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## Violence, Gender, and Drinking in the Early National United States

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*The Institute for the Study of Culture and Society presents* —————

Violence, Gender, and Drinking in the Early National United States

a talk given by

**SCOTT C. MARTIN**

History Department and ICS Scholar in Residence

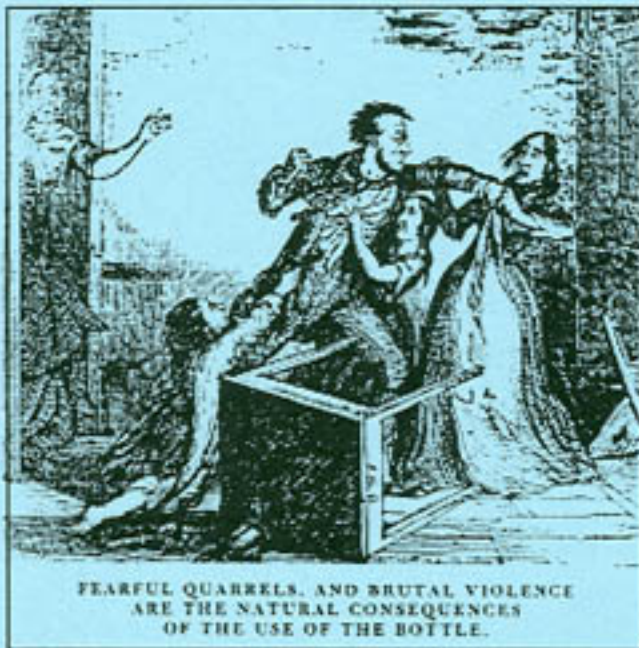
Wednesday 1:30

March 24, 1999

State Room, Student Union



*The Intemperate*



This talk examines the role of domestic violence in shaping temperance reform and gender ideology. In July, 1815, Peter Lung, a Middletown, Connecticut laborer, argued fiercely with his wife, Lucy. Both were habitual drunkards and prone to violent confrontations, but on this occasion their quarrel ended tragically: Lucy died of numerous blows inflicted during the night. The publicity surrounding Peter's trial and his subsequent execution tells us much about changing public perceptions of drinking, violence, and gender in the early national United States. Published accounts minimized the importance of Mrs. Lung's intemperance to paint her as an innocent victim of her drunken husband's brutality. The Lung case pointed to a new, gendered understanding of drinking and domestic violence that emphasized male aggressiveness and female passivity.

Scott C. Martin is Associate Professor of History at Bowling Green State University. His book, *Killing Time: Leisure and Culture in Southwestern Pennsylvania, 1800-1850* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1995) won the Phi Alpha Theta Best First Book in History Award for 1996. His most recent article, "Interpreting Metamora: Nationalism, Theater, and Jacksonian Indian Policy" is coming out in the Spring issue of *Journal of the Early Republic*. At present he is a Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society and is at work on a monograph on women, gender ideology, and the American temperance movement, 1800-1860.



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