

*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.

*Sexual Forensics in Victorian and Edwardian England* is the first detailed historical analysis of the forensic sciences concerned with sexual violence. Victoria Bates argues that ideas about crime, consent, and the female body can be better understood by examining what happens in courtrooms when cases of sexual assault are being tried. Crucially, these legal cases also provide a new way of seeing how people in Victorian and Edwardian England understood the shifting boundaries between childhood and adulthood. Medical witnesses in courtrooms increasingly wielded immense influence on the outcomes of trials as well as affecting popular beliefs and attitudes towards sexual crimes and the status of children. Drawing on a formidable range of primary sources, including detailed case studies of legal sessions in the courts of Middlesex and the South West, Bates reflects on sexual crime as a social problem. In common with all volumes in the 'Genders and Sexualities in History' series, *Sexual Forensics in Victorian and Edwardian England* is a sophisticated contribution to our understanding of the past. It is an absorbing read.

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# Sexual Forensics in Victorian and Edwardian England

Age, Crime and Consent in the Courts

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