

## ABSTRACT

### RECLAIMING APPALACHIA: MOUNTAIN REFORM AND THE PRESERVATION OF WHITE CITIZENSHIP, 1890-1929

Tina A. Irvine

Kathy Peiss

America's racial and cultural identity was contested and in flux at the turn of the twentieth century as millions of ethnic immigrants arrived in the United States. While many Americans embraced the idea of the nation as a "melting pot," countless others feared that the new arrivals posed a threat to the nation's future; they maintained that white Americans had founded the nation and were therefore its rightful heirs. In that moment, concerned Americans turned their attention to the mountain whites of southern Appalachia— a people who were generally disdained for their social and cultural difference from mainstream Americans, but also considered laudable for their racial purity, native-American birth, and latent potential.

*Reclaiming Appalachia* traces those late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century efforts to salvage and incorporate Appalachian whites living in the mountain areas of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama into the mainstream American social and political fold. It shows that interventionists' views regarding mountain whites' racial worth and essential Americanism ran the gamut from white nationalism and white supremacy to a latent anti-modernist concern for preserving a disappearing "authentic" rural American people and experience. Despite their diverse and sometimes overlapping perspectives, interventionists collectively understood their efforts as vitally important to the future of American culture and democracy. By presenting that process as part of the burgeoning Americanization movement, this dissertation reveals that mountain uplift was a crucial component of efforts to cultivate citizenship and cultural homogeneity across the nation, and demonstrates that regional reform was as much about changing the mountain interior as it was about solidifying the nation's racial and civic identity. Most importantly, it illuminates the central role that rural white Appalachians played in the formation and re-formation of early-twentieth century Americans' ideas about the relationship between race, citizenship, and Americanism.

# Tina A. Irvine

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## APPOINTMENTS

2019- Visiting Assistant Professor of History, Indiana University  
 and Assistant Editor, *Journal of American History*

## EDUCATION

2019 University of Pennsylvania, History Ph.D.  
 - Dissertation: “Reclaiming Appalachia: Mountain Reform and the Preservation of White Citizenship, 1890-1929”  
 - Winner, Melvin E. Bradford Dissertation Prize (2020)  
 - Finalist, C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Prize (2020)

2014 University of Pennsylvania, History M.A.

2011 Marian University, M.A.T.

2009 DePauw University, History A.B.  
 - *Summa Cum Laude* and *Phi Beta Kappa*

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

“Americanizing Appalachia: Mountain Reform and the Preservation of White Citizenship, 1890-1929”

## ARTICLES

“The Mountain Problem Solved in One Generation”: Alice Lloyd and the Rehabilitation of the Kentucky Mountaineer, under review at *The Journal of Southern History*

## PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

2021 Invited presentation, “Reclaiming Appalachia: Mountain Reform and the Preservation of White Citizenship, 1890-1929,” for the 2021 Annual Meeting of the St. George Tucker Society, which awards the Melvin E. Bradford Dissertation Prize. Presented virtually, July 2021

2021 “‘A Strange Land and A Peculiar People’: Justifying Mountain Whites’ Difference at the turn of the Twentieth Century,” presented virtually for the Organization of American Historians Conference, April 2021

- 2020 “Race in History” presented for the Committee for Historical Intellectual Culture at Indiana University, October 2020
- 2018 “‘The Base of the Alloy’: Martha Berry and Cora Wilson Stewarts’ Educational Reform and the Preservation of White Citizenship, 1902-1929,” presented at the Southern Historical Association, Birmingham, Alabama, November 2018 (Panel coordinator)
- 2018 “‘The Mountain Problem Solved in One Generation’: Alice Lloyd’s Eugenic Settlement Program and the Cultivation of Citizenship in the Mountains, 1915-1972,” presented at the Southern Association for Women Historians, University of Alabama, June 2018
- 2018 “Alice Lloyd’s Eugenic Settlement Program and the Cultivation of Citizenship in the Mountains, 1915- 1972,” presented at the Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy, University of Pennsylvania, March 2018
- 2017 “Poor, White, and Wormy: Hookworm Eradication in the South and the Boundaries of Whiteness and Citizenship,” presented at the Society of Appalachian Historians, May 2017
- 2015 Invited Lecture, “American Eugenics, Sexuality, and Reproduction at the Turn of the 20th century,” for Kathy Peiss’ “History of Sexuality” undergraduate course, University of Pennsylvania, February 2015

#### ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

- 2016 “The Striking Parallels Between Trump’s Xenophobia and the Americanization Movement of the 1910s,” published online at *History News Network* <<http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/163463>> July 2016

#### BOOK REVIEWS

- 2021 Review of Jessica Barbata Jackson, *Dixie’s Italians: Sicilians, Race, and Citizenship in the Jim Crow Gulf South*, (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2020) in *The Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 87, No. 2, p. 353-354.
- 2018 Review of Nancy Isenberg, *White Trash: The 400 Year Untold History of Class in America*, (New York: Viking Press, 2016), in *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Vol. 116, Nos. 3 & 4. (Summer/ Autumn 2018), 509-511.

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2022 “US History- 1600-1865,” Indiana University (in-person)
- Fall 2021 “U.S. History: 1865- Present,” Indiana University (in-person)

Spring 2021	“Breeding Citizens: A History of American Eugenics and Social Reform, 1880 to 1990” (Intensive writing seminar, online due to Covid-19 pandemic)
Fall 2020	“U.S. History: 1865- Present,” Indiana University (online due to Covid-19 pandemic)
Spring 2020	“U.S. History: 1865- Present,” Indiana University (partially online due to Covid-19 pandemic)
Fall 2019	“US History and Current Events,” Indiana University
Spring 2015	Teaching Assistant, “History of Sexuality in the United States” Kathy Peiss, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania
Fall 2014	Grading Assistant, “U.S. Legal History to 1877” Mary Frances Berry, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania
Spring 2014	Teaching Assistant, “America in the 1960s” Thomas J. Sugrue, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania
Fall 2013	Teaching Assistant, “The Rise and Fall of the American South” Stephanie McCurry, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania

#### **AWARDS**

2021	Winner, James E. Mumford Excellence in Extraordinary Teaching
2020	Winner, Melvin E. Bradford Dissertation Prize
2020	Finalist, C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Prize
2015	Finalist, University of Pennsylvania Teaching Assistant Award
2015	Certificate in College and University Teaching, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania
2011	Regional Finalist, Teach for America’s Sue Lehmann Excellence in Teacher Leadership Award, Indianapolis, Indiana

#### **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, MONETARY AWARDS**

2018	School of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania
2018	Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania
2018-2019	Dissertation Completion Fellowship, School of Arts and Sciences,

University of Pennsylvania

- 2017-2018 Research Assistantship, University of Pennsylvania
- 2017 Archie K. Davis Fellowship, North Caroliniana Society
- 2017 Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania
- 2017 School of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania
- 2016-2017 H. V. Ames Fellow, University of Pennsylvania
- 2016 Rockefeller Archive Center Grant-In-Aid, Sleepy Hollow, New York
- 2016 Dissertation Research Fellowship, Graduate Division of the Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania
- 2015-2016 Dorothy Gondos-Beers Memorial Fellow, University of Pennsylvania
- 2015 Sophia Smith Travel to Collections Grant, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts
- 2015 Dissertation Research Fellowship, Graduate Division of the Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania
- 2014-2015 H.V. Ames Fellow, University of Pennsylvania
- 2014 Faye Rattner Research Grant, Pre-Dissertation Research Award, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania
- 2013-2014 H. V. Ames Fellow, University of Pennsylvania
- 2012-2013 Benjamin Franklin Fellow, University of Pennsylvania

#### **SERVICE**

- 2020 Critical Reviewer for the Monroe County History Center's "Votes for Women!: The Women's Suffrage Movement in Monroe County," submitted to the American Association for State and Local History
- 2014 Coordinator for Gilder Lehrman Institute's "America in the 60s" Assistant for Thomas J. Sugrue, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania

#### **LANGUAGES**

Spanish: Proficient in reading

GIS: Proficient in spatial analysis

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era

Southern Historical Association

Southern Association for Women Historians

Society of Appalachian Historians

#### REFERENCES

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