Micki McElya, Ph.D.

Professor of History at University of Connecticut

Storrs, CT, US

Professor McElya is an expert in the histories of women, gender, sexuality, and race in the U.S., with a focus on politics and memory.

Biography

Professor McElya?s book, The Politics of Mourning: Death and Honor in Arlington National Cemetery (Harvard, 2016) was a finalist for the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction, a 2017 Choice Outstanding Academic Title, co-winner of a 2018 John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize from the Foundation for Landscape Studies, and winner of the 2017 Sharon Harris Book Award from the UConn Humanities Institute. It was also named the finalist for the 2016 Jefferson Davis Book Award from the American Civil War Museum. McElya is also author of Clinging to Mammy: The Faithful Slave in Twentieth-Century America (Harvard, 2007), which was co-winner of a 2007 Outstanding Book Award from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights. She is a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians. McElya?s current book project examines the interconnected histories of the Miss America Pageant, the Miss Black America Pageant, feminism, the Civil Rights Movement, Evangelicalism, and the New Right in post-WWII America. Before joining the faculty of the History Department at the University of Connecticut, McElya was an assistant professor of American Studies at the University of Alabama (2003-2008).

Areas of Expertise

U.S. Cultural and Political History, Women & Gender, Sexuality & LGBTQ History, Feminist Theory, Queer Theory, Memory, Race & Racial Formation, 19th, 20th, & 21st Centuries

Event Appearances

Treefort Music Fest
Storyfort 2018

Education

New York University
Ph.D.

Bryn Mawr College
B.A. History

Accomplishments

Outstanding Book Award

Outstanding Book Award from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights - 2007

Pulitzer Prize Finalist

The Politics of Mourning: Death and Honor in Arlington National Cemetery (Harvard University Press), was named a 2017 Pulitzer Prize finalist for General Nonfiction. In its citation, the Pulitzer Prize committee called her work ?a luminous investigation of how policies and practices at Arlington National Cemetery have mirrored the nation?s fierce battles over race, politics, honor, and loyalty.?

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