

## Deirdre Clemente

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**Specialization** Twentieth-century American cultural history with emphasis on public history, clothing, material culture, women, gender, business, youth, consumption, immigration, and ethnicity.

### Education

- 2010 **PhD (History)—Carnegie Mellon University:** “The Collegiate Style: Campus Life and the Transformation of the American Wardrobe, 1900-1960.”
- 2004 **MA (Museum Studies)—Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York:** “Clothing as Cultural History in the Work of F. Scott Fitzgerald, 1915-1925.”
- 1996 **BA—Johns Hopkins University:** Major: Writing Seminars; graduated with honors; coursework focused on American literature and art history.

### Professional experience

- 2016-current **Associate Professor of History, Associate Director of the Public History Program, University of Nevada Las Vegas**
- 2011-2015 **Assistant Professor of History, Associate Director of the Public History Program, University of Nevada Las Vegas**
- 2009-2011 **Curator, Curator of the Italian-American Collection, Heinz History Center in affiliation with Smithsonian Institution, Pittsburgh**
- 2010-2011 **Instructor of Italian Studies, University of Pittsburgh**
- 2000-2005 (1) **Associate Editor**, *Health* magazine/Time-Warner (2000-2002)  
(2) **Contributing Editor**, *Art Business News* magazine (2003)  
(3) **Syndicated Writer**, fashion, *New York Times* Company (2000-2005)

### Books

*Chic Streets: Urban Development, Shopping, and the American Fashion Industry*, expected completion December 2018.

*Dress Casual: How College Kids Redefined American Style*, University of North Carolina Press, Spring 2014.

### Journal articles

- 2016 “Clothing the *Contadini*: Migration and Material Culture,” *Journal of American Ethnic History*, forthcoming. Co-authored with graduate student Evan Casey.
- 2015 “The College Shop: Making Selling, and Buying Women’s Casual Clothes, 1930-1970,” *Journal of Social History* (Winter 2015).
- 2014 “What Happens in Vegas: Historic Preservation and Sustainability,” *The Public Historian* 36, no. 3 (August 2014): 86-99. Co-authored with colleague Andy Kirk and graduate student Summer Burke.

- 2009 “‘Prettier Than They Used to Be’: Fashion, Femininity, and the Recasting of Radcliffe’s Reputation, 1900-1950,” *New England Quarterly* 82, no. 4 (Winter 2009): 637-666.
- 2009 “Student Culture and Clothing on the Princeton Campus, 1910-1933,” *Princeton University Library Chronicle* (Spring 2009): 237-264.
- 2008 “The Evolution of Collegiate Clothing, 1900-1930,” *Journal of American Culture* 31, No. 1 (March 2008): 20-33.
- 2007 “Made in Miami: The Development of the Sportswear Industry in South Florida, 1900-1960,” *Journal of Social History* 41, no. 1 (Fall 2007): 127-148.
- 2005 “Striking Ensembles: The Importance of Clothing on the Picket Line,” *Labor Studies Journal* 30, no. 4 (Winter 2006): 1-13.

## Book chapters and reviews

- 2016 Book review of *Inventing Baby Food: Taste, Health and the Industrialization of the American Diet*, *Journal of American History*, forthcoming.
- 2008 “Dressed for Defiance: Clothing in the Context of Labor Unrest,” *Encyclopedia of Strikes in American History*, published by M. E. Sharpe (New York, 2008).
- 2008 “Making the Princeton Man: The Role of Clothing on the University’s Campus, 1900-1920,” *Display: The Places and Spaces of Fashion*, John Potvin, ed., Routledge (New York, 2008).
- 2012 Book review of *Making the College Man: American Mass Magazines and Middle Class Manhood, 1890-1925*, *Journal of Social History* (March 2012).
- 2008 Comparative book review of *Making the Big Easy* and *New Orleans on Parade*, *Journal of Social History* (March 2008).

## Courses taught

- Graduate Colloquium on Public History
- Introduction to Public History
- Women in American History
- American History 1877-1980
- Immigration and American Culture
- Fashion History in Global Perspective
- Clothing and American Culture
- World History

## Selected consulting work

- 2012-current Contributor on fashion and popular culture to online versions of *USA Today*, *Time*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper’s Bazaar*, and to the high-profile fashion blog *Clothes on Film*.
- 2013-2014 Exhibition consultant, The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas
- 2011-2012 Historical consultant for Baz Luhrmann’s *The Great Gatsby* (2013).
- 2011-2015 Consultant on restoration and preservation of costume collection of the Liberace Foundation (work done *pro bono*).

## Selected public history collaborations

- Current project The Mob Museum—Supervise the curation of an exhibition to open in November 2016 entitled “Ready To Roar: Eveningwear from the 1920s.” Work one-on-one with public history graduate student to research and curate show. Also include undergraduate history majors to help install the show. Public history interns to oversee programming, events, and promotion via social media.
- Ongoing project Preserve Nevada—Serve as Executive Director of Nevada’s only statewide preservation group. Write grants to fund a bi-annual symposium on historic preservation and sustainability. Place and supervise interns with this group and its partners in preservation such as The Huntridge Foundation and The Junior League’s historic home, The Morelli House. Build and contribute to Preserve Nevada’s website.
- 2014-2015 The Culinary Union—Directed team of ten graduate students in cataloging and storing the Union’s material culture including picket signs, t-shirts, and buttons. Oversaw the students as they conceived, researched, and installed the exhibition, “Line in the Sand: The People, Power and Progress of the Culinary Union.” Worked with UNLV’s Special Collections to conduct oral histories of union members.
- 2013-2014 The Cosmopolitan— Curated high-profile costume exhibition, “‘Too Much of a Good Thing is Wonderful’: Liberace and the Art of Costume.” Oversaw graduate and undergraduate students as they installed the exhibition, served as tour guides, and organized programming, promotion, and events. Developed ongoing relationship with The Liberace Foundation, whom I provide conservation/display advice and student interns.
- 2012-current Nevada State Museum Las Vegas—Oversaw team of graduate students as they researched, curated, installed, and promoted, “Vegas Style,” which opened in the museum in November 2012. Collaborated with museum on programming events and assessment and solicitation of new acquisitions. Place interns on a regular basis with their knowledgeable staff.
- 2011-2014 Walking Box Ranch (Searchlight, NV)— Served as a historical and preservation consultant for this 1930s ranch built by silent screen star, Clara Bow. Worked with geoscientists and the Bureau of Land Management to facilitate on-site education events for UNLV students and Searchlight residents. Directed students in research projects including a short film, object analysis, and elementary school lesson plans about the ranch, its famous owners, and mining in Nevada.

## Selected presentations

- 2016 **American Folklore Society: Annual Conference**  
“Clothing the *Contadini*: Oral History, Material Culture and Italian Immigrants, 1890-1925,” October 2016, Miami Beach
- 2014 **National Council on Public History: Annual Conference**  
Moderated a panel of UNLV graduate students on historic preservation projects in the Mojave Desert, March 2014, Monterey.
- 2013 **Queer Fashion, symposium at the Museum @ FIT**  
“Life in the Closet: The Costumes and Queerness of Liberace,” November 2013, New York City.

- 2013 **Far West Popular Culture Association: Annual Conference**  
Presented public history research with graduate students, February 2013, Las Vegas.
- 2012 **National Council for Public History: Annual Conference**  
“Public History and Sustainability,” Working Group, April 2012, Milwaukee
- 2011 **Organization of American Historians: Annual Conference**  
“‘A Fashion Law Unto Themselves’: Female Collegians as Consumers, 1920-1960,” March 2011, Houston.
- 2010 **The American Literature Association: Annual Conference**  
“Fashion as Cultural History: Clothing in the Work of F. Scott Fitzgerald,” May 2010, San Francisco.
- 2009 **Society for the History of Technology: Annual Conference**  
“Technology in *Vogue*: Synthetic Fibers, the Fashion Press, and American Femininity, 1935-1960,” October 2009, Pittsburgh.
- 2007 **Costume Society in America: Annual Conference**  
“Ethnicity, Dress, and Italian Immigration,” June 2007, San Diego.

## Prizes, grants, and executive boards

- 2015-2016 **Faculty International Development Award (FIDA):** award to spend two months at a language institute in Viterbo, Italy in association with University Study Abroad Consortium (USAC), Summer 2016.
- 2013-2015 **Liberace Foundation:** member of the Board of Advisors.
- 2012 **City of Las Vegas, Centennial Commission Grant:** grant of \$20,000 to fund a national, interdisciplinary symposium, “Historic Preservation = Sustainability,” held in Las Vegas, December 2012.
- 2011 **National Trust for Historic Preservation:** Charles Evan Hughes Memorial Grant to fund collaboration with City of Las Vegas.
- 2011-current **Preserve Nevada,** Executive Director of statewide preservation organization.
- 2009 **Coordinating Council for Women in History Graduate Student Fellowship/Berkshire Award:** award for dissertation, Winter, 2009.
- 2007 **American Culture Association: Best Graduate Student Paper at Annual Conference,** “The Princeton Style: Collegiate Clothing and American Culture, 1900-1960,” April 2007.
- 2007 **Harvard University: Schlesinger Library, Dissertation Grant:** “Style and the Seven Sisters: 1900-1960,” Summer 2007.
- 2006 **Princeton University: Friends of Princeton Library, Research Grant:** “Collegiate Clothing and American Culture, 1900-1960,” Summer 2006.

Teaching reviews available upon request