The term deviant is descriptive of any behavior, activity, belief, physical characteristic, or group affiliation used as a cause to mark people as wrong. From this distinction, people are then viewed as immoral, criminal, or sometimes even subhuman. The study of the history of deviance and persecution is, in many ways, a study of human uncertainty and fear, but, moreover, it is a broadening experience—much the same way as when we travel to countries that are different from our own. In short, the study of those who were marginalized in ‘Christian Europe’ can tell us much about the society that defined them. Women make up a large part of several groups that can be considered deviant throughout history including the European witch hunts and how women faired in Christianity in general.

For More Information:
Dr. Paula Martin
Paula.martin@gsu.edu