

Genders and Sexualities in History

Series Editors: John H. Arnold, Joanna Bourke and Sean Brady

Palgrave Macmillan's series, *Genders and Sexualities in History*, aims to accommodate and foster new approaches to historical research in the fields of genders and sexualities. The series promotes world-class scholarship that concentrates upon the interconnected themes of genders, sexualities, religions/religiosity, civil society, class formations, politics and war.

Historical studies of gender and sexuality have often been treated as disconnected fields, while in recent years historical analyses in these two areas have synthesised, creating new departures in historiography. By linking genders and sexualities with questions of religion, civil society, politics and the contexts of war and conflict, this series will reflect recent developments in scholarship, moving away from the previously dominant and narrow histories of science, scientific thought and legal processes. The result brings together scholarship from contemporary, modern, early modern, medieval, classical and non-Western history to provide a diachronic forum for scholarship that incorporates new approaches to genders and sexualities in history.

In *Women, Work and Sociability in Early Modern London*, Tim Reinke-Williams uses the wealth of overlapping sources that the capital provides to allow us multiple perspectives on the cultural position of early modern women. Historians have long noted the difficult, often conflicting and ambiguous, expectations that women of this period were expected to fulfil. Reinke-Williams takes the analysis deeper, to demonstrate the various ways in which women *did* manage to negotiate the different parts they were asked to play, looking at women's active roles in the home, at marriage, at motherhood and in particular at work. He argues throughout that whilst sexual honour was an important facet of female respectability, it was far from the whole story. Past work which has focused particularly on the 'double standard' (that men could misbehave sexually and still accrue status, whereas women were twice damned) has tended to suggest that the only way to be an honest woman was to be passive and invisible. In practice, however, Reinke-Williams demonstrates that women negotiated positions of authority and earned credit in their households and local communities through their hard work and their sociable interactions. The book overall contributes a key new perspective to the field of pre-modern gender studies, and raises important issues for the study of women in any period.

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Women, Work and Sociability in Early Modern London

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Abbreviations

BL	British Library, London
GL	Guildhall Library, London
LMA	London Metropolitan Archives
OBP	Old Bailey Papers