Frances Davey explores the early development of physical education programming at Smith College. Here, the iconic “college girl” emerged, representing a new demographic of educated womanhood. In emphasizing the importance of physical education, college founders, administrators, faculty members, and families of professional means tried to mold students into an ideal that combined progressive ideologies of gender with the pseudoscience of white supremacy. The student response to these directives created a feedback loop in which all constituents negotiated the traits that a fit, modern woman should embody; specifically, whiteness, reproductive viability, and freedom from disability, core tenets of the aspirational American woman of the 20th and 21st century.

**DISCUSSANTS: Mary Renda (Professor of History, Mount Holyoke College) and Nanci Young (College Archivist, Smith College)**

**Wednesday | April 10 | 6-8pm**
**83 College Street | Mount Holyoke College**

Dinner provided - RSVP at https://www.fivecolleges.edu/fcwsrc/events