

Data on classics dissertations completed 1999-2001 form the basis for several questions: how many are on historical topics, by women, and turned into published books? The goal is to find how many women who complete historical dissertations end up as probable tenured professors: are women historians as scarce as they seem?

Data from 1999, 2000, and 2001 were chosen because data of that age were likely to reflect people who either had permanent academic jobs or or who had chosen other careers.

Data analysis suggests these points:

- women constitute from 37% to 47% of the total dissertations in these 3 years
- women represent a small number of the historical dissertations in these 3 years
- slightly fewer women than men have moved to non-professorial jobs

For women authors of history dissertations who a) finished in these 3 years and b) had not left classics, how many had translated their dissertations into a book?

- 1999: 6, which turned into 2 books (Texas and Duckworth)
- 2000: 4, which turned into 1 book (North Carolina)
- 2001: 2, which turned into 0 books

This is a rather small number, especially considering the view that dissertations are too often published, and considering historical works are often more attractive to publishers. Some possible suggestions to improve the situation, including these:

- additional graduate mentoring, about how to pick topics and how to revise into a book
- making sure women have needed information about working with publishers
- additional attention by panel committees: more panels on all the topics related to this panel

Long term, to produce better prosopography and statistics requires concerted attention from APA/AIA. Such data would be useful in all sorts of ways, especially in a period challenging for the humanities, and I urge the APA to track demographic trends more closely.