

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Dr. Sandra Ott, Associate Professor
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Sandy Ott was born in Corry, Pennsylvania in 1951. She travelled to Europe for the first time at age sixteen and returned again at age nineteen, when she was an independent study abroad student in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland on a self-designed program approved by Pomona College. Sandy returned to Great Britain in 1973, as a graduate student at Oxford and lived in Europe for the next twenty-nine years. She emigrated back to the United States in 2002 to take up her academic position in Reno. She retains dual British and U.S. citizenship. Sandy specializes in the Basques of Iparralde, especially Xiberoa, and is now an ethno-historian with a focus on the German occupation of the Basque Country and post-liberation France.

Degrees:

B.A. English (Creative Writing); honors; Pomona College, June 1973

Postgraduate Diploma in Social Anthropology; University of Oxford, June 1974

M. Litt. in Social Anthropology; University of Oxford, March 1976; thesis submitted, "The Maintenance of Order on Tory Island (Donegal)"

D. Phil. in Social Anthropology; University of Oxford, March 1979; thesis submitted, "An Ethnographic Study of a French Basque Mountain Community"

Recent publications:

2009 "Duplicity, Indulgence and Ambiguity in Franco-German Relations, 1940-1946," History and Anthropology, Vol. 20, No. 1, pp. 57-97.

"Gifts, Ambiguity, and Questionable Justice: The Trial of a Vichy Police Commissioner," The Proceedings of the Western Society for French History, November (Vol. 36), pp. 265-283.

2008 War, Judgment, and Memory in the Basque Borderlands, 1914-1945. Reno: University of Nevada Press.

“Denunciation, Clemency and Conflict Resolution in the Basque Country (1939-1944)”, Journal of European Studies, London: Sage Publications.

“The Informer, the Lover, and the Gift-Giver: Female Collaborators in Pau (1940-1946),” in French History, Oxford: Oxford University Press, March, pp. 94-114.

2007 “Gift- Giving and the Management of Justice: Borderland Basques under German Occupation (1942-1944) and during the Liberation,” in The Proceedings of the Western Society for French History, October (Vol.34), pp. 266-281. Winner of the 2006 Millstone Prize for the best interdisciplinary article in French history.

2006 “Good Tongues, Bad Tongues: Denunciation, Rumour and Revenge in the Basque Country (1940-1945)”, History and Anthropology, (March) Vol. 17, No. 1, Paul Sant Cassia (ed.), London: Taylor & Francis, pp.57-72.

2005 “Remembering the Resistance in Popular Theatre,” in Memory and World War II: An Ethnographic Approach, Francesca Cappelletto (ed.), Oxford: Berg, pp. 65-85.

Other selected publications:

1993 The Circle of Mountains: A Basque Shepherding Community (revised 2nd English edition), Reno: University of Nevada Press. Translated into Basque (1994) and in French (1993).

1992 “*Indarra*: Some Reflections on a Basque Concept,” in J. Peristiany & J. Pitt-Rivers (eds.), Honour and Grace, Cambridge: CUP, pp. 193-214.

Main research interests:

Sandy Ott is working on a book project, Crimes and Punishments: Collaborators, the Courts and Purge Justice in the Pyrenean Borderlands, 1944-1953, which focuses on the trials of suspected collaborators in the court of justice in Pau, France. The book takes an ethnographic approach to the trials and other period documents by reconstructing relationships formed by Basque and French citizens with the Germans in their midst and then explores the ways in which the post-liberation authorities evaluated those relationships and explored the motives underlying them during the period of pre-trial discovery, the trials themselves, the process of appeal and applications for amnesty that so often followed. Interdisciplinary in approach, the book project uses anthropological and sociological theories to expand our understanding of the ambiguities, complexities and opportunism that frequently characterized Franco-German and Franco-French relations during the occupation.

Teaching:

She teaches two capstone courses: one on Basque Culture and another War, Occupation and Memory in France, 1914-1945.

Recent Awards, Prizes and Fellowships:

- 2009 National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipend Scholar, awarded for archival research in France (the departmental archives of the Pyrénées-Atlantiques in Pau and the National Archives in Paris). Research project: The Vicissitudes of Purge Justice: An Ethnographic Approach to the Trials of Collaborators, 1944-1946.
- Scholarly and Creative Activities Grant, College of Liberal Arts, University of Nevada, Reno, for archival research in France.
- 2008 Scholarly and Creative Activities Grant, College of Liberal Arts, University of Nevada, Reno, for archival research in France.
- 2007 Scholarly and Creative Activities Grant, College of Liberal Arts, University of Nevada, Reno, for archival research in France.
- 2006 Scholarly and Creative Activities Grant, College of Liberal Arts, University of Nevada, Reno, for archival research in France.
- Winner of the Millstone Prize in French History, awarded by the Western Society for French History.
- 2002 to present
- Visiting Fellow, Kellogg College, University of Oxford

Current and Most Recent Positions:

- 2002 to present
- Associate Professor, Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno
- 1989-2002 Departmental Administrator, Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford, UK