

## Jessica E. Sewell

American & New England Studies Program  
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Boston University  
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### EDUCATION

#### **University of California, Berkeley**

Ph.D. December 2000  
Dept. of Architecture, with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality

Dissertation: *Gendering the Spaces of Modernity: Women and Public Space in San Francisco, 1890-1915*

Minors:       Material Culture  
              Feminist Theory and Practice

#### **Parsons School of Design and the New School for Social Research**

Architecture and Design Criticism, 1989-1991

The criticism program combines intensive writing instruction with architectural theory, in order to train students as professional architecture critics.

#### **Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges**

BA cum laude March 1988  
Visual and Environmental Studies

Senior thesis magna cum laude: *Women and the Feminine in Architecture and Design*

My studio work was concentrated in design and photography, while my academic work focused on feminist theory, history, and art and architectural history.

### AWARDS

**Humanities Foundation, Boston University**, Junior Fellowship in the Society of Fellows, 2005-6

**International Archive of Women in Architecture**, finalist for the 2005 Milka Blizakov Prize

**Huntington Library**, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow, Summer 1999

**Bancroft Library Study Award**, University of California, Berkeley, 1998-99  
One of two given annually within the entire UC system

**VAF Graduate Fellowship**, 1998

**Vice Chancellor for Research Fund Award**, University of California, Berkeley, 1997-98

**Ford Foundation** “Taking Gender Seriously: Engendering Social Analysis,” a juried dissertation workshop administered by International and Area Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Fall 1997

### **PUBLICATIONS**

“The Sexual Archipelago,” in *Cabinet 13: Futures*, Spring 2004, 108-110.

“Gender, Imagination, and Experience in the Early Twentieth Century American Downtown,” in Paul Groth and Chris Wilson, editors, *Everyday American: Cultural Landscape Studies After J.B. Jackson*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003, 237-254.

“Sidewalks and Store Windows as Political Landscapes,” in Alison Hoagland and Ken Breisch, editors, *Building, Image, and Identity: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, Volume IX*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003, 85-98.

Review of Kathryn Morrison, *English Shops and Shopping: An Architectural History*, in *Winterthur Portfolio* Vol 40, No.2/3 (2006), 165-168,

Review of Mona Domosh and Joni Saeger, *Putting Women in Place: Feminist Geographers Make Sense of the World*, in *Urban Affairs Review*, Sept 2002, 150-152.

“Of Macaronis, Prostitutes, and Excise Men,” review essay on Miles Ogborn, *Spaces of Modernity: London’s Geographies 1680-1780*, in *Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Technology*, vol. 19 (2000), 389-393.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“The Architecture of Masculinity and Consumption: The Bachelor Pad”  
**Mid-American American Studies Association**, April 2006

Co-chair and co-organizer, session on “Architecture, Public Art, and the Public Sphere”  
**College Art Association**, February 2006

Commentator for session “Redefining Domestic and National Boundaries: Anglo-American Wives and Mothers as Nation Builders”  
**Berkshires Conference on the History of Women**, June 2005

Chair for session “Gendered Images and Action”  
**Vernacular Architecture Forum**, April 2005

Chair and Commentator for session “Approaches to the Vernacular”  
**Vernacular Reframed: An Exploration of the Everyday**, Boston University, November 2004

Co-chair and co-organizer, session on “Rethinking the Public: Public Spaces and Public Spheres”

**Society of Architectural Historians**, April 2004

“‘Butterflies of Leisure’ and ‘Co-Thinkers with Men’: Women, Downtown Shopping, and the Public Sphere in Early-20th-Century San Francisco”

**Social Science History Association**, October 2002

Commentator for session “Knowing a Citizen by its Cover: Identity, Space, and Performance”

**Berkshires Conference on the History of Women**, June 2002

“Public Space as Living Space: Women and the Downtown Shopping District in Early Twentieth-Century San Francisco”

**Western History Association**, October 2001

“From Parlor Meeting to Equality Tea: Domestic and Commercial Hospitality in the California Woman Suffrage Movement”

**Organization of American Historians**, April 2000

“Taking it to the Streets: Spatial Tactics in the 1911 California Suffrage Campaign”

**National Communication Association**, November 1999

“Everyday Space and Political Action: Spatial Tactics in the 1911 California Suffrage Campaign”

**Society of Architectural Historians**, April 1999

“Imagined and Experienced Gendered Landscapes and the Turn-of-the-Century American Downtown”

**J. B. Jackson and the American Landscape**, University of New Mexico, October 1998

“Taking it to the Streets: The Importance of Space to Feminist Action”

**National Women’s Studies Association**, June 1998

“Sidewalks and Store Windows as Political Landscapes”

**Vernacular Architecture Forum**, May 1998

“Spatial Practice and Social History: Shopping and Suffrage in Downtown San Francisco”

**The Next Social History? Practicing Space, Time, and Place**, University of Chicago, April 1998

“Feminism and Postmodernism in Architecture”

**National Graduate Women’s Studies Conference**, Spring 1991

## LECTURES

“Masculine Interiors and the Bachelor Pad”

**Charles Warren Center Workshop** on The Culture and Politics of the Built Environment  
**Harvard University**, April 2005

“Domesticating the American Male”

**Odyssey**, Chicago Public Radio, February 2005

“Gender and the Landscape of Shopping”  
**Cultural Landscapes of the United States**, taught by Andrew Johnston  
Dept. of Architecture, **Wentworth Institute of Technology**, October 2004 and October 2005

“Eclipsing the Boston Tea Party: Suffrage and Tea, the Equality Beverage”  
**Art History Brown Bag**  
**Boston University**, April, 2004

“Skyscrapers and Department Stores in an Architectural and Social Context”  
**Arts in America**, taught by Patricia Hills  
Art History Department, **Boston University**, March 2004

“Eclipsing the Boston Tea Party: Suffrage and Tea, the Equality Beverage”  
**American Perspectives**  
**Boston University**, November, 2003

“Everyday Space and the Public Sphere: Gender, Politics, and the Downtown Shopping District in Early-Twentieth-Century San Francisco”  
**History Workshop in Technology, Society, and Culture**  
**University of Delaware**, October 2002

“Selling Suffrage in San Francisco: Spatial Tactics in the 1911 California Woman Suffrage Campaign”  
**California Studies Dinner**, University of California, Berkeley, May 1999

“Genteel Markets, Tumultuous Streets: Women in Public in Turn-of-the-Century San Francisco”  
**Bancroft Round Table**, University of California, Berkeley, March 1999

“San Francisco’s Downtown Shopping District and Woman Suffrage”  
**The Cultural Landscape of the San Francisco Bay Area**, taught by Mary Ryan,  
Depts. of History and American Studies, University of California, Berkeley,  
March 1999 and March 2000

“Diaries and Women’s Experiences of San Francisco”  
**Architecture of San Francisco**, taught by Stephen Tobriner, Dept. of Architecture,  
University of California, Berkeley, September 1998 and September 1999.

“Shopping Districts and Their Use in the California Suffrage Campaign of 1911”  
**History of the U.S. Cultural Landscape**, taught by Paul Groth,  
Depts. of Architecture, American Studies, and Geography,  
University of California, Berkeley, Fall 1997

“Shopping for Suffrage: Politics and the Landscape of Downtown Shopping in San Francisco”  
**Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Colloquium**,  
University of California, Berkeley, Fall 1997

“How to Knit a Tree”  
**Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Colloquium**,  
University of California, Berkeley, Spring 1997

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Assistant Professor, Boston University**

Art History Department and American and New England Studies Program  
Fall 2003-Present

**Introduction to American Studies**  
**Studies in American Material Culture**  
**Seminar in Material Culture**  
**Introduction to Architecture**  
**Sex, Gender, and Architecture**  
**Metropolis**

### **Assistant Professor and Faculty Fellow, New York University**

John W. Draper Interdisciplinary Master's Program in Humanities and Social Thought,  
Fall 2001-Spring 2003

**Introduction to the City (2 semester sequence)**  
**Gender, Sexuality, and the City**  
**Public Space and the Public Sphere**  
Also advised six MA theses

### **Visiting Assistant Professor, Binghamton University, SUNY**

Dept. of Art History, Spring 2001  
**Sex, Gender, Architecture, and the City**  
**Seminar on the Body, Sex, Gender, and Space**  
**The Meaning of Architecture**

### **Instructor, University of California, Berkeley**

Dept. of Women's Studies, Spring 1997  
**Reading and Composition with an Emphasis on Women's Studies**  
Co-taught and co-designed this class, organized on the theme of gender and location.

### **Teaching Assistant, University of California, Berkeley**

Dept. of American Studies  
**Introduction to American Studies**, Fall 1999 and Fall 2000

Dept. of Architecture  
**Historical Survey of Architecture and Urbanism**, Spring 1998 and Spring 2000  
**History of the U.S. Cultural Landscape**, cross-listed in American Studies and Geography,  
Fall 1994, Fall 1995, Spring 1996, and Fall 1997

**Social and Cultural Factors in Architecture**, Spring 1993 and Spring 1994

**COMMITTEE SERVICE**

**Director of Undergraduate Studies**, American and New England Studies, Boston University,  
2004-2006

**Director**, New England Society of Architectural Historians, 2005-2008

**Co-President**, Boston Area Spinners and Dyers, 2004-2006

**Director of Programs**, Spindles and Flyers (spinning guild), Berkeley, CA, 1997-2000