How did women's historians first understand the relationship between female patients and the medical establishment?

Theriot is an interdisciplinary scholar. What is her main field? Other disciplines she uses?

What primary sources does Theriot use?

Explain the difference between illness and diseases

Which of the three competing specialties supported the woman-as-womb idea?

What medical instrument enhanced the power/status of gynecology as a specialty? Why?

What did alienists see as the cause of women's insanity?

What is an "exciting cause"?

What treatments did alienists propose?

In what specialty were most female physicians and what theory of women's insanity did they support?

How did women physicians "out-science" their male colleagues?

When surgery appeared to cure nervousness/insanity what were two explainations?

What was the "situational theory" used to explain women's nervousness/insanity?

Who had most access to asylums?

How did middle class women physicians interpret the lives of women from other classes?

Scholars have seen the labeling of people who display in unusual behaviours as victimization and inappropriate medicalization. According to Theriot were doctors solely to blame?

Do you think that you (or young women of your acquaintance) would have been in danger of being label nervous or insane in the 19th Century? Explain.

How did most women feel about the idea that their problems were related to their reproductive systems?

Why would family members resist the idea of heredity as a cause?

Most nervous women were not operated on, but when they were, what surgery was most common?

What might be a secondary reason women might ask for surgery?

What irony was there in the eventual acceptance of the environmental theory?

What makes Theriot's study reliable?