



2019 Recipient of the Distinguished Research Award

Dr. Cara M. Delay

The College of Charleston's Distinguished Research Award, established in 1977, recognizes those faculty members who have a significant career of research. This year's award goes to Dr. Cara Delay from the Department of History.

Since joining the College in 2006, Cara has recorded an impressive and award-winning body of scholarship that includes numerous single-authored, double-blind, peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles, book chapters, and a monograph, *Irish Women and the Creation of Modern Catholicism, 1850-1950*, published by Manchester University Press this year. She co-edited a volume of collected essays entitled *Women, Reform, and Resistance in Ireland, 1850 - 1950* (2015, Pelgrave McMillan). Cara also has a co-authored book under contract with Oxford University Press and ten other articles that have either been accepted or submitted for review. In addition to a Fulbright, a Carol Gold Best Article Award (Council for Women in History), and numerous other awards, Cara received a Donnelly Foundation Award in 2017 which entitled her to \$200,000 of funding for two years. She has been as generous with these funds as she has been with her time. Not only has she mentored numerous undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom appear as co-authors in her work, she has worked closely with College of Charleston faculty within and outside of her academic department to foster their research efforts and provide mentoring.

Cara holds a prominent role in the Women's Health Research Team, which is a collaboration of College of Charleston faculty who seek to better understand reproductive and sexual health issues and behaviors among women. In addition to the time she devotes to mentoring, collaborating, and administrating, Cara has established an impressive and novel branch of research that centers on women's history, women's health, and the cultural and religious history of Europe, primarily in Ireland and Great Britain. She was one of the first scholars to examine and publish on Ireland's history of illegal abortion ~ work that played a part in debates and campaigns surrounding the May 2018 referendum that legalized abortion in Ireland.

The impact of her work can be found not only in the profile of her publishers (which include Manchester University Press, *Journal of Women's History*, and *Women's History Review*), but in the number and prestige of her invited lecture and conference presentations. Over the course of the last three years, Cara has publicly spoken or presented on twelve separate occasions including a plenary address at the Dangerous Women and Women in Danger Conference, Queens University, Belfast, and most recently, a presentation at the American Conference for Irish Studies annual meeting, Cork, Ireland.

We are pleased and honored to recognize Dr. Cara Delay's outstanding career of research with the 2019 Distinguished Research Award.

