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Education

Ph.D., History

“Montcalm: The Transformation of Rural Life in a Prairie Community, 1870-1940”

Research Focus: comparative rural history, western migration and settlement, demographic and economic change, intergenerational dynamics, ethnicity and acculturation. Dr. Fernand Ouellet, Supervisor.

1997. York University, Department of History.

M..A., History

1988 University of Waterloo, Department of History.

B.A., History

1987 University of Waterloo, Department of History and Political Science.

Professional Experience

Assistant Research Scientist, January, 2006-present

University of Michigan

- Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research
- Population Studies Center

Research Investigator, September, 2003 - December, 2005

University of Michigan

- Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research

Research Fellow, August, 2001- August 2003

University of Michigan

- Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research.

Grant Notley Memorial Postdoctoral Fellow, July, 2000 - July 2001

University of Alberta

- Department of History and Classics

SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, September 1998- June 2000

University of Victoria

- Department of History, Canadian Families Project

Instructor, September 1997- August 1998

Brandon University

- Department of History

Books and Book Chapters

Under Review

Gutmann, M. P., G.D. Deane, K.M. Sylvester, eds., *Time and Space in Historical Population Studies* (Springer Verlag and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, International Studies in Population Series), submitted November 11, 2008.

Published

Sylvester, K.M., and M.P. Gutmann. 2008. 'Dustbowl legacies: long term change and resilience in the shortgrass steppe,' in Charles Redman and David Foster, eds., *Agrarian landscapes in transition: Comparison of Long-Term Ecological and Cultural Change* (New York, Oxford University Press): 16-43.

Sylvester, K.M., and M.P. Gutmann. 2008. 'Changing landscapes across America: A comparative perspective,' in Charles Redman and David Foster, eds. *Agrarian landscapes in transition: Comparison of Long-Term Ecological and Cultural Change* (New York, Oxford University Press): 122-151.

Sylvester, K.M., and C.L. Redman. 2007. 'Integrating the Biophysical and Social Sciences,' in Max Schnepf and Craig Cox, eds., *Managing Agricultural Land for Environmental Quality, Strengthening the Science Base* (Ankeny, Iowa: Soil and Water Conservation Society): 17-20.

Sylvester, K.M. 2007. 'Rural to urban migration: finding household complexity in a new world environment,' in Peter Baskerville and Eric W. Sager. eds., *Household Counts: Canadian Households and Families in 1901* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press): 147-179.

Sylvester, K.M. 2001. *The Limits of Rural Capitalism: Family, Culture, and Markets in Montcalm, Manitoba, 1870-1940* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press). 280p.

Reviewed Journal Publications

Under Review

Sylvester, K.M. 'Ecological Frontiers on the Grasslands of Kansas: Changes in Farm Scale and Crop Diversity,' *Journal of Economic History*, revise and resubmit, 5 September 2008, resubmitted 22 December 2008.

In Press

Sylvester, K.M. and G.P. Cunfer, 'An Unremembered Diversity: Mixed Husbandry and the American Grasslands,' *Agricultural History*, accepted December 12, 2008.

Published

Sylvester, K.M., S.H. Leonard, M.P. Gutmann, and G. Cunfer. 2006. Demography and environment in grassland settlement: Using linked longitudinal and cross-sectional data to explore household/agricultural systems. *History and Computing*. 14: 31-60.

Sylvester, K.M. 2003. Immigrant parents, Ethnic Children, and Family Formation in the Early Prairie West. *Canadian Historical Review*. 84: 585-612.

Sylvester, K.M. 2001. All Things Being Equal: Land Ownership and Ethnicity in Rural Canada, 1901. *Social History/Histoire Sociale*. 34: 35-60, (publ. 2002).

Sylvester, K.M. 2001. Household composition and Canada's rural capitalism: The extent of rural labor markets in 1901. *Journal of Family History*. 26: 289-309.

Sylvester, K.M. 2000. Rural land in the 1901 census: inequality, gender and property. *Historical Methods* 33: 243-6.

Sylvester, K.M. 1998. 'En part égale': family, inheritance, and market change in a francophone community on the prairies, 1890-1930. *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association*. 8:39-62.

Book Reviews

Sylvester, K.M., review of Daniel Samson's, *The Spirit of Industry and Improvement: Liberal Government and Rural-industrial Society, Nova Scotia, 1790-1862* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press 2008), *American Historical Review*, in press.

Sylvester, K.M., review of Lyle Dick's, *Farmers Making Good: The Development of the Abernethy District, Saskatchewan, 1880-1920* (Calgary: University of Calgary Press 2008), 2nd Edition, *Canadian Historical Review*, in press.

Sylvester, K.M., review of Andrew P. Duffin's *Plowed Under: Agriculture and the Environment in the Palouse* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2007), *Agricultural History*, in press.

Sylvester, K.M., review of Dirk Hoerder's *Creating Societies: Immigrant Lives in Canada* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press 1999). *Journal of International Migration and Integration* 2: 619-621, 2001.

Sylvester, K.M., review of Gérard Bouchard's *Quelques Arpents d'Amérique: Population, économie, famille au Saguenay, 1838-1971* (Montréal: Boréal 1996). *Canadian Historical Review* 82: 350-3, 2001.

Sylvester, K.M., review of Robert Coutts' *The Road to the Rapids: Nineteenth-Century Church and Society at St. Andrew's Parish, Red River* (Calgary: University of Calgary Press 2000). *Canadian Historical Review* 82: 585-6, 2001.

Reviewed Proceedings

Sylvester, Kenneth. 'Ground Truthing: Imprints of Agrarian Change in the American Grasslands,' Common Ground, Converging Gazes - Integrating the Social and Environmental in History, conference hosted by the Centre de Recherches Historique, L'École des Hautes Études en Science Sociale, Paris, September 2008.

Sylvester, Kenneth, and Eric Rupley, 'Making agricultural landscapes in the American grasslands,' European Social Science History Association, Biennial Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal, February 2008.

Sylvester, Kenneth, and Eric Rupley, 'Footprints of Settlements: making agricultural landscapes in the American grasslands,' Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 2007.

Sylvester, Kenneth, Susan Hautaniemi Leonard and Myron Gutmann, 'Explaining Agrodiversity: farm systems and family dynamics in the settlement of Kansas grasslands, 1860-1940,' Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 2006.

Sylvester, Kenneth, 'Ecological Frontiers: changes in farm scale and crop diversity during the settlement of the Kansas grasslands,' Economic History Association Annual Meeting, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, September 2006.

Sylvester, Kenneth and Geoff Cunfer, 'An Unremembered Diversity: Mixed Husbandry and the Settlement of the Kansas Grasslands, 1860-1940,' Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, June 2006.

Sylvester, Kenneth, 'Rural History in Canada: the Prairie West,' Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting, Boston,

Massachusetts, June 2006.

Sylvester, Kenneth, 'Connecting Micro and Macro History: A View from the Prairie West,' Canadian Sociological and Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences, Toronto, Ontario, May 2006.

Sylvester, Kenneth and Geoff Cunfer, 'An Unremembered Diversity: Mixed Husbandry and the Settlement of the Kansas Grasslands, 1860-1940,' European Social Science History Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands, March 2006.

Sylvester, Kenneth and Geoff Cunfer, 'An Unremembered Diversity: Crop Diversity and Monoculture on the Kansas Frontier,' Social Science History Association, Portland, Oregon, November, 2005

Sylvester, Kenneth, Sara Gregg, Brian Donahue and Geoff Cunfer, "Dirt Under Our Fingernails: Roundtable on Research in Agricultural and Environmental History," American Society for Environmental History, Houston, Texas, March 2005.

Sylvester, Kenneth, and Myron P. Gutmann, "Dust Bowl Legacies: Ecological Challenges to Grassland Resilience," Paper presented to Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting, Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences, Winnipeg, June 2004.

Sylvester, Kenneth, Susan Hautaniemi Leonard and Myron P. Gutmann, "Demography and Environment in Grassland Settlement: Using Linked Longitudinal and Cross-Sectional Data to Explore Household/Agricultural Systems," Paper presented to the International Micro-Data Access Group Meeting, Montreal, November 2003.

Sylvester, Kenneth, and Myron P. Gutmann, "Dust Bowl Legacies: Ecological Challenges to Grassland Resilience," Paper presented to Long Term Ecological Research Network All Scientists Meeting, Seattle, September 2003.

Sylvester, Kenneth, "Natural Capacities: Farm Scale and Cropland Resilience in the U.S. Great Plains," Paper presented to the Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, October 2002.

Sylvester, Kenneth, "In Service of Family: The New Ethnicity of Children's Work in Canada's Prairie West," Paper presented to the Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, November 2001.

Sylvester, Kenneth, "Rural to Urban Migration: A Life Chances Model, Canada, 1901." Paper presented to the Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting, Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences, Quebec City, Quebec, May 2001.

Sylvester, Kenneth, "All Things Being Equal: Land Ownership and Ethnicity in Rural Canada, 1901." Paper presented to the Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting, Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences, Edmonton, Alberta, May 2000.

"Sylvester, Kenneth, Two Kinds of Independence: The Family Economy and Rural-Urban Migration in the Canadian West." Paper presented to the Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Fort Worth, Texas, November 1999.

Sylvester, Kenneth, "Household Composition and Rural Capitalism: Situating Rural Labour Markets and Farm Families in the 1901 Census of Canada." Paper presented to the Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting, Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sherbrooke, QC, June, 1999.

Sylvester, Kenneth, "Creating New Vernaculars: Integrating and Ethnicizing Rural Franco-Manitobans in Winnipeg, 1900-1940." Paper presented to the Regional Workshop of the Prairie Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Integration, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan, October, 1998.

Sylvester, Kenneth, "En part égale: Changing Inheritance Practice in a Francophone Prairie Community, 1890-1930." Paper presented to the Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting, Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities, Ottawa, Ontario, May, 1998.

Sylvester, Kenneth, "Reluctant Urbanizers: Franco-Manitobans in Winnipeg, 1900-1950." Paper presented to the Winnipeg Immigration History Research Group, University of Manitoba, September, 1997.

Sylvester, Kenneth, "Farm Credit and Exchange Relations in Montcalm, Manitoba: Sources of Rural Transformation, 1876-1921." Paper presented to the Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting, Learned's Congress, St. Catherines, Ontario, May, 1996.

Invited Presentations

Sylvester, Kenneth, and Eric Rupley, 'Making agricultural landscapes in the American grasslands,' Historical GIS Conference, Essex University, UK, August 2008.

Sylvester, Kenneth, and Eric Rupley, 'Making agricultural landscapes in the American grasslands,' Kansas State University, Department of Geography, Brownbag Seminar, March 2008.

Sylvester, Kenneth and Charles Redman, 'Integrating the Biophysical and Social Sciences,' Paper presented to the Managing Agricultural Land Workshop, Soil and Water Conservation Society, Kansas City, Missouri, October 2006.

Sylvester, Kenneth and Geoff Cunfer, 'An Unremembered Diversity: Mixed Husbandry and the Settlement of the Kansas Grasslands, 1860-1940,' Paper presented to the Population Institute for Research and Training, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, April 2006.

Sylvester, Kenneth, Susan Hautaniemi Leonard and Myron P. Gutmann, "Demography and Environment in Grassland Settlement: Using Linked Longitudinal and Cross-Sectional Data to Explore Household/Agricultural Systems," Paper presented to the Arpents des Nieges Environmental History Seminar, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, December 2004.

Grants

National Institutes of Health, 'Population and Environment in the U.S. Great Plains,' 2007-2012. Investigator. Total direct costs: \$1,999,785.

National Institutes of Health, 'Demography and Environment in Grassland Settlement,' 2003-2007. Principal Investigator. Total direct costs: \$1,239,065.

National Science Foundation, 'Agrarian Landscapes in Transition: A Cross-Scale Approach,' 2006-2007. Investigator. Supplement to Subcontract from Arizona State University. Total direct costs: \$58,000.

National Science Foundation, 'Agrarian Landscapes in Transition: A Cross-Scale Approach,' 2003-2007. Investigator. Subcontract from Arizona State University. Total direct costs: \$201,000.

National Institutes of Health, 'Population and Environment in the U.S. Great Plains,' 1999-2004. Investigator. Total direct costs: \$1,000,000.

Awards, Fellowships

Grant Notley Memorial Fellowship, University of Alberta, 2000-2001.

Social Science and Humanities Research Council (Canada), Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Victoria, 1998-2000.

Professional Activities

Book Prize Committee, Clio Award (Prairies), Canadian Historical Association, 2004-2007

Research Affiliate, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 2004-present

Scientific Committee, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population: Space and Time in Historical Demographic Studies Workshop, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2006

Social Science History Association, Co-Chair Rural, Agricultural, Environmental History Network, 2005-present

Reviewer: *Agricultural History*, *American Historical Review*, *Canadian Historical Review*, *Danish Journal of Geography*, *Environmental History*, *Human Ecology*, *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, McGill-Queen's University Press

Grant Reviewer: National Science Foundation, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Instructional Experience

- 2009 History of Canada, seminar course, winter, University of Michigan
- 2008 History of Canada, lecture course, winter and fall, University of Michigan
- 2005 Topics in Canadian History, seminar course, University of Michigan.
- 2004 Topics in Canadian History, seminar course, University of Michigan.
- 2001 History of United States since 1865, University of Alberta.
- 2001 History of Canada since 1867, University of Alberta
- 2000 History of Prairie West since 1870, University of Victoria.
- 1999 History of Prairie West since 1870, University of Victoria.
- 1998 History of Canada, Brandon University.
- 1997 History of United States, Brandon University.

Postdoctoral Training

- 'Agent Based Modeling,' Complex Systems Approaches Symposium, Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health, University of Michigan, June 2007.
- 'Structural Equation Modeling,' Center for Statistical Consulting and Research, University of Michigan, January 2007.
- 'Intermediate Hierarchical Linear Modeling,' Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program, University of Michigan, July 2004.
- 'Structural Equation Modeling,' Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, Summer Program, University of Michigan, July 2003.
- 'Hierarchical Linear Modeling,' Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program, University of Michigan, July 2003.
- 'Introduction to Spatial Analysis,' Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science, University of California at Santa Barbara, June 2002.
- 'Spatial Regression,' Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program, University of Michigan, August 2002.
- 'Integrated Assessment, Remote Sensing and GIS,' Center for the Study of Institutions, Population, and Environmental Change (CIPEC) Summer Institute, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, May 2002.