



Suzanne Lebsock '71

Distinguished Achievement

Scholar, author, and mentor extraordinaire --that's Suzanne Lebsock. "Suzanne Lebsock is a groundbreaking historian of women and gender, a model mentor, and an important public intellectual," affirmed one of her colleagues. "However stellar her scholarly contributions, Suzanne Lebsock has made an equally lasting contribution in the area of mentoring and fostering a national network of women historians."

Lebsock's first book, *The Free Women of Petersburg*, published in 1984, won the 1985 Bancroft Prize and the Berkshire Conference Prize. Her most recent book, *A Murder in Virginia: Southern Justice on Trial*, was published in 2003 and honored by the Society of American Historians with the Francis Parkman Prize in 2004.

In 1988 Lebsock received a Guggenheim Fellowship, and in 1992 she was granted the MacArthur Fellowship (commonly known as the "Genius Award"), which enabled her to write her award-winning 2003 book.

Lebsock earned a PhD at the University of Virginia and was an associate professor at Rutgers University from 1977 to 1993, followed by appointments as a history professor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (1993-1995) and the University of Washington (1995-2003) before returning to Rutgers in 2003. She is now the Board of Governors Professor

of History at Rutgers and is an affiliate with the department of women and gender studies.

Lebsock primarily seeks ways to uncover, understand, and write about the lives of ordinary women, mainly in the American South. Lebsock writes on her Rutgers homepage, "At present I'm curious about several subjects, including the concept of women's culture, the meanings of honor among people who presumably have known, and relationships between history and fiction."

Lebsock was a distinguished lecturer with the Organization of American Historians in 2004-05, and in 2006-07 she was a William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Fellow (Radcliffe Institute Fellows). She is a member of several professional and academic organizations, including the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and Sisters in Crime, to name a few.

Lebsock has two children and lives in Highland Park, New Jersey.