay | 1 | 1.1 |
| Peru | 6 | 6.8 |
| Uruguay | 1 | 1.1 |
| Venezuela | 1 | 1.1 |
| Total | 88 | 100 |

The first period spans from the mid-1940s to the mid-1960s (Figure 1). Analyzing the articles from these decades through the tool of text analysis reveals that a majority of the publications during this time were focused on biographical accounts of notable female figures in Latin American history, with a particular focus on Gabriela Mistral and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz.

While scholars often track the origins of women's history scholarship back to the 1970s,¹⁰ it is worth noting that historians in *The Americas* demonstrated an early interest in

10. Caulfield, "The History of Gender," 449–90; Guy, "Future Directions," 1–10; Tinsman, "A Paradigm of Our Own," 1357–74.

CHART 3

The most frequently studied time periods for analysis in *The Americas* from July 1944 to January 2024

| Time period | Frequency | Percent |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------|
| 15th - 19th Century | 1 | 1.1 |
| 15th Century | 3 | 3.4 |
| 16-18 Centuries | 1 | 1.1 |
| 16th - 17th Centuries | 1 | 1.1 |
| 16th - 18th Centuries | 1 | 1.1 |
| 16th - 20th Centuries | 1 | 1.1 |
| 16th Century | 3 | 3.4 |
| 17th - 18th Centuries | 1 | 1.1 |
| 17th - 19th Centuries | 1 | 1.1 |
| 17th Century | 9 | 10.2 |
| 18th - 19th Centuries | 1 | 1.1 |
| 18th Century | 11 | 12.5 |
| 19th - 20th Centuries | 2 | 2.3 |
| 19th Century | 20 | 22.7 |
| 19th-20th Centuries | 1 | 1.1 |
| 20th Century | 27 | 30.7 |
| N/A | 4 | 4.5 |
| Total | 88 | 100 |

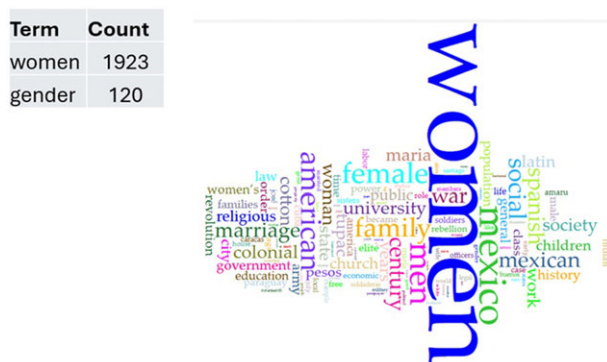
women's biographies and primary sources that could uncover the life experiences of Latin American women. It would be anachronistic to evaluate this early scholarship using paradigms and methods that emerged later and that would deeply interrogate the social dimensions and power relationships associated with the meanings of the category of "women." Nevertheless, even though these early interventions perpetuated stereotypical ideas about Latin American women, such as the belief that North American women were more progressive than Latin American women,¹¹ or the emphasis on the physical beauty of Latin American women,¹² this early scholarship represented an intriguing beginning to the study of women's history in the journal. In particular, these early works offer insight into the primary sources that would be crucial to trace women's trajectories in

11. Fanchón Royer, "Working Women of Mexico," *The Americas* 6:2 (October 1949), 167-72.

12. Fanchón Royer, "Tenth Muse: An Essay in Commemoration of the Three Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of Sor Juana Inés," *The Americas* 8:2 (October 1951), 143-78.

FIGURE 2

Word analysis for the articles related to the period from the 1980s to the 1990s



Examples of scholarship highlighting women’s essential roles in key historical events include research on women, wars, and revolutions in Latin America. For example, Anna Macias’s article on women and the Mexican Revolution highlights historians’ interest at the time in revisiting major historical events that were previously studied, but this time focusing on women’s perspectives and experiences. Macias explicitly addresses the silence of Mexican scholarship on women’s participation as active agents in the Revolution, tracing the multiple and complex roles played by women as leaders, *soldaderas*, and victims. According to Macias, “by ignoring the active participation of millions of women in the Mexican Revolution, historians have helped to perpetuate the myth of Mexican women as weak, inert, passive and dependent human beings.”¹⁵ As in the case of Macia’s article, during these decades, *her*-stories on women’s roles in wars and revolutions aimed to restore agency to women and address the silences, myths, and stereotypes that had been prevalent in previous historical accounts. Along similar lines, Leon G. Campbell’s work discusses the role of women in the Great Rebellion in eighteenth-century Peru. The analysis includes a class perspective, highlighting differences in the experiences and perspectives of elite Spanish and creole women compared with those of native women.¹⁶ Likewise, Barbara J. Ganson examines the various roles of women during the nineteenth-century Paraguayan war, specifically focusing on how women’s positions were influenced by their class, residency in rural or urban areas, and ethnic backgrounds.¹⁷ These works challenge the idea of a singular definition of “women,” highlight the diverse experiences of Latin American women in the war and revolutions, and demonstrate how the histories of women in *The Americas*

15. Anna Macias, “Women and the Mexican Revolution, 1910–1920,” *The Americas* 31:1 (July 1980), 82.

16. Leon G. Campbell, “Women and the Great Rebellion in Peru, 1780–1783,” *The Americas* 42:2 (October 1985), 163–96.

17. Barbara J. Ganson, “Following Their Children into Battle: Women at War in Paraguay, 1864–1870,” *The Americas* 46:3 (January 1990): 335–71.

studied the category of “women” not as a uniform experience taken for granted but rather as a complex social construct rooted in relationships to class and ethnic positionalities.

Furthermore, the academic production of *The Americas* from the 1980s and 1990s also reveals a strong focus on studying the intersections between gender and class in Latin American societies. This was in line with the broader trends in Latin American scholarship at that time.¹⁸ Examples of these studies include John Tutino’s analysis of the Mexican elite from a perspective centering on family and kinship networks,¹⁹ Dawn Keremitsis’s study of the sexual division of labor in the textile industry in Mexico and Colombia,²⁰ and Donna Guy’s piece on the industry of cotton and family labor in nineteenth-century Argentina.²¹ These pieces of scholarship show how, as described by Caulfield, there was a significant increase in studies focusing on gender as an analytical category during the 1980s in the field of Latin American history.²² Instead of solely focusing on “women,” these studies delve into gender relationships and their influence in shaping family structures, labor, and economic power and privilege in both urban and rural settings. Tinsman, John French, and Danny James have pointed out that the emergence of the gender category in Latin American history brought a focus on the important role of ideas and practices of femininity and masculinity, as well as the sexual division of labor, in shaping the region’s labor histories.²³ Histories of women and gender in *The Americas* during this period reveal this broader scholarly trend in the field.

Lastly, in the 1980s and 1990s, there was a growing focus on questioning the historical sources and their limitations and potential to explore women and gender histories in Latin America. In the words of Caulfield, during this time, historians of women and gender uncovered how “traditional theories and methods could not account for women’s experiences.”²⁴ The research from this time introduced new approaches to capture women’s voices and experiences by using previously unexplored primary sources or by re-evaluating traditional sources from a new light. Examples of this in *The Americas* include Tutino’s use of correspondence and wills to trace kinship networks and the formation of Mexican elites, as well as the agency of peasant women in achieving economic autonomy within their households in the eighteenth century.²⁵ Frank Salomon

18. Caulfield, “The History of Gender,” 449–90; Tinsman, “A Paradigm of Our Own,” 1357–74.

19. John Tutino, “Power, Class, and Family: Men and Women in the Mexican Elite, 1750–1810,” *The Americas* 39:3 (January 1983), 359–81.

20. Dawn Keremitsis, “Latin American Women Workers in Transition: Sexual Division of the Labor Force in Mexico and Colombia in the Textile Industry,” *The Americas* 40:4 (April 1984), 491–504.

21. Donna J. Guy, “Oro Blanco: Cotton, Technology, and Family Labor in Nineteenth-Century Argentina,” *The Americas* 49:4 (April 1993): 457–78.

22. Caulfield, “The History of Gender,” 449–90.

23. Tinsman, “A Paradigm of Our Own,” 1357–74; John D. French and Daniel James, eds., *The Gendered Worlds of Latin American Women Workers: From Household and Factory to the Union Hall and Ballot Box* (Durham [N.C.]: Duke University Press, 1997).

24. Caulfield, “The History of Gender,” 457.

25. Tutino, “Power, Class, and Family,” 359–81.

FIGURE 3

Word analysis for the articles related to the period from the 2000s to the present

| Term | Count |
|--------|-------|
| women | 3557 |
| gender | 612 |



also utilized Ecuadorian Indian women’s wills as a strategy to “give a vivid voice to people whom history would otherwise leave mute.”²⁶

The final period marking a peak in articles on women and gender histories in *The Americas* ranges from the 2000s to the present (Figure 3). During this time, publications on these subjects have remained relatively constant. The word analysis shows that “women” is still the primary category of analysis, along with “gender,” “class,” “men,” “slaves,” “marriage,” “family,” “state,” “politics,” and others. The focus on labor histories and the connections between class and gender persisted, albeit with reduced representation compared with the previous period. An example of this is Bianca Premo’s study of the gendered dimensions of the *mita* in colonial Perú. In this paper, Premo examined the economic lives of Andean women to draw connections between gender and class in colonial societies.²⁷

In this period, there is also a rise in publications that include the categories of state formation and modernity in studying the gender and class aspects of Latin American historical societies. According to Caulfield, historians during the 1990s and 2000s highlighted how social reforms in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries specifically targeted women as the central focus of moral education for the purpose of attaining civilization, progress, and modernization.²⁸ *The Americas*’s academic production during these decades reflects this major historiographical interest. For instance, in her 2007 article, Sandra Aguilar-Rodríguez examines the link between class and gender in nutrition programs in Mexico during the 1940s and 1950s. She delves into the impact of

26. Frank Salomon, “Indian Women of Early Colonial Quito as Seen Through Their Testaments,” *The Americas* 44:3 (January 1988), 328.

27. Bianca Premo, “From the Pockets of Women: The Gendering of the *Mita*, Migration and Tribute in Colonial Chucuito, Peru,” *The Americas* 57:1 (July 2000), 63–93.

28. Caulfield, “The History of Gender,” 449–90.

modernization policies on food practices among working mothers. Her research sheds light on the practices of state formation and modernity in an urban setting, bringing new dimensions into the examination of gender and class in Latin America.²⁹ Christine Ehrick's study of programs of social assistance in twentieth-century Uruguay from the perspective of secular elite "ladies" committees is also an instance of this scholarship linking class, gender, and state formation analysis.³⁰ The article from Robert Buffington and Pablo Piccato discussing the interpretation of narratives surrounding the murder of a woman by other women in Mexico City sheds light on the influence of gender on modern views of crime, and offers insight into the connection between gender, class, and modernity in Latin America.³¹

This era also saw historians taking an interest in studying the relationships of Latin American women with the state. They used primary sources such as criminal and judicial records, as well as popular literature to understand how women negotiated and challenged prevailing gender ideologies. Caulfield pointed out that academic work in this field since the 1990s has emphasized how subaltern women actively engaged and negotiated with the state and systems of power, rather than being passively submissive to gender expectations.³² In *The Americas*, these discussions are reflected in articles such as Erin O'Connor's piece on the negotiations and interpretations of indigenous men and indigenous widows in regard to the Ecuadorean state's marriage laws at the end of the nineteenth century,³³ or Kathryn A. Sloan's article on how working-class young women negotiated their marriage choices with their families and the state in nineteenth-century Oaxaca.³⁴ In addition, Jesse Hingson's essay discusses how Argentinian women advocated for their property and citizenship rights before national authorities during the Rosas Era. The piece illustrates how "[women's] legal maneuvers clearly challenged the images of hearth, home, and caregivers so central to the nineteenth century notion of womanhood."³⁵ All of these pieces used court cases to explore the tensions, interactions, and negotiations between women and the state's prevalent gender norms.

Tinsman argues that, in the 1990s and 2000s, Latin American historiography on women and gender focused on "asserting women as historical actors."³⁶ During these decades, as

29. Sandra Aguilar-Rodríguez, "Cooking Modernity: Nutrition Policies, Class, and Gender in 1940s and 1950s Mexico City," *The Americas* 64:2 (October 2007), 177–205.

30. Christine Ehrick, "Affectionate Mothers and the Colossal Machine: Feminism, Social Assistance and the State in Uruguay, 1910–1932," *The Americas* 58:1 (July 2001), 121–39.

31. Robert Buffington and Pablo Piccato, "Tales of Two Women: The Narrative Construal of Porfirian Reality," *The Americas* 55:3 (January 1999), 391–424.

32. Caulfield, "The History of Gender," 449–90.

33. Erin O'Connor, "Widows' Rights Questioned: Indians, the State, and Fluctuating Gender Ideas in Central Highland Ecuador, 1870–1900," *The Americas* 59:1 (July 2002), 87–106.

34. Kathryn A. Sloan, "Disobedient Daughters and the Liberal State: Generational Conflicts over Marriage Choice in Working Class Families in Nineteenth-Century Oaxaca, Mexico," *The Americas* 63:4 (April 2007), 615–48.

35. Jesse Hingson, "'Savages' into Supplicants: Subversive Women and Restitution Petitions in Córdoba, Argentina during the Rosas Era," *The Americas* 64:1 (July 2007), 84.

36. Tinsman, "A Paradigm of Our Own," 1360.

shown by the historiography that delved into women's relationships with the state, there was a continued focus on women's agency in the academic production of *The Americas*. For example, the journal examined the contributions of prominent female figures in traditionally male-dominated fields such as science, politics, and the arts. Lee M. Penyak's article discussed women's involvement in the advancement of obstetrics medicine in nineteenth-century Mexico.³⁷ Ericka Kim Verba analyzed Violeta Parra's journey as a singer and her interactions and tensions with European modernizing ideals.³⁸ Íñigo García-Bryce's piece on the transnational activism of the Peruvian poet and political activist Magda Portal is also illuminating in terms of "the tensions and contradictions of being a woman in a male-dominated public sphere."³⁹ Diego Javier Luis's 2021 piece explores the crucial role of Afro-Mexican women in shaping spirituality practices in Acapulco during the seventeenth century. This article not only emphasizes the agency of Afro-Mexican women in everyday practices in Acapulco but also highlights their fundamental role in producing knowledge and epistemologies essential for coping with everyday life in the region.⁴⁰

Additionally, Tinsman argues that the Cold War context experienced by Latin American and Caribbean political activists and scholars led to a rise in publications on activism, human rights, violence, and militarism with a women's history perspective during the 1990s and 2000s. Examples of this historiography in *The Americas* include Elizabeth Manley's article on women's local, national, and transnational activism during the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic,⁴¹ and David Carey Jr.'s piece on rape during the dictatorship in Guatemala.⁴²

Lastly, in the 2000s and up to the present, *The Americas's* focus on "women" as the main category of analysis continued. However, during these decades, there was also an increase in publications on masculinities, sexuality, gay studies, and fashion, expanding the scope of examination beyond "women." In his 1997 reflection for the Conference on Latin American History (CLAH) published in *The Americas*, Roger N. Lancaster sheds light on the discussions surrounding gender in Latin American history at that time. For example, Lancaster talks about gender expectations for men in Nicaragua and argues that the ideal of masculinity in this country, which included the expectation for men to be the

37. Lee M. Penyak, "Obstetrics and the Emergence of Women in Mexico's Medical Establishment," *The Americas* 60:1 (July 2003), 59–85.

38. Ericka Kim Verba, "To Paris and Back: Violeta Parra's Transnational Performance of Authenticity," *The Americas* 70:2 (October 2013), 269–302.

39. Íñigo García-Bryce, "Transnational Activist: Magda Portal and the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA), 1926–1950," *The Americas* 70:4 (April 2014): 679–680.

40. Diego Javier Luis, "Galleon Anxiety: How Afro-Mexican Women Shaped Colonial Spirituality in Acapulco," *The Americas* 78:3 (July 2021), 389–413.

41. Elizabeth Manley, "Intimate Violations: Women and the 'Ajusticiamiento' of Dictator Rafael Trujillo, 1944–1961," *The Americas* 69:1 (July 2012), 61–94.

42. David Carey Jr., "Forced and Forbidden Sex: Rape and Sexual Freedom in Dictatorial Guatemala," *The Americas* 69:3 (January 2013), 357–89.

active participants in sexual intercourse, led to the stigmatization of male homosexuality because non-heterosexual men were seen as passive and feminine. Lancaster also encouraged Latin American gender historians to consider masculinities and sexuality beyond the North American context, and “to think of sexualities in Latin America less in terms of stable local identities and more in terms of ongoing volatile processes.”⁴³

Throughout the 2000s and 2010s, scholarship on sexuality and masculinities in *The Americas* included various works. Cristian Berco examined the links between sexuality and nation-building in nineteenth-century Argentina by tracing the legal changes in sodomy regulation,⁴⁴ Martha S. Santos focused on masculinity and honor in nineteenth-century rural Brazil,⁴⁵ and Jonathan D. Ablard discussed masculinity and nation-building in the policies of military service in Argentina during the early twentieth century.⁴⁶ All of these articles highlight honor as a central value that defined masculinity and gender hierarchy in Latin America. Additionally, Alfonso Salgado’s article examines the romantic lives, friendships, and feelings of love among young left-wing activists in Chile during the 1960s. It examines the role of sexuality, gender, and emotions in the formation of bonds and camaraderie among groups of young communists during that period.⁴⁷

The scope of gender and sexuality studies within *The Americas* has recently expanded to include studies on fashion and performance as sites where gender identities are disputed, negotiated, and performed on an everyday basis. Three significant scholarly works on this subject include Regina A. Root’s article, which delves into the concepts of beauty in fashion and print culture in late-nineteenth-century Buenos Aires.⁴⁸ Ageeth Sluis’s study of “Bataclanismo,” the French-inspired spectacle performed in postrevolutionary Mexico, sheds light on how theatrical performance permeated everyday life in early-twentieth-century Mexico and challenged traditional ideas of femininity in urban settings.⁴⁹ Francie Chassen-López’s 2014 piece introduces an ethnic approach to the study of fashion and gender by exploring how the dress of indigenous Zapotec women became a symbol of national identity in early-twentieth-century Mexico.⁵⁰

43. Roger N. Lancaster, “Sexual Positions: Caveats and Second Thoughts on ‘Categories,’” *The Americas* 54:1 (July 1997), 7.

44. Cristian Berco, “Silencing the Unmentionable: Non-Reproductive Sex and the Creation of a Civilized Argentina, 1860–1900,” *The Americas* 58:3 (January 2002), 419–41.

45. Martha S. Santos, “On the Importance of Being Honorable: Masculinity, Survival, and Conflict in the Backlands of Northeast Brazil, Ceará, 1840s–1890,” *The Americas* 64:1 (July 2007), 35–57.

46. Jonathan D. Ablard, “‘The Barracks Receives Spoiled Children and Returns Men’: Debating Military Service, Masculinity and Nation-Building in Argentina, 1901–1930,” *The Americas* 74:3 (July 2017), 299–329.

47. Alfonso Salgado, “Making Friends and Making Out: The Social and Romantic Lives of Young Communists in Chile (1958–1973),” *The Americas* 76:2 (April 2019), 299–326.

48. Regina A. Root, “Searching for the Oasis in Life: Fashion and the Question of Female Emancipation in Late Nineteenth-Century Argentina,” *The Americas* 60:3 (January 2004), 363–90.

49. Ageeth Sluis, “BATACLANISMO! Or, How Female Deco Bodies Transformed Postrevolutionary Mexico City,” *The Americas* 66:4 (April 2010), 469–99.

50. Francie Chassen-López, “The *Traje De Tehuana* as National Icon: Gender, Ethnicity, and Fashion in Mexico,” *The Americas* 71:2 (October 2014), 281–314.

The output of academic work in *The Americas* reflects the key discussions, analysis categories, and trends on women and gender histories in Latin American scholarship. The analysis of *The Americas*'s articles aligns with previous studies in the field, showing that Latin American historians have primarily focused on "women" rather than "gender" as the main category of analysis. The transition from "women" to "gender" in Latin American historiography has not followed a linear path but has instead been influenced by the context of Latin American societies and by the scholarly and political commitment to asserting women's agency in history. Yet, instead of assuming a timeless essence common to all women, Latin American historians have contextualized the category of "women" and demonstrated its intersections with class and racial and ethnic systems of power and social structures. Furthermore, the development of the gender perspective in the realm of Latin American history has yielded valuable insights into new pathways for the field. This includes the examination of masculinities, gay and queer studies, and research on the history of fashion. During the last few decades, publications in *The Americas* have increasingly expanded their scope to include gender as a category, exploring its potential to analyze systems of power, knowledge production, and political identities in Latin America.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

To view supplementary material for this article, please visit <https://doi.org/10.1017/tam.2024.185>.

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