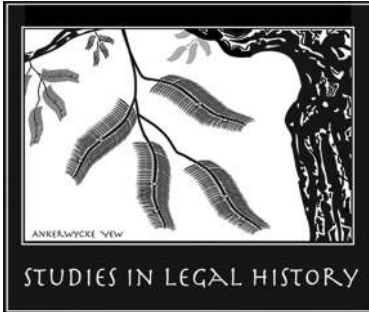


## The Science of Proof

*The Science of Proof* traces the rise of forensic medicine in late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century France and examines its implications for our understanding of expert authority. Tying real-life cases to broader debates, the book analyzes how new forms of medical and scientific knowledge, many of which were pioneered in France, were contested – but ultimately accepted – and applied to legal problems and the administration of justice. The growing authority of medical experts in the French legal arena was nonetheless subject to skepticism and sharp criticism. The professional development of medicolegal expertise and its influence in criminal courts sparked debates about the extent to which it could reveal truth, furnish legal proof, and serve justice. Drawing on a wide base of archival and printed sources, Claire Cage reveals tensions between uncertainty about the reliability of forensic evidence and a new confidence in the power of scientific inquiry to establish guilt, innocence, and legal responsibility.

E. Claire Cage is Associate Professor of History at the University of South Alabama. Her first book *Unnatural Frenchmen: The Politics of Priestly Celibacy and Marriage, 1720–1815* won the Baker-Burton Prize from the European History Section of the Southern Historical Association.



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# The Science of Proof

## *Forensic Medicine in Modern France*

E. CLAIRE CAGE

*University of South Alabama*



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