



# JUDITH WALKOWITZ

**History Simon Visiting Professor, University of Manchester, 2018**  
**Professor Emerita History, Johns Hopkins University**

**Public Lecture: Feminism and the Politics of Prostitution in the 1980s:  
 A Tale of North and South**  
 24 April, 5 P.M., Room A101, Samuel Alexander Building

Professor Walkowitz is a leading international scholar and public intellectual in modern gender and cultural history.

This lecture looks at King's Cross, London in the early 1980s as a staging ground for the contending politics of prostitution in the late twentieth century. It addresses the following question: what did it take for prostitution to move up the feminist agenda by 1982? For answers, it looks at a striking conjuncture of events, practices and forms of knowledge that powered new understandings of prostitution and a greater sense of urgency about it. They include prostitute rights groups and their ethnographies of the "voices of prostitutes," Margaret Thatcher and austerity cuts, the Yorkshire Ripper and the mass migration of Northern women to the streets of London, conflicts within feminism between Northern anti-violence activists and London municipal feminists allied to Ken Livingstone's Labour left government.



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## History



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