

Grace E. Coolidge
History Department
Grand Valley State University
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EDUCATION

Indiana University, Bloomington

Ph.D., History, July 2001

Dissertation: "Families in Crisis: Women, Guardianship and the Nobility in Early Modern Spain."

Dissertation directed by Dr. Helen Nader and Dr. James Riley

Qualifying Exams in the fields of Early Modern Europe, Colonial Latin America, and Spanish Literature, passed Spring 1997.

M.A., History, December 1994

St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN

B. A., History, Magna Cum Laude, May 1993

POSITIONS HELD

Professor (with tenure), Grand Valley State University Department of History, at present.

Duties include teaching early modern Europe, Writing History, and Gender History in the History department and the Honors College, University service, and student advising.

Associate Professor (with tenure), Grand Valley State University Department of History, 2007-2014

Assistant Professor, Grand Valley State University Department of History, 2001 to 2007.

Associate Instructor, Indiana University Departments of History and Academic Support, 1994-2001

PUBLICATIONS

Book Monographs

Sex, Gender, and Illegitimacy in the Castilian Noble Family, 1400-1600 (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2022); Honorable Mention for the 2023 Book Award from the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender.

Gender, Guardianship, and the Nobility in Early Modern Spain (Farnham, England: Ashgate, 2011)

Edited Volume

The Formation of the Child in Early Modern Spain (Farnham, England: Ashgate, 2014)

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

"Economies of Death: Wills, Gender and Resilience in Toledo, Spain (1576-1697)," *Gender & History*, vol. 38, no. 2, July 2026: 464-475.

- “Noble Maternity in Castile, 1400-1650,” in *Early Modern Maternities in the Iberian Atlantic*, edited by Emily Colbert Cairns and Nieves Romero-Diaz (Amsterdam University Press, 2024)
- “Death and Gender in Late Sixteenth-Century Toledo,” in *Women and Community in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia*, edited by Michelle Armstrong-Partida, Alexandra Guerson, and Dana Wessell Lightfoot (University of Nebraska Press, 2020); Winner of the 2020 Collaborative Project Award from the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender.
- “Evolving Families: Realities and Images of Stepfamilies, Remarriage, and Half-siblings in Early Modern Spain,” co-authored with Lyndan Warner, in *Gendered Temporalities*, edited by Merry Wiesner-Hanks (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2018)
- “Half-Sibling Relationships, Illegitimacy, and Virtual Stepfamilies among the Early Modern Spanish Nobility,” in *Stepfamilies in Europe, 1400-1800*, edited by Lyndan Warner (New York: Routledge, 2018)
- “Aristocracia y Élités Urbanas,” in *Las escritoras españolas de la Edad Moderna. Historia y guía para la investigación*, edited Nieves Baranda and Anne J. Cruz (Madrid: UNED, 2018)
- “Aristocracy and the Urban Elite,” in *The Routledge Research Companion to Early Modern Spanish Women Writers*, edited Nieves Baranda and Anne J. Cruz (New York: Routledge, 2017). Volume won the prize for the best collaborative project published on women and gender in 2018 from the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender.
- “Investing in the Lineage: Children in the Early Modern Spanish Nobility, 1350-1750,” in *The Formation of the Child in Early Modern Spain*, edited Grace E. Coolidge (Farnham: Ashgate, 2014)
- “Contested Masculinity: Noblemen and Their Mistresses in Early Modern Spain,” in *Contested Spaces of Nobility in Early Modern Europe*, edited Charles Lipp and Matthew P. Romaniello (Farnham: Ashgate, February 2011)
- “‘A Vile and Abject Woman’: Noble Mistresses, Legal Power, and the Family in Early Modern Spain,” *The Journal of Family History*, vol. 32, no. 3, July 2007: 195-214.
- “‘Neither dumb, deaf, nor destitute of understanding’: Women as Guardians in Early Modern Spain,” *Sixteenth Century Journal*, vol. XXXVI, No. 3, Fall 2005: 673-693.
- “Choosing Her Own Buttons: The Guardianship of Doña Magdalena de Bobadilla,” in *Power and Gender in Renaissance Spain: Eight Women of the Mendoza Family, 1450-1650*, edited by Helen Nader (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2004).

Encyclopedia Article

- “Guardianship,” in *Encyclopedia of Women in the Renaissance: Italy, France, and England*, Diana Robin, Anne Larsen, and Carole Levin, editors, ABC-CLIO, March 2007.

Recent Book Reviews

Blood, Land, and Power: The Rise and Fall of the Spanish Nobility and Lineages in the Early Modern Period by Manuel Perez-Garcia for *The English Historical Review*, 2022.

Women Warriors in Early Modern Spain, ed. by Susan L. Fischer and Frederick A. De Armas for *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies*, vol. 22, no. 3, 2021.

At the First Table: Food and Social Identity in Early Modern Spain by Jodi Campbell for *Renaissance Quarterly*, vol. 71, no. 2, Summer 2018.

Urban Spectacle and the End of Spanish Frontier Culture, 1460-1492 by Thomas Devaney for *The Bulletin for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies*, vol. 41, no. 1, 2016, pp. 129-30

Damas de la Casa de Mendoza: Historias, leyendas y olvidos edited by Esther Alegre Carvajal for *Early Modern Women*, vol. 10, no. 2, 2016, pp. 198-201.

The Fight for Status and Privilege in Late Medieval and Early Modern Castile, 1465-1598 by Michael J. Crawford for *The American Historical Review*, vol. 120, no. 4, 2015, p. 1565

Early Modern Habsburg Women: Transnational Contexts, Cultural Conflicts, Dynastic Continuities edited by Anne J. Cruz and Maria Galli Stampino for *The Journal of Modern History*, vol. 87, no. 3, 2015, pp. 706-707.

Review Essay: *The Renaissance of Empire in Early Modern Europe* by Thomas James Dandeleit for *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, vol. XLVI, no. 1, 2015, pp. 113-118.

PAPERS PRESENTED

“Diverse Maternities: Motherhood in the Castilian Noble Household,” at the Renaissance Society of American Conference, San Francisco, February 19-21, 2026.

“Death, Gender, and Resilience in Early Modern Toledo, Spain,” at Beyond the Limits of Trauma: Premodern and Non-western Psychological Suffering/Healing Conference, co-sponsored by the Centre for Culture and the Mind, University of Copenhagen and the ARQ National Psychotrauma Center, Amsterdam, in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 19-20, 2024.

“Diversity in the Noble Family,” at the Canadian Renaissance Society Conference, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, June 13-15, 2024.

“The Collective Experience of the Castilian Noble Family, 1400-1650,” at the HEX Conference Collective Experiences in History, Tampere University, Finland, March 13-15, 2023.

“Sex Work and the Noble Family: Illegitimacy in Fifteenth and Sixteenth Century Castile,” at the Renaissance Society of America Conference, April 13, 2021, held virtually.

“Sex, Death, and Illegitimacy: Reading Noble Wills in Spain 1400-1600,” at “Passing on: Property, Family, and Death in Narratives of Inheritance” conference at Aarhus University, Denmark, November 13, 2019.

- “Holding the Noble Family Together: Sex, Death, and Remarriage in Spain, 1400-1600,” at the Renaissance Society of America Conference, Toronto, CA, March 17-19, 2019.
- “Evolving Families: Realities and Images of Stepfamilies, Remarriage, and Half-siblings in Early Modern Spain,” co-authored and co-presented with Lyndan Warner at the European Social Sciences History Conference in Belfast, Ireland, April 7, 2018.
- “Responsible Fathers or Deadbeat Dads?: Noblemen and Their Illegitimate Children in Early Modern Spain,” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Milwaukee, WI, October 26-19, 2017.
- “‘My necessary and inexcusable obligation’: Illegitimate Children and Noble Families in Early Modern Spain,” at the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 16-20, 2016.
- “Death and Gender in Early Modern Castile,” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Vancouver, Canada, October 22-25, 2015.
- “Sibling Relationships and Illegitimacy in Sixteenth Century Spain,” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Vancouver, Canada, October 22-25, 2015.
- “Friendship and Obligation: Sibling Relationships and Illegitimacy in the Early Modern Spanish Nobility,” at the European Social Science History Conference, Vienna, Austria, April 23-26, 2014.
- “Mistresses, Illegitimate Children, and the Patriarchy in Sixteenth-Century Spain,” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Cincinnati, October 25-27, 2012.
- “Complicated Families: The Remarriage of Noble Widows in Early Modern Spain,” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Fort Worth, October 27-30, 2011.
- “Masculinity and the Noble Mistress in Early Modern Spain,” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Geneva, Switzerland, May 25-28, 2009.
- “Securing the Succession: Female Guardians and the Legal System in Early Modern Spain,” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, October 25-28, 2007.
- “On the Margins of the Family: Power, Gender, and the Noble Mistress in Early Modern Spain,” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, October 26-29, 2006.
- “Inheriting a Violent Society: Women, Death, and Power in Early Modern Spain,” at the annual conference of the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, March 10-13, 2005.
- “‘A Vile and Abject Woman’: Patriarchy, Gender, and the Noble Mistress in Early Modern Spain,” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, October 30-November 2, 2003.
- “‘Be Kind to Her for She Has Been With Me’: Noble Mistresses and the Patriarchy in Early Modern Spain,” at the Renaissance Society of America’s Annual Conference, Toronto March 27 – 29, 2003.

“‘With License and Authority’: Female Guardians and the Power of the Arranged Marriage in Early Modern Spain,” at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, St. Louis October 29-31, 1999.

“A Place for Powerful Women: Guardianship in the Spanish Nobility,” at the conference of the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, April 15-18, 1999.

“Choosing Her Own Buttons: The Guardianship of Doña Magdalena de Bobadilla, 1561-1575” at the conference of the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, April 24-27, 1997.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Panel Chair for a workshop titled “Resilience and Reconstruction: Histories of the Present,” at the Center for Culture and the Mind, University of Copenhagen, November 30-December 1, 2023.

Organized and presented workshop titled “Performing Gender and Capital in Early Modern Spain and Mexico,” with Valentina Tikoff, DePaul University; Elena Deanda, Washington College; and Elizabeth Franklin Lewis, University of Mary Washington at Attending to Early Modern Women, Newberry Library, Chicago, September 30-October 1, 2022

Organized and presented workshop titled “Stepfamilies in Europe 1400 to 1800,” with Lyndan Warner, St. Mary’s University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada at Attending to Early Modern Women, Milwaukee, WI, June 2015.

Chair and Organizer, “Many Lives, Many Places, Many Stories: Spaces of Childhood in Early Modern Spain,” at the American Historical Society Annual Meeting, January 4, 2013.

Organized and presented workshop titled “Royal and Aristocratic Networks in Habsburg Europe,” with Silvia Mitchell, Miami University, Florida and Vanessa de Cruz Medina, Charles Antwerp Foundation, Madrid at Attending to Early Modern Women, Milwaukee, WI, June 2012.

Invited Talks

“Cherishing the Children: Childhood and the Noble Family in Early Modern Spain, 1400-1650,” for the Meadows Museum, Dallas, TX on October 25, 2023.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9vWdKsHCQE>

CLASSES TAUGHT

HST 102 European Civilization

HSC 201 History of the Scientific Revolution

HST 200 Writing History: Everyday Life in Europe, 1400-1600

HNR 151/153 Bittersweet: A History of Chocolate (for the Honors College)

HST 364 Renaissance and Reformation

HST 376 History of the Witch Hunts

HST 371 Gender and Sexuality in Early Modern Europe (cross-listed with Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)

HST 400 Religion and Madness in Early Modern Europe (Junior Seminar)

AWARDS AND HONORS

Honorable Mention, Book Award 2022, Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, Teaching the Reformation after 500 Years, Calvin College, July 2016.

Barbara Jordan Award, The Women's Commission, Grand Valley State University, March 2012.

Faculty of Distinction, Omicron Delta Kappa, Grand Valley State University, January 2012.

History Department Outstanding Teaching Award, Indiana University, Spring 1997.

Phi Beta Kappa, St. Olaf College, Spring 1993.

Senior Women's Honor Society, St. Olaf College, 1992-93.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Faculty Summer Research Stipend, Grand Valley State University, Summer 2014

Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence Mini-Grant, Grand Valley State University, 2011, 2013, 2025.

Faculty Summer Research Stipend, Grand Valley State University, Summer 2010

Faculty Summer Research Grant, Grand Valley State University, Summer 2005

Faculty Summer Stipend Grant, Grand Valley State University, Summer 2003

Fulbright IIE Fellowship, Full Grant, Spain, 1997-98

Research Grant from the Society for Cultural Cooperation between the Spanish Government and United States Universities, 1997-98

Andressohn Dissertation Research Grant, Fall 1997

Indiana University History Department Package Fellowship, 1993-1996

Indiana University College of Arts and Sciences Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant, Summer 1996

Andressohn Pre-Dissertation Travel Grants, Summer 1994 and Summer 1996

Indiana University Graduate School Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant, Summer 1994

National Merit Scholar, St. Olaf College, 1989-1993

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

History Department Outreach and Awards Committee, Chair, 2020-2023; member 2024-2025

History Department Personnel Task Force, Chair, 2016-2017.

Organized Author's Reception for History Department, 2013-2024.

History Department Personnel Committee, Grand Valley State University, member 2009-2010, 2012-2013, 2016-17, 2024-2025, 2025-2026; Chair 2017-2018, 2026-2027.

Reviewer for the Grand Valley State University Journal of History, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2018, 2021.

History Department Latin American Search Committee, member 2011-2012.

Co-coordinator, Great Lakes History Conference, 2015-2016.

Panel Chair/participant, Great Lakes History Conference, 2001- 2008, 2012, 2013, 2024.

History Department Visitor Committee Chair, Grand Valley State University, 2008-9.

History Department Middle East Search Committee, member 2008-2009.

History Department Medieval Search Committee, member 2007-2008.

History Department Assessment Committee, Grand Valley State University, 2006.

Faculty Advisor, Phi Alpha Theta, Grand Valley State University, 2003-2006.

Breen Prize Committee, Grand Valley State University, Winter 2003 and 2004.

Niemeyer Scholarship Committee, Grand Valley State University, Winter 2004.

History Department World History Search Committee, member 2003.

History Day Judge, Grand Valley State University, 2002, 2011, 2020, 2021.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES SERVICE

Faculty Development Committee, member 2015-2018.

Faculty Council, member 2008-2009, 2020-2023; chair 2009-2011.

CLAS Visioning Process Facilitator, 2021.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, mentor for the Faculty Personnel Portfolio workshop, November, 2025.

Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, leader of Faculty to Faculty Mentoring Community: Women in Higher Education, August 2024-May 2025

Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, co-leader for a learning community on the book *Generations*, Spring 2024

Student Summer Scholars Program Mentor for Ian McGuckin, Stiner Scholar, Summer 2022
Program Review Committee Member, 2021.

Ex-Officio Consultant for the Brooks College Faculty Council and the Brooks College Ad-Hoc Committee on Promotion and Tenure Guidelines, 2013-14.

University Writing Skills Committee, member 2012-2014.

Faculty Advisor for the student group Voices for Healthy Choices at Grand Valley State University, 2010-2016.

Undergraduate Research Council, Grand Valley State University, member 2008-9.

University Housing Committee, Grand Valley State University, 2006.

McNair Scholar Mentor, Grand Valley State University, Summer 2004 and Summer 2006.

Faculty Mentor, Student Summer Scholars Program, Grand Valley State University, 2006, 2022.

Scholarship Interviews, Grand Valley State University, Winter 2004-5.

Padnos International Scholarship Committee, Grand Valley State University, 2003-2006.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Secretary, Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender, 2019-2025.

Peer Reviewer, *Sixteenth Century Studies*, April 2024.

Peer Reviewer, *Anais de História de Além-Mar*, May 2018.

Peer Reviewer, Oxford University Press, February 2014.

Peer Reviewer, Ashgate Press, January 2014.

Peer Reviewer, *Renaissance Quarterly*, Summer 2013.

Peer Reviewer, University of Manchester Press, Winter 2011.

Peer Reviewer, University of New Mexico Press, Winter 2011.

Co-organizer, "Skills for Leadership: Going for it All," Women's Leadership Conference, Indiana University, 1999.

Referees:

Dr. Elizabeth A. Lehfeldt

Professor of History

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Dr. Diane Wright
Modern Languages and Literature, Professor Emeritus
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