

## **2a (M/Tu). Gender Frontiers and Research Commentary**

**Joseph Hawkins, *A History of a Voyage to the Coast of Africa: And Travels Into the Interior of That Country...* (1797), excerpts from 57-58, 104-105.**

Joseph Hawkins is an young man from England who worked on a slave ship in the 1790s.

- What is Hawkins' view on African women and women in general in this passage?
- Given what you learned in lecture #2 about how Europeans described Africans, and what you learned in this week's lecture #3 about what historians have called "gender frontiers" of misunderstanding and misinterpretation, how might you reinterpret Hawkins' statements from the perspective of the people he describes?
- Hawkins claims that the Africans have no shame. How does this reflect early modern European views on patriarchy and appropriate gender roles?
- Do you see any places where Hawkins seems to be critiquing European practices?

## **Father Geronimo Boscana Describes Acágchemem Women's Marriage & Childbearing, 1832**

Father Boscana is a Franciscan missionary in nineteenth-century California. He is known for his detailed ethnographic studies of California Indians.

Acágchemem are Native Americans who lived in what is now Orange County/San Diego counties. They are sometimes known as Juaneño.

- What is the topic of this excerpt? What might be the influences of Boscana's Catholic religious beliefs on the topics he covers?
- Why might Boscana think that it was important to document marital customs of the Indians he wanted to convert to Catholicism?
- How similar or different do Acágchemem marital customs seem to what you know about early modern European marriage customs? Do you think there are more similarities or differences between courting and marital practices between the two cultures?
- Why does Boscana describe childbirth the way he does? Can you relate that to some of the information from Lecture #2?

## **Jennifer Morgan, "How Historians Research," *Ben Franklin's World* podcast, ep. 70.**

- What did you learn about enslaved women's lives from this interview? Did anything surprise you?
- How does Morgan show that women were of particular importance to a race-based slave system?
- How did Morgan go about her research? What were some of the challenges of writing the history of enslaved women in the 1600s?

- What did motherhood mean under slavery?
- How does the historical archive perform racecraft?

## **2b (W/Th). Women's Labor Documents**

### **1. Comparing Women's Indentures**

- Try to find as many comparisons as possible among these three indentures. For instance, what different responsibilities do Sarah Baker, Margaret Colly, and Maude have laid out for them? What happens at the end of their indentures? Who is involved in their indenturing?
- How does the language of these three indentures vary? What might that tell you about racial divisions in the Anglo-American colonies?

### **2. Elizabeth Sandwith Drinker Diary Work-related Excerpts, c. 1758–1771**

Elizabeth Sandwith was born in 1734 to an elite merchant family, and married Henry Drinker in 1761. She was a Philadelphia Quaker who kept probably the most detailed diary of any colonial American woman -- 36 handwritten volumes. She was an elite white woman who was formally educated.

- What kind of work does Elizabeth Drinker do? How does it compare to Mary Prince's labor?
- Who are the people she usually describes working with?
- What can you learn about childrearing (specifically, breastfeeding) from the diary?

### **3. Mary Prince Describes Her Work as an Enslaved Salt Raker**

Mary Prince was an enslaved African woman born in Bermuda. She wrote this description as part of her life story (genre of the slave narrative) that was published in London as part of anti-slavery efforts there.

- How does Mary Prince's labor compare to the other women's labor you read this week?
- What do you learn about the experience of being enslaved from this reading? Is slavery just about the kind of labor a person did? What other aspects of life were determined by enslavement? How did it feel to read about the violence and trauma Prince describes?
- How does Mary Prince portray slave owners? This work was written to support abolitionist (ending slavery) efforts. How might that influence Prince's writing? Does it change the facts and horrors of what she reports?