

Robyn Schwarz

PhD Candidate in History at Western University

London, ON, CA

Providing historical context for issues relating to Canadian women, marriage/divorce law, welfare programs, motherhood and post-1945 Canada.

Biography

Robyn is a PhD Candidate in the Department of History at Western University, where she researches and teaches Canadian history. Her areas of expertise include Canadian women's history and post-war Canada. Her dissertation examines single mothers in Ontario from 1945 to 1980, focusing on how different government institutions and social programs viewed single mothers as "problem women." She is currently completing archival research in local, provincial, and federal archives for this project. Some of the sources she examines include divorce case files, government records in the areas of health and social welfare, records from children's aid societies, maternity homes, and different religious groups. Robyn's research seeks to provide historical context for the inadequacies single mothers continue to face today in Canadian society.

Outside of her own research, she works as a feminist historian to promote greater understanding of a variety of women's issues. She organizes a monthly session for female graduate students and professors to get together and discuss different challenges facing women in higher education. She regularly speaks out on reproductive rights issues in Canada and the United States, particularly around abortion access. She is a member of the Reproductive Activism and Abortion Research Network.

Industry Expertise

Women, Research, Writing and Editing

Areas of Expertise

Canadian History, Women's History , Reproductive Rights, Abortion, Welfare Policies, Divorce Law, Marriage & Family History, Political History, Feminism

Affiliations

Canadian Historical Association, Canadian Committee on Women's History - Comité canadien de l'histoire des femmes, Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History , Reproductive Activism and Abortion Research Network

Education

Western University

PhD History

Western University

Master of Arts American Studies - Canadian American Relations

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