

Feminist Legal History

Marion Röwekamp, Humboldt Chair, Colegio de México, DAAD

with
3,000
DRIVERS
SHORT
YOU MUST WAIT FOR A
BUS— BECAUSE WE
ARE NOT ALLOWED TO
DRIVE

IF WE CAN
STAND
CONDUCTI
WE CAN
SIT DC
DRIVING

WE PAY
THE SAME
WOMEN CONDUCTORS
REFUSE
TO BE
SECOND
CLASS
WORKERS

WOMEN CONDUCTORS
DRIVING
PROMOTIO.
SICK-PAY
PENSIONS

WOMEN
CONDUCTORS
ACTION COMMITTEE
DEMAND
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIF
WITH THE
MEN

EQUAL
RIGHTS
FOR
WOMEN
MUST BE MORE
THAN JUST A
SLOGAN

SHE. IT IS TIME I GOT OUT OF THIS PLACE.
WHERE SHALL I FIND THE KEY?

Marion Duggan (1884-1943)

„I always think that the results of our legal system might be classified as follows:

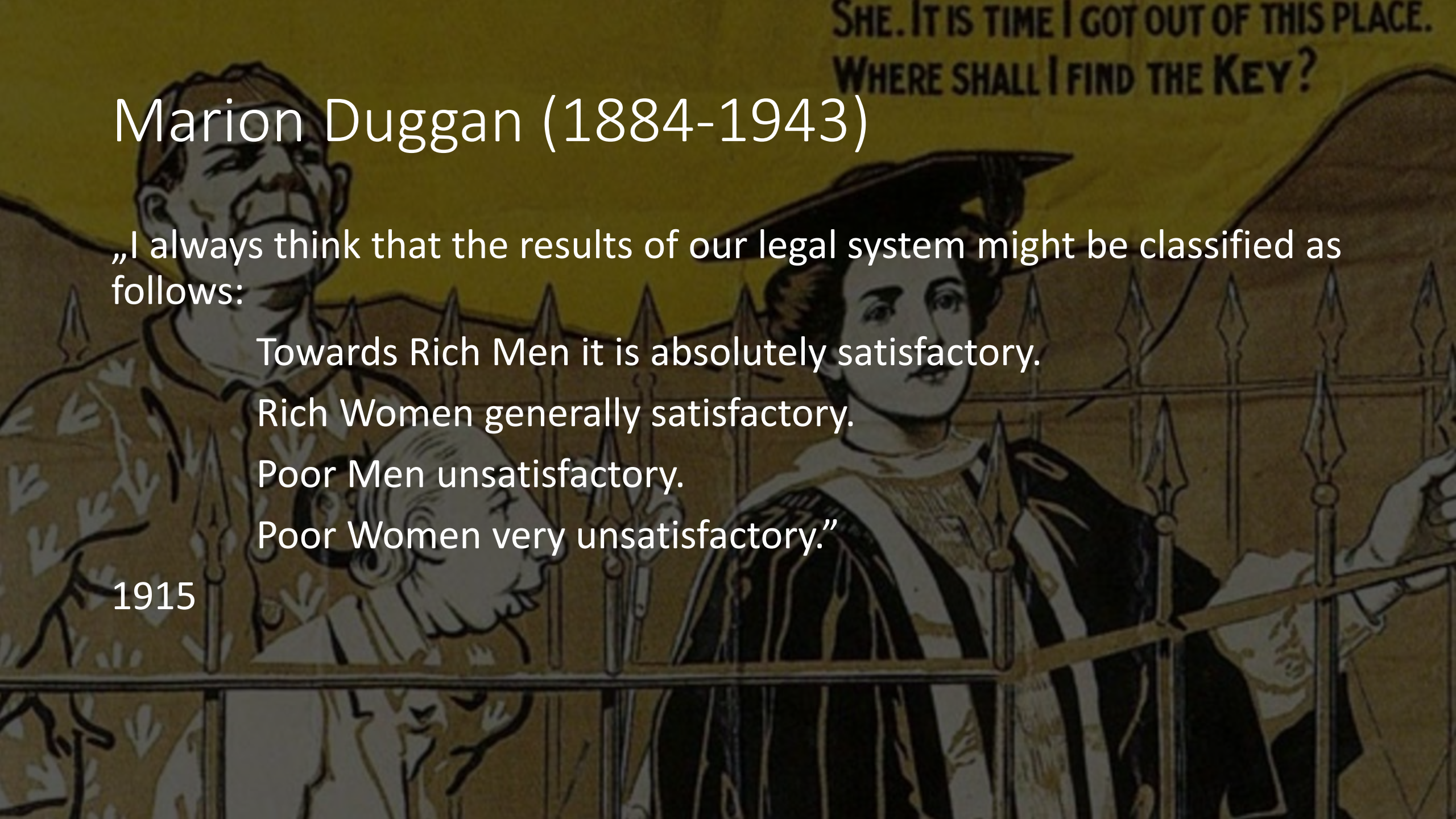
Towards Rich Men it is absolutely satisfactory.

Rich Women generally satisfactory.

Poor Men unsatisfactory.

Poor Women very unsatisfactory.”

1915





Johanna Loewenherz (1857-1913)

“It is said: All Prussians are equal before the law”, does that mean: every female Prussian is considered as non-Prussian before the law? In some countries of the Orient, the national language is spoken by man and woman in two different dialects - the man speaks one dialect, the woman the other. Does the law in our country speak two different dialects to man and woman?”

1895





Emilie Kempin (1853-1901)

“And her political right? Her civil right? She has none. As a citizen, the woman does not exist. The rights of the citizen consist in the fact that he may elect delegates to represent his interests with the respective government, and that it is his right to confer with his peers about these interests. This is expressed when we say that the citizen who is in full possession of his civil rights has 1. the right to vote and 2. the right of coalition. These rights can be temporarily withdrawn from the citizen who has otherwise committed a serious offense against the law - i.e. the so-called criminal. Neither do the profligate (who is under curatorship), the minor, the insane enjoy them. Nor, of course, does the woman. It is quite strange how it is with the civil rights of the woman. For when I said just now that she has none, it occurs to me afterwards that I was mistaken. Sometimes she has civil rights. She has the right to pay taxes. But she is not authorized to decide on these taxes and their use. Is this not strange? If only I could fathom the profound wisdom that lies in this granting of citizenship on the one hand and its deprivation on the other - but it certainly does lie there, otherwise the institution would not have been made in the Prussian state, of that I am firmly convinced - if only I could fathom this profound wisdom!”

1882

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902)

“It matters not whether women and men are like or unlike, woman has the same right as man has to choose her own place. ... We started on [the equality] ground twenty years ago, because we thought, from that standpoint, we could draw the strongest arguments for woman’s enfranchisement. And there we stood, firmly entrenched until we saw that stronger arguments could be drawn from a difference in sex, in mind as well as body.”

1868

