

Carla Bittel

Professor of History at Loyola Marymount University

Los Angeles , CA, US

Bellarmino College of Liberal Arts

Biography

Carla Bittel is Professor of History at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. She is a historian of medicine, science, & technology and specializes in nineteenth-century America. Bittel's research focuses on gender, health and healing practices, the material cultures of science, and the politics of knowledge. Her first book, *Mary Putnam Jacobi and the Politics of Medicine in Nineteenth-Century America* (University of North Carolina Press, 2009), analyzes contestations over women's health and medical knowledge through a biographical study of New York physician and activist, Mary Putnam Jacobi (1842-1906). Bittel is co-editor, with Elaine Leong and Christine von Oertzen, of the volume, *Working with Paper: Gendered Practices in the History of Knowledge* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2019). She has also published several articles and chapters in edited volumes. Bittel's current research focuses on the brain and mind sciences of the nineteenth century and re-examines the history of phrenology by concentrating on its users, who applied, adapted and contested it as a source of knowledge. She is now finishing her book project, *A Most Useful and Peculiar Science: Phrenology in Practice in the Nineteenth Century*. Bittel's research has been supported by several grants and fellowships, including an NSF Scholars Award and a Dibner Research Fellowship in the History of Science and Technology from the Huntington Library. She has also been a Visiting Scholar and the co-organizer of a working group (2016-2019) at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. At LMU, she teaches broadly, with courses covering the history of health & disease and the history of science & nature in North America and Europe from the early modern period to the present. She also teaches courses on the U.S. Civil War era. In 2015, her Civil War seminar curated the exhibit, "Not Silent: Finding Voices in Civil War Artifacts," at the LMU William H. Hannon Library, Archives and Special Collections.

Areas of Expertise

History of Medicine and Science, Gender Issues, History of Women's Health , Nineteenth-Century U.S. History

Affiliations

Working Group Co-Organizer, "Working with Paper: Gendered Practices in the History of Knowledge," Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin (2016-2019), American Association for the History of Medicine, History of Science Society

Education

Cornell University

Ph.D. History, 2003

Cornell University

M.A. American History, 1999

University of California, Davis

B.A. History, 1995

Accomplishments

Judith Lee Ridge Article Prize

Western Association of Women Historians, 2006.

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