

## VIVIAN BRUCE CONGER

### **Personal Data**

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### **Academic Training**

Ph.D., Cornell University; 1994  
Title: "Being Weak of Body But Firm of Mind and Memory": Widowhood in  
Colonial America, 1630-1750, Directed by: Mary Beth Norton  
M.A., Cornell University, 1987  
B.A. and Integral Honors Degree, Summa Cum Laude, LeMoyne College, 1984

### **Fields of Specialization**

Major field: American Colonial and Revolutionary History and Women's History with  
Mary Beth Norton  
Minor fields: Tudor/Stuart England with Clive Holmes and Rachel Weil  
Women's Studies with David Holmberg and Isabel V. Hull

### **Teaching Experience**

Ithaca College, August 2008-present Associate Professor  
Fall 2002-August 2008 Assistant Professor  
Coordinator of Women's Studies, Fall 2007-Summer 2009  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Spring 2002  
Queen's College, Spring 2002  
St. Michael's College, Fall 1995-Spring 1998  
Kenyon College, Fall 1991-Spring 1995  
Cornell University, Fall 1985-Spring 1991

### **Scholarship**

*The Widows' Might: Widowhood and Gender in Early British America*, New York University  
Press, March 2009

“There Is Greate Odds Between A Mans Being At Home And A Broad’: Deborah Franklin and the Eighteenth-Century Home,” *Gender and History*, Special Issue: Homes and Homecomings, forthcoming

“If Widow, Both Housewife and Husband May Be: Widows' Testamentary Freedom in Colonial Massachusetts and Maryland,” in *Women and Freedom in Colonial America*, ed., Larry Eldridge (New York: New York University Press, 1996)

### **Papers Presented**

Discussant, panel entitled “*Women Who Colonized, Negotiated, and Held Their Liquor: The Significance of Gender in Social Encounters of the Colonial Southeast, 1606-1821*,” Southern Conference on Women’s History, Columbia, South Carolina, June 6, 2009

“‘Certainty is the Mother of Repose’: Widowhood, Gender, and Probate Law in Colonial Maryland and South Carolina,” a paper presented for the panel I put together entitled “Women and the Law in the Early American South” at the 74th Annual Meeting of the Southern Historical Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 2008

“There Is Greate Odds Between A Mans Being At Home And A Broad’: Deborah Franklin and the Eighteenth-Century Home,” SUNY Binghamton Upstate Early American History Workshop, October 24 (all papers are pre-circulated and then discussed in depth at the workshop)

“There Is Greate Odds Between A Mans Being At Home and a Broad’: Deborah Franklin and the Construction of the Eighteenth-Century Home,” University of Nottingham, Nottingham, Great Britain, March 26-28, 2008. I was one of 23 international scholars selected to participate in a three-day colloquium entitled “Homes and Homecomings” sponsored by Gender and History

Chair, “Seeking Lady Justice: Women, Gender and the Court,” forthcoming, Fourteenth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women: “Continuities and Changes,” Minneapolis, MN, June 12-15, 2008

“Rebecca Holmes Amory: Widowhood, Gender and Regional Consciousness,” paper presented at the Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Memphis, TN, November 5, 2004

“Rebecca Holmes Amory: A Study in Early American Comparative Widowhood,” paper presented at “The Widows’ Might,” conference sponsored by the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, April 2, 2004

“Widowhood and the Gendered Construction of Communities in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century America,” paper presented for St. Michael’s College Faculty Seminar entitled *Culture, Identity, and Community: Conversations Across Disciplines*, Fall 1997

"'A Widow in Civill Affairs is Often Forced to Act a Double Part of Man and Woman': Widowhood and Civil Society in Colonial Massachusetts and South Carolina." Paper for a panel which I co-organized entitled *Three Histories of Widowhood and the Gendered Construction of Civil Society* at the American Historical Association Annual Meetings, Atlanta, Georgia, January 8, 1996

"Widowhood and the Ambiguity of the Early American Family," paper presented for a panel entitled *Writing Home: The Language of Families in Eighteenth-Century America* at the Northeast American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies Meeting, Worcester, MA, September 26, 1996

"She May Be a Mother When She Ceases to Bear': Widowhood and Gender Ambiguity in Colonial Massachusetts" for a panel which I organized entitled *Husbands and Wives, Widows and Spinsters: The Formation of Gender in Colonial America* at the First Annual Institute for Early American History and Culture Conference, University of Michigan, June 3, 1995

"Widowhood in Colonial Maryland," a paper presented for the panel I organized, the Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 2, 1990

### **Reviews**

Review of "Women, Gender, and Families," *Converging Worlds*, edited by Louise A. Breen, for Routledge Press, September 2008

Review of "Lydia Prout's Dreadfullest Thought: Female Piety and Maternal Bereavement in Provincial Boston," for *Journal of American History*, June 2008

Book Review, *Canadian Journal of History*, volume 42, number 3 (Winter 2007), *American Curiosities: Cultures of Natural History in the Colonial British Atlantic World*

Book Review, H-South Carolina (a division of H-Net Humanities and Social Science Online, an international interdisciplinary organization of scholars and teachers), *The Politics of Taste in Antebellum Charleston*, February 2008

Book Review, *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, 106, 2/3 (April/ July) 2006, *Masterful Women: Slaveholding Widows from the American Revolution through the Civil War*

In-depth review of Hewitt and Lawson's, *Exploring American Histories*, a proposed new survey text for Bedford-St. Martin Press, September 2004

Book review, *Journal of the Early Republic*, Vol. 12, No. 1, Spring 1992, review of *The Diary of Elizabeth Drinker*, 3 volumes, edited by Elaine Forman Crane

### **Public presentations**

“Constructing Rosie the Riveter: World War II, Women, and Propaganda,” Chemung Valley History Museum’s March into History Lecture Series, Elmira, NY, March 20, 2008

“Women on the Cutting Edge: 18th-Century ‘She Merchants’ and 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Entrepreneurs,” Women in Leadership Experience sponsored by Ithaca College’s Center for Student Leadership and Involvement, March 24, 2007

Center for Faculty Excellence Colloquium: "Finding the Right Balance: Combining Scholarship with Teaching at Ithaca College," March 1, 2007

### **Professional Enhancement**

Center for Faculty Excellence, “Teaching the Class of 2011,” The May Institute, May 21-24, 2007

Center for Faculty Excellence Course Design Workshops, "Creating Significant Learning Experiences" and "Assessment and the Learning Portfolio," May 23-27, 2005.

In-depth review of Hewitt and Lawson’s, *Exploring American Histories*, a proposed new survey text for Bedford-St. Martin Press, September 2004

Selected by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and The Council of Independent Colleges to participate in *Political History of the Early Republic: New Challenges, Old Strengths* led by Professor Joyce Appleby, Columbia University, June 22-27, 2003.

The Summer Faculty Institute on Multicultural Teaching and Curriculum Transformation, Ithaca College, May 19-23, 2003

*The Many Legalities of Early America*, a conference sponsored by the Institute of Early American History and Culture and the Institute of Bill of Rights Law, November 22-24, 1996, Williamsburg, VA. For this conference, the “audience” received the 30 papers in advance and at the meetings participated in an in-depth discussion and analysis of those papers.

May 31-June 5, 1992, Attended the Great Lakes Colleges Association Course Design and Teaching Workshop

Active participation in five electronic bulletin boards: H-Survey (to exchange ideas about teaching approaches, methods, problems, and resources related to introductory United States history courses), H-Teach (discusses methods of teaching history, the use of new technologies in and outside of the classroom, and specific teaching tools including texts, videos, exams, and assignments), H-Women, H-SHEAR (early American republic network), and H-OIEAHC (American colonial history network).

### **Nationally Competitive Fellowships and Awards**

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow (Library Resident Search Fellow), American Philosophical Society, September 2009

Frances Hiatt Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, Summer 1989

Littleton-Griswold Research Grant, American Historical Association, 1988

New York State Archives and Records Administration Research Residency Award, Fiscal Year 1988-1989

### **University Fellowships and Awards**

Ithaca College Provost's Office Grant for Faculty Research, Summer 2009

Ithaca College Provost's Office International Travel Grant, February 2008

Ithaca College Provost's Office Instructional Development Fund: Direct Course Improvement Grant, Fall 2006

Ithaca College Provost's Office Small Grant, Fall 2006

Ithaca College School of Humanities and Sciences Emerson Collaborative Grant, Fall 2006

Ithaca College School of Humanities and Sciences Emerson Collaborative Grant, Winter 2005

Ithaca College Provost's Office Grant for Faculty Research, Summer 2004

Ithaca College Small Grant, Fall 2003

St. Michael's College Faculty Development Grant, \$1800 to conduct research in Charleston and Columbia, South Carolina

Martha Barrett Scholarship and Daughters of the American Revolution Fellowship, History Department, Spring 1991

Three-Year Teaching Fellowship, Sage Graduate School, Summer and Fall, 1988 (This is a competitive fellowship awarded only after three years of teaching assistant experience)

Gertrude A. Gillmore Fellowship and Daughters of the American Revolution Fellowship, History Department, Spring 1989

Research Grant from the Beatrice Brown Award Fund, Women's Studies Program, December 1987

### **University Committees**

Coordinator, Women's Studies Program, Fall 2007-Summer 2009

Faculty advisor, IC Feminists, Fall 2006-Spring 2009

Faculty Senate, School of Humanities and Sciences, Ithaca College, Fall 2004-Spring 2009 (President, Fall 2008-Spring 2009; member of the Executive Committee, Fall 2006-Spring 2009)

Ithaca Fund Committee, School of Humanities and Sciences, Fall 2006-Spring 2008

Planning & Priorities Committee, Ithaca College, Fall 2003-Spring 2006

Women's Studies Executive Board, Ithaca College, Fall 2002-Present

Personnel Committee, Department of History, Ithaca College, Spring 2008-present  
 Mayrock Speaker Committee, Fall 2008-Spring 2009  
 Curriculum Committee, Department of History, Ithaca College, Fall 2003-Spring 2007  
 Search Committee, Department of History, Ithaca College, Fall 2004-Spring 2005  
 Hal Emery Writing Award Committee, Department of History, Ithaca College, Fall 2003-Spring 2008  
 Phi Alpha Theta Faculty Advisor, St. Michael's College  
 Library Committee, St. Michael's College  
 Founded St. Michael's College Women's Caucus  
 Department of History Graduate School Advisor, Kenyon College  
 Pre-Law Advisor, Kenyon College  
 Kenyon College Law and Society Advisory Committee  
 Kenyon College American Studies Advisory Committee  
 Kenyon College Women's Studies Advisory Committee  
 Great Lakes College Association Women's Studies Committee  
 Women's Studies Executive Board, Cornell University  
 Women's Studies Steering Committee, Cornell University

### **Professional Associations**

American Historical Association  
 Organization of American Historians  
 Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture  
 Society for Historians of the Early American Republic

### **Courses Taught**

United States History to 1865 (lecture/discussion)  
 United States History Since 1865 (lecture/discussion)  
 Colonial America, 1607 to 1763 (lecture/discussion)  
 Villages and Peoples of Colonial America (seminar)  
 Power and the Fate of Republics: The Early American Legacy, The Trial of Anne Hutchinson and New York City in the American Revolution (A "Reacting to the Past" intermediate honors seminar)  
 Pirates, Rebels and Slaves: British Sovereignty in the Atlantic World (Ithaca Seminar)  
 Witchcraft in a Cross-Cultural Perspective: Witches in History, Myth and Fiction (Honors seminar)  
 The Age of the American Revolution, 1763 to 1815 (lecture/discussion)  
 Jeffersonian and Jacksonian America: The Era of Expansion and Reform (undergraduate lecture/discussion and graduate seminar )  
 Consumerism and the World of Goods in Eighteenth-Century British America (senior seminar)  
 Women in American Society, 1500 to 1980 (lecture/discussion)  
 Women and the American Experience, 1607 to 1870 (lecture/discussion)  
 Women and the American Experience, 1870 To 1980 (Lecture/Discussion)

The Age of Women's Liberation: Politics and Culture in Post WWII America (Senior Seminar)

Intimate Friendships and Illicit Loves: The History of American Sexuality (First Year Seminar/Ithaca Seminar)

From Witches to Warriors: Women in Colonial and Revolutionary America (seminar)

American Civilization to 1865 (American Studies seminar)

Women in Search of Utopia (senior seminar)

Social Construction of Gender Roles in American Since 1850 (Senior Seminar)

Law and the Family (Law and Society Concentration Senior Seminar)

Introduction to American Studies (team taught, interdisciplinary lecture/discussion course)

### **Other Work Experience**

President, The Travel Docktors, June 1998-June 2002

Head Research Assistant for Mary Beth Norton's "Gender in Seventeenth-Century America," responsible for supervising undergraduate and graduate coders, June-August 1985, June-August 1986 and June-August 1987.

Tutor, LeMoyne College Writing Center, 1982-1984