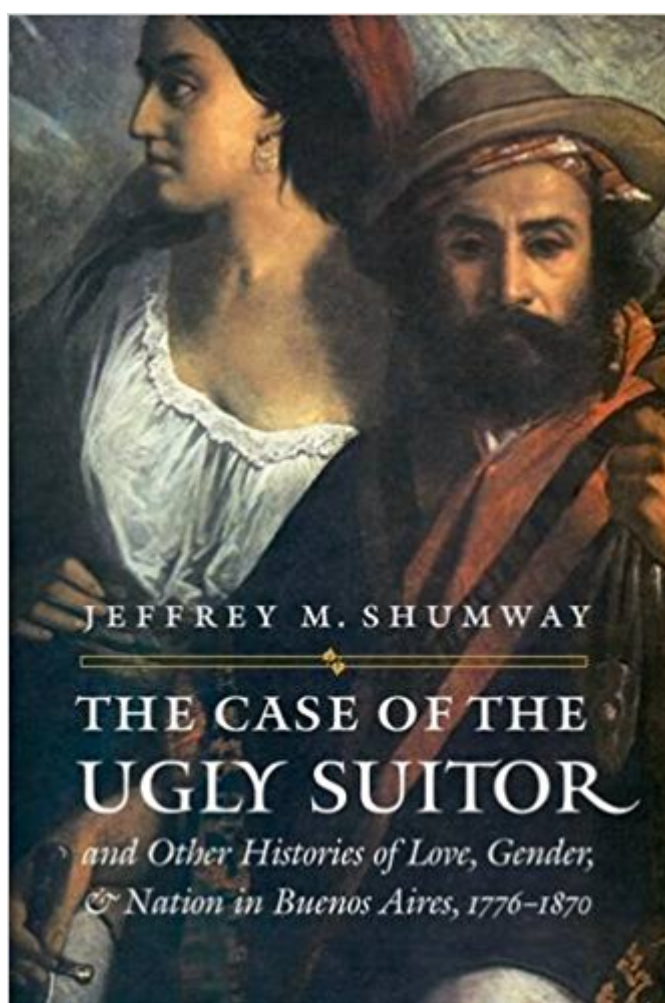


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The Case Of The Ugly Suitor And Other Histories Of Love, Gender, And Nation In Bueno (Engendering Latin America)



Synopsis

In 1840 Gumerscindo Arroyo hoped to marry Francisca Canicoba, but her father forbade it. Consequently, Francisca took her father to court for permission to marry, where he objected on the grounds that Arroyo was simply too ugly. In the courtrooms of nineteenth-century Buenos Aires, children battled parents in order to fulfill their romantic desires and marry the mate of their choice. Parents and guardians also struggled for custody of young children, which some did out of love while others were greedy for child labor. In courtrooms and elsewhere, women challenged their traditional status as social and intellectual inferiors. Though all these struggles existed in earlier times, the nineteenth century injected a new dynamic into such conflicts: Argentina's revolution against Spain and the subsequent attempts by political and intellectual leaders to craft a new nation out of the vestiges of Spanish colonialism. The family, many leaders recognized, was the vital building block of the nation. Hence, matters of the heart and hearth intertwined with matters of the state. Examining family conflicts and the political and legal backdrop of those cases reveals strong continuities in attitudes about gender and family. At the same time, ideological influences of the revolutionary movement combined with the practical needs of nation building to create new freedoms and new identities for women and children over the course of the nineteenth century. The Case of the Ugly Suitor brings these family and national struggles to life, many times in the words of the participants themselves.

Book Information

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"Jeffrey M. Shumway contributes an extraordinary story that not only adds to the historiography of topics such as gender and family, but also offers a methodology for researchers to follow."â€”Colonial Latin American Historical Review (Colonial Latin American Historical Review)

Jeffrey M. Shumway is an assistant professor of history at Brigham Young University.

This book provided different cases of marriage practices. Very interesting how the joining of two people in marriage was done back in the day and how absurd some cases were compared to today's cases of marriage. Yet again some practices especially dealing with wealth still occur today.

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