

MARGARET (MEG) WEEKS

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EMPLOYMENT

University of Florida

2023-present

Assistant Professor of Latin American Studies

Affiliate faculty, Department of History

Affiliate faculty, Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

EDUCATION

Harvard University

2023

Ph.D., History with a Secondary Field in the Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality

Dissertation: "From the House to the Street: Sex Workers and Domestic Laborers in Brazil's Democratic Transition"

Committee: Sidney Chalhoub (chair); Alejandro de la Fuente; Cassia Roth; James N. Green; Sueann Caulfield

Winner of the Harold K. Gross Dissertation Prize from the Harvard Department of History

Harvard University

2018

M.A., History

Brown University

2011

B.A. (Honors, Magna cum laude), History

Advisor: James N. Green

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Modern Latin American History

Twentieth-century Brazil

Social Movements

Labor, Gender, Race, and Sexuality

Reproductive Justice

Second and Third-Wave Feminisms

VISITING POSITIONS

Visiting Doctoral Student, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

2022

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Book Project

From the House to the Street: Sex Workers and Domestic Laborers in Brazil's Democratic Transition, currently under review at UNC Press

Book Introduction and Scholarly Annotation

Annotation of *Daughter, Mother, Grandmother, and Whore: The Story of a Woman Who Decided to be a Puta* by Gabriela Leite;

Introduction co-authored with Laura Murray and Esther Teixeira, Duke University Press (2024)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“No Longer Part of the Family: Brazilian Domestic Workers at the National Constituent Assembly, 1987–88,” *Hispanic American Historical Review*, vol. 105, no. 2 (2025).

With Joaze Bernardino-Costa and Renata Lima, “Ativismo das Trabalhadoras Domésticas: da cozinha à arena nacional e internacional/Domestic Workers’ Activism in Brazil: From the Kitchen to the National and International Arenas,” *Cadernos de Pesquisa* special issue (Fundação Carlos Chagas): Trabalho doméstico: casa, mercado, e trabalho (2024).

“A Prostitutes’ Jamboree: The World Whores’ Congresses of the 1980s and the Rise of a New Feminism,” *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, vol. 31, no. 3 (2022).

Winner of the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians 2022 Prize for the Best Article in the fields of the history of women, gender, and/or sexuality

“Meninas desamparadas? A Pastoral da Mulher Marginalizada e o nascimento do movimento brasileiro de prostitutas,” (“Helpless Girls? The Pastoral da Mulher Marginalizada and the Birth of the Brazilian Prostitutes’ Movement”) *Philia*, vol. 3, no.1 (2021).

Article Under Review

With Cassia Roth. “When Will We Be the Ones to Decide? The Struggle to Decriminalize Abortion during Brazil’s Democratic Transition” (first and corresponding author), *Latin American Research Review*.

Book Reviews

Review of Rachel Randall’s *Paid to Care: Domestic Workers in Contemporary Latin American Culture* (2024); *Portuguese Studies* (2024).

Review of Juana María Rodríguez’s *Put a Life: Seeing Latinas, Working Sex* (2023); *A Contracorriente* (2024).

Review of Elyse Ona Singer’s *Lawful Sins: Abortion Rights and Reproductive Governance in Mexico* (2022); *The Latin Americanist*, vol. 67, no. 3 (2023).

Review of Moisés Lino e Silva’s *Minoritarian Liberalism: A Travesti Life in a Brazilian Favela* (2022); *Radical Americas*, vol. 8, no. 1 (2023).

Review of Ashley Mears’s *Very Important People: Status and Beauty in the Global Party Circuit* (2020); *Anthropology of Work Review*, vol. 43, no. 1 (2022).

Review of Heather Berg's *Porn Work: Sex, Labor, and Late Capitalism* (2021); *Sexualities*, vol. 25, no. 8 (2022).

Editorial Positions

Editorial Board Member, *Women's Studies Quarterly*, 2024-2028

SELECTED PUBLIC WRITING

"Pissed Off Putas," *Lux Magazine* (2024).

"The Base of the Labor Pyramid," *New York Review of Books* (2023).

"A Luso-Tropical Holy Grail," (review of Katrina Dodson's translation of *Macunaíma* by Mário de Andrade), *The Baffler* (2023).

"É hora de finalmente descriminalizar a prostituição no Brasil," *Nexo: Políticas Públicas* (2023).

"Chronicles of a Financial Collapse: Carla Zaccagnini's *Cuentos de Cuentas*," *Hyperallergic* (2022).

"The Brilliant Orbit of Clarice Lispector," *Frieze* (2022).

"Decriminalised Futures' at the London Institute of Contemporary Arts," *Artforum* (2022).

"Em nome da mãe: a saga da brasileira que deixou Roraima para fazer um aborto legal na Colômbia," *piani* (2022).

"Eye to Eye with the Beast: The Fight to Decriminalize Abortion in Brazil," *n+1 magazine* (2021).

PRESENTATIONS

Panels Organized

Sex Worker Writing in Translation (with Laura Murray, Esther Teixeira, and Juana María Rodríguez); Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference (2025)

Conference Papers

"Our Bodies Belong to Us: Feminism, Abortion Politics, and Public Health in Post-Dictatorship Brazil," The Struggle from Below: Democracy and Civil Society in the Age of Backsliding: UF Center for Latin American Studies, Center for African Studies, and Center for European Studies Annual Conference (2025)

"The Establishment of Brazil's Legal Abortion Services in the Wake of Redemocratization," American Historical Association Conference (2025)

“Preserving Latin American Archives: A View from Brazil,” American Historical Association Conference (2025)

Roundtable Discussion on Latin America at the End of the Cold War, Latin American Studies Annual Conference (2024)

“Comrade Maid: Militant Domestic Workers During Brazil’s Military Dictatorship,” Sixty Years Later: Rethinking the History of the Brazilian Military Dictatorship Conference, Brown University (2024)

“Putas Políticas: The Brazilian Prostitutes’ Movement During Redemocratization,” American Historical Association Conference (2024)

“Endangered Archives and Post-custodial Archival Management: Preserving the Records of the Federação Nacional das Trabalhadoras Domésticas,” American Historical Association Conference (2024)

“Struggles for Reproductive Justice in Transition-Era Brazil,” Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies Annual Conference (2023)

“Political Whores: Work, Sexual Ethics, and the Brazilian Prostitutes Network,” UCLA Thinking Gender Annual Conference (2023)

“The Historical Memory of the Brazilian Domestic Workers’ Movement,” University of Texas Symposium on Gender, History & Sexuality (2022)

“Without Our Rights There Is No Democracy: Brazilian Domestic Workers at the National Constituent Assembly, 1987–88,” Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference (2022)

“A Prostitutes’ Jamboree: The World Whores’ Congresses of the 1980s and the Rise of a New Feminism,” Crossing Boundaries: Disruption, Disturbance, and Defiance, Rutgers University Susman Graduate Conference (2022)

“*Beijo da rua*: Brazilian Prostitutes Speaking for Themselves,” Brazilian Studies Association Biennial Conference/BRASA (2022)

“Meninas Desamparadas? A Pastoral da Mulher Marginalizada e o nascimento do movimento brasileiro de prostitutas,” Simpósio Internacional da Casa Rui Barbosa (2020)

“The International Committee on Prostitutes’ Rights,” Feminisms and Pornography Conference, Harvard University (2018)

“‘Urbanization Yes, Removal Never!’: Favela Removal and Popular Resistance During Brazil’s Military Dictatorship,” Brazil from Dictatorship to Democracy Conference, Brown University (2014)

Invited Talks

“Putá Politics: Gabriela Leite and Sex Worker Activism in Brazil,” UF Hispanic Student Association Invited Guest Speaker Lecture (2025)

“Catholic Neo-Abolitionism and the Brazilian Prostitutes’ Movement,” Faculty History Workshop, University of Florida (2024)

“The Brazilian Domestic Workers’ Movement: Past and Present Struggles for Racial, Gender, and Economic Justice,” Brazil Studies Seminar, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University (2023)

“When Will We Be the Ones to Decide? The Movement to Decriminalize Abortion during Brazil’s Democratic Transition,” Globalizing Roe v. Wade Discussion Series, University of Georgia (2023)

TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION

Book

Daughter, Mother, Grandmother, and Whore: The Story of a Woman Who Decided to be a Prostitute by Gabriela Leite (memoir of the founder of Brazil’s sex-worker movement), Duke University Press (2024)

Essays and Journalism

“There is No Safe That Can Hold Life” by Ailton Krenak, Kaserne Basel (2023)

“Entreabrir: The Poemobiles of Julio Plaza and Augusto de Campos,” by Gonzalo Aguilar, *Revista Rosa*; included in a bilingual book on the work of Brazilian concrete poet Augusto de Campos (2022)

“Clear the Books” by Ana Clara Costa, *pianú* (2022)

Fiction

“The Orange Tree” by Luisa Geisler, *Absinthe* (2024)

“From Your Arms” by Natalia Timerman, *Absinthe* (2024)

“A True Story” by Natalia Timerman, *Asymptote* (2023)

“Natalina’s Children” by Conceição Evaristo, *Adi* (2022)

“The Box,” by Veronica Stigger, *Two Lines* (2021)

Simultaneous Interpretation

Best Practices Policy Project Event, “Sex Work is Work: Centering our Rights in Economic Empowerment,” Provided simultaneous interpretation for Brazilian activist and congressional candidate Indianarae Siqueira (2022)

Training and Prizes

Short-listed finalist: Cornell University's Institute for Comparative Modernities Global South Translation Fellowship (2022)

Literary Translation Workshop, UCLA Extension School, taught by Elisa Wouk Almino (2020)

ARCHIVAL PRESERVATION, CURATION, AND PUBLIC HISTORY PROJECTS

University of California at Los Angeles Library's Modern Endangered Archives Program; grantee, co-coordinator with Joaze Bernardino-Costa of the Universidade de Brasília and Danielle Alves de Oliveira of the Universidade Federal da Paraíba; received a \$15,000 Planning Grant to coordinate the organization, processing, and preparation for digitization of the archival collection of Brazil's National Federation of Domestic Workers (2021-2023)

Received a \$50,000 Project Grant to digitize the archive of Brazil's National Federation of Domestic Workers (2023-2025)

Be Yourself, LGBT Rio

Co-curator of an archival exhibition on the history of Brazil's sex-worker movement as part of Rio's Pride Month (2022)

Harvard Library Pforzheimer Fellowship • Worked with Schlesinger Library staff to use library collections to create a curriculum for a Harvard College course, plan a conference, and curate an exhibition on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of Roe v. Wade (2021)

TEACHING

Courses Taught at UF

Social Movements and Gender: A View from Latin America; Reproduction and Reproductive Justice in the Americas; History and Politics of Care and Caregiving; Brazilian History Through Literature and Film

Undergraduate Thesis Adviser, Harvard College

Studies of Women Gender, and Sexuality

2021–22

Teaching Assistant, Harvard College

"Ancestry," Maya Jasanoff, Gen. Ed.

Spring 2021

"Brazil Since Independence," Sidney Chalhoub, History

Fall 2019

"History of Modern Mexico," Kirsten Weld, History

Spring 2019

"Early Modern Europe," Tamar Herzog, History

Fall 2018

Tutorial Instructor, Harvard College

Taught a seminar on reproductive justice to a group of concentrators in the Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality as part of the WGS Junior Tutorial

2021

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

- Put a Lives: Gabriela Leite, Carol Leigh, and Sex Worker Activism from Brazil to the Bay
Panelist at a book launch event and film screening as part of the Bay Area Sex Worker Art and Film Festival at San Francisco's Tenderloin Museum (2025)
- International Women's Day Commemoration at the Rio Film Festival, Rio de Janeiro
Moderated a panel on abortion politics in Brazil after a screening of the film *Lingui: Sacred Bonds* (2022)

PRIZES AND DISTINCTIONS

- Harold K. Gross Dissertation Prize**, Harvard University Department of History (2023)
- Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Prize for Best Article in the fields of the history of women, gender, and/or sexuality**, "A Prostitutes' Jamboree: The World Whores' Congresses of the 1980s and the Rise of a New Feminism" (2022)
- Certificate of Distinction in Teaching**, Harvard University (2018-2019)
- Christian Yegen Prize for an Outstanding Honors Thesis in the Discipline of History**, Brown University (2011)

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Rothman Faculty Fellowship, University of Florida	2025
Brazil Cities Grant, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard	2022
Jens Aubrey Westengard Scholarship, Harvard University	2022
Jorge Paulo Lemann Research Fellowship, DRCLAS, Harvard	2022
History Department Publication Grant, Harvard University	2022
Writing Grant, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs	2021
Merit Term-Time Scholarship, GSAS, Harvard University	2020
John H. Coatsworth Latin American History Fellowship, Harvard University	2020
Brazil Research Grant, DRCLAS	2020
Travel Grant, DRLCAS	2017-19
Travel Grant, Afro-Latin American Research Institute, Harvard University	2017-19
History Department Summer Travel Grant, Harvard University	2017-22
Whipple V.N. Jones Graduate Fellowship, Harvard University	2017

LANGUAGES

Portuguese (fluent)

Spanish (fluent)
French (intermediate)

AFFILIATIONS

Brazilian Studies Association
Latin American Studies Association
American Historical Association
Conference on Latin American History
Portuguese English Literary Translators Association

REFERENCES

Prof. Sidney Chalhoub
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Harvard University
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Cambridge, MA 02138
617-495-3551
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Assoc. Prof. Cassia Roth
Dept. of Society, Env. and Health Equity
University of California, Riverside
900 University Ave.
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706-542-2053
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Prof. James N. Green
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Brown University
Sharpe House 122
Providence, RI 02912
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Additional teaching references

Prof. Maya Jasanoff
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27 Kirkland Street, 403
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Prof. Tamar Herzog
Dept. of History
Harvard University
1730 Cambridge Street, S425
Cambridge, MA 02138
therzog@fas.harvard.edu

Prof. Emily Hind
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University of Florida
1523 Union Road
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