

Diane Miller Sommerville

Biographical Sketch

Diane Miller Sommerville is professor of history at Binghamton University, SUNY. She is a historian of the nineteenth-century south whose first work, *RAPE AND RACE IN THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY SOUTH* (UNC Press, 2004) focused on race and sexuality. Her second book, *ABERRATION OF MIND: SUICIDE AND SUFFERING IN THE CIVIL WAR ERA SOUTH* (UNC Press, 2018), was a finalist for the Lincoln Prize and received the Willie Lee Rose Prize for the best book on southern history by a woman. The book relied heavily on asylum records to document war-related mental suffering. She is currently at work on a new project, "Motherhood and Madness," that focuses primarily on post-partum disorders in the 19th-century South. Records from the Virginia state asylums, including Central State, are critical to this study.