



*Statelessness* is a subject that most Americans have treated as belonging to other national histories—Jews in Nazi Germany, Gypsies, Palestinians. But the nightmare of statelessness—of the man, woman or child without a country—has been part of the history of the United States since its origins. Slaves, Native Americans, American-born women who married foreign men, trafficked laborers—all have had their own distinctive experiences. Statelessness is a condition whose meanings have changed over time, dynamically created and re-created by sovereignties in their own interests, and in the process revealing changing domestic values and changing power relations across international boundaries.

In our own historical moment, a moment when increasing numbers of people have multiple passports while at the same time increasing numbers of people have what the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees calls “ineffective nationality,” it is useful to reconsider the changing meanings of statelessness, and to try to imagine what the solution to it might be.

Image: Hannah Arendt, “Affidavit of Identity in Lieu of a Passport, 1949,” Box 4, Hannah Arendt Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; Gift and bequest of Hannah Arendt, 1965-200 (234.1a).. Image credit: Library of Congress (LC).

# Stateless in America

Professor Linda K. Kerber, University of Iowa

**TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 7:00 p.m., Law School Room 25**



Linda K. Kerber, May Brodbeck Professor in the Liberal Arts & Sciences and Lecturer in the College of Law, University of Iowa, teaches U.S. legal, intellectual, early republic, and women’s history. She is a former chair of the history department and was the Harold Vyvyan Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University in 2006-07. She has served as president of the American Studies Association, the Organization of American Historians, and, most recently, the American Historical Association in which her 2006 presidential address focused on her current research on statelessness.

Professor Kerber has emphasized the history of citizenship, gender, and authority in both her writing and teaching. She has written and co-edited several books, including *No Constitutional Right to be Ladies: Women and the Obligations of Citizenship* (1998), which was awarded prizes by the American Historical Association for best book in both U.S. legal history and in women’s history. Her teaching awards include the University of Iowa Graduate College Special Recognition for Mentoring and the Iowa Regents Award for Faculty Excellence, and was the first recipient of the Radcliffe College Award for Distinguished Scholarship in the field of women, gender, and society.

She received her A.B. from Barnard College, her M.A. from New York University, and in 1968, her Ph.D. in history from Columbia University.

One CLE credit has been requested.

Open to the public. Reception to follow in the Lindquist and Vennun Conference Room. RSVP to (612) 625-4544 or lawevent@umn.edu.



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