Redefining Rape: Sexual Violence in the Era of Suffrage and Segregation

Throughout American history, rape has contributed to the meaning of citizenship and aspiring citizens have repeatedly tried to redefine rape. Estelle Freedman explores the efforts of both women's rights and racial justice advocates who tried to change legal and cultural constructions of sexual violence in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Those who tried to revise the meaning of rape helped undermine both coverture and white supremacy, but they did so in the face of intense external resistance and often contradictory internal politics, which continue to influence modern anti-rape movements.

Room 303 International Center
Monday March 21st
3:00-5:00 pm

Estelle B. Freedman is the Edgar E. Robinson Professor in U.S. History at Stanford University and a co-founder of the undergraduate Program in Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The recipient of multiple teaching awards and national research fellowships, she has written or edited ten books, including No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women, The Essential Feminist Reader, and (with John D'Emilio) Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America. Her most recent book, Redefining Rape: Sexual Violence in the Era of Suffrage and Segregation, won the Darlene Clark Hine Award in African American women's and gender history from the Organization of American Historians.