

SOAR Research Proposal: SUMMER 2013

Rediscovering and Including the Women of the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975

Faculty: Dr. Jane Berger, Assistant Professor, Department of History,

Student: Casey Hilferty '2014, History Major, minors in Women's Studies and Education

Dates: May 28-August 2, 2013. Ten weeks.

Project Description

Rediscovering and Including the Women of the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975 is a project Casey Hilferty would like to undertake to expand her knowledge of the role women played in the civil rights movement in the United States following World War II. Although women were important actors in the movement, they have received less scholarly attention than have men. Casey intends to review the scholarly literature on women in the movement and compile an annotated bibliography. She also intends to include descriptions of primary-source collections that contain information regarding women's roles in the movement. In other words, in addition to surveying scholarship, she will describe in her bibliography items such as oral history collections and document collections that contain materials from the past. Finally, she plans to author a historiographical essay in which she evaluates the literature on women in the civil rights movement, identifies trends and innovations, and proposes areas in need of further research. She hopes to present her paper at an academic conference and at a meeting of Moravian College's History Club.

Roles and Responsibilities, Schedule

The summer project will encompass the ten weeks from May 28 – August 2. Casey will work independently on her project but meet with the professor on a regular basis to ensure the timely completion of each stage of the process.

May 28 – June 2	Library, internet and other searches to compile an initial list of titles
June 3 – June 28	Compile annotated bibliography: secondary sources
July 1 – July 12	Compile annotated bibliography: primary sources
July 15 – August 2	Complete historiographical essay

Benefits

Casey will gain many benefits as a result of completing her research. She will improve her ability to locate published sources through library, database and other internet search engines. She will strengthen her facility at identifying the primary arguments of historical scholarship. She will gain experience thinking about a field of scholarship in broad terms and identifying trends that unify and divide it. If she is able to present her work in a scholarly context, she will gain practice in public speaking and benefit from the professionalism and confidence participation in such events can engender.

I will benefit from Casey's research because my current book project focuses on African-American women during the period Casey intends to study. Several of the women who I study were leaders in the civil rights movement in Maryland, and I will be interested to see how the

activism of the women I study compares with the actions of women elsewhere. Further, earlier this school year, Bob Mayer and I published an on-line annotated bibliography on the civil rights movement with Oxford University Press. We have the opportunity to keep the bibliography current by making additions. Casey may uncover materials that we decide to add to our bibliography.

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Rediscovering and Including the Women of the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975

Student: Casey Hilferty, '14. BA History, minors in Women's Studies and Education
Faculty: Dr. Jane Berger, Associate Professor, Department of History

Expense Proposal: Travel

As a part of researching, I would like to visit Memphis, Tennessee to visit the National Civil Rights Museum, located at the Lorraine Motel, site of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. This is important for me to visit because the main exhibit this year is entitled "Freedom's Sisters" and documents the lives of twenty women who were involved in the Civil Rights Movement. Visiting this museum would offer further research opportunity and the potential to meet with other scholars in my field for discussion on the materials presented and their significance.

Time Frame and Breakdown of Costs:

This trip would be taken between the dates of June 2 and June 24, and would last three days. I am requesting a travel stipend of \$500 dollars in order to cover hotel and gas expenses. In a preliminary exploration of hotel costs, most hotels in the area of the museum cost \$140 per night. I expect to spend at least two nights, for a total of \$300.

The remaining \$200 would be used to offset fuel costs. My calculations using the AAA Fuel Cost Calculator as well as researching flights from Allentown/Philadelphia to Memphis have found that it would be more cost and time efficient to drive. My calculations for cost of fuel for my car at its current price have found that the \$200 would be able to cover fuel to Memphis.

I would cover remaining fuel expenses, food, and supplies at my own expense.

Hotel for two nights: \$300

Fuel: \$200

Total Requested: \$500

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Student: Casey Hilferty, '14. BA History, minors in Women's Studies and Education
Faculty: Dr. Jane Berger, Associate Professor, Department of History
Other: On-campus housing requested, May 28-August 2, 2013. Ten weeks.

Statement of Purpose:

The Civil Rights Movement of the 20th century in the United States can be viewed as a fight for racial equality. However, the many figureheads of the movement that we know from our history textbooks are male, despite the presence of women as activists. These women are widely missing from historical scholarship, only recently beginning to be included into the discourse on the Civil Rights Movement. I believe that the inclusion and discussion of the contributions and accomplishments of these many women deserve to be researched and discussed because of the influence the Civil Rights Movement has had on our history as a nation and as a culture.

This project is to develop a greater understanding of the many women who stood up for their rights but are unknown to American history. I will develop a full annotated bibliography made up of the primary and secondary sources on these women that I discover. The annotated bibliography would provide a collection of sources and their descriptions. This bibliography would assist me in the second part of my SOAR project, which would be creating a historiographical paper outlining the various interpretations and sources I find. After completing the bibliography, I would complete a 20-25 page historiography on the research I find to submit to conferences and undergraduate research journals.

In order to include these women into the historical dialogue, I would study the records left by these individuals through memoirs and recorded interviews and speeches. To do this, I would utilize Reeves Library and Interlibrary Loan as a way to obtain and examine sources from other institutions. I would also use online sources such as the JSTOR database, the Civil Rights Digital Library from the University of Georgia, the University of Southern Mississippi's Civil Rights Documentation Project, and the Library of Congress online archives. These sources are easily accessible and hold documents, oral histories, and transcripts that document the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of those who were there. In addition to online sources, I would like to visit the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN, which is running an exhibit entitled "Freedom's Sisters" on twenty women in the Civil Rights Movement during the 19th and 20th centuries this year.

Rationale and Expected Outcomes:

Rediscovering and Including the Women of the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975 would be a benefit to Moravian College, other historians, and to my own future goals. This project would benefit Moravian College by introducing students to the missing parts of the Civil Rights Movement. I would give a "Tuesday Talk" to the History Club and talk about my research, what I produced, and the benefits of completing a SOAR project. I would also speak to the members of Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society, and go more in-depth with my research strategies and how I completed my project. I would also participate in the Scholarship Day at Moravian in April of 2014. I would submit my findings in historiographical paper format to two national

conferences: the Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Convention held in winter 2014, and the National Conference of Undergraduate Research, held in the spring of 2014. Local conferences I would submit my paper to would be the LVAIC Women's Studies Conference and the Phi Alpha Theta East Regional Conference, both held in the spring of 2014. Journals I would submit my paper to include the Columbia Undergraduate Journal of History and the Yale Historical Review.

Not only will this benefit general understanding of the full picture of the movement, this will benefit me in my future endeavors. I plan on completing an Honors project on the women in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in the 2013-2014 school year, and some of the sources that I discover in this project may help me in the completion of my multi-chapter work for Honors. My SOAR project stands apart from my Honors project because it focuses on women involved in the Civil Rights Movement, regardless of organization affiliation, and is focused on a longer period of time than my Honors project. My SOAR project is focused on the documents available and the development of a resource that lists and analyzes primary and secondary sources related to women in the Civil Rights Movement from 1945-1975.

After graduating from Moravian, I plan on continuing my studies at graduate school to complete my Masters and eventually my PhD in History. I eventually want to teach History in the collegiate setting. This hands-on research experience is incredibly valuable to my future graduate studies because of the implications of performing high quality research as an undergraduate. The combination of both primary and secondary sources makes the project multi-dimensional in its bibliographical state. This project shows my dedication and desire to discover new material within my discipline and also add to the growing scholarship within women's history. I hope to eventually to teach at the collegiate level, focusing on women's history. Completing a SOAR project would be beneficial to these goals because of the research practice it would offer as well as a deeper understanding of historical events and people. The opportunity to complete research would yield to me the ability to bring new history to light and to the attention of a widespread audience, and hopefully change the mainstream view of the Civil Rights Movement.