



METADATA

Title: Gender and sexual relations in Europe (12th-18th century)

Other Titles: Ideals, practices, representations

Language: Greek

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ISBN: 978-618-5726-75-1

Subject: HUMANITIES AND ARTS, LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Keywords: Middle Ages / Early Modern Period / Renaissance / Patriarchy / Homosexuality

Bibliographic Reference: Plakotos, G. (2023). Gender and sexual relations in Europe (12th-18th century) [Undergraduate textbook]. Kallipos, Open Academic Editions. <http://dx.doi.org/10.57713/kallipos-198>

Abstract

The book is designed to offer a multi-faceted and nuanced examination of gender and sexual relations in Europe by adopting a *longue durée* perspective from the 12th to the 18th century, a period which conventionally includes the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and early modernity. In this view, the book examines long-term continuities but also transformations engendered by institutional, social and economic transitions and processes, such as feudalism, the Renaissance, the Reformation, urbanization, merchant capitalism, changes in medical theories and the emergence of civil society. How were gender, sex and the body conceptualized, imagined, normalized, and performed in the patriarchal societies of premodern Europe? Gender, sex and the body are approached

as practices, discursive constructions, performances and representations and at the same time they serve as sites where the values, taxonomies, social processes, and symbolic idioms of premodern European societies can be discerned. Weaving together printed sources, visual material and literary texts, the book discusses examples and case studies from various social and geographical milieus of the premodern past. It surveys debates and interpretive trajectories from gender and women's history, the history of sexuality and the body, queer theory, history and literary criticism. Interdisciplinary in scope, the book draws on cultural and social history, gender and queer history, and on insights from the fields of Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

