

Patricia Skinner

Studying Gender in Medieval Europe

Historical Approaches



palgrave

Contents

Preface	xi
1 Setting the Scene	1
Gender and No Medieval?	4
Medieval and No Gender?	9
Definitions	14
Key Reading: Journals	19
Source Hunts: Online and Print Resources	20
Further Reading	22
Glossary	24
2 Why ‘Medieval’ Matters to Gender History	27
‘You say “gender”, I say ... ?’	30
Geographical Variations: Whose Medieval?	31
Gender and Periodization	35
Taking the Long View	37
Medieval Sources: Chronicles and Annals	42
Source Hunt: Beginnings and Ends	43
Key Reading	43
Further Reading	44
Glossary	46
3 Bodies: Sex, Sexuality and Healthcare	47
Bodily Histories	48
Sex or No Sex? The Challenges of Celibacy for Women and Men	52
Menstruation	54
Sexuality and Fecundity	56
Complicating Categories: Singledom as a State of Being	58
Same-Sex Relationships	59
Corporal Malfunction: Impotence, Infertility, Impairment	63
	vii

Bodies of Knowledge	65
From Bodies to Ideologies	67
Source Hunt: Reading Bodies	68
Key Reading	68
Further Reading	69
Glossary	72
4 Rules: Patriarchy, the Law and Gendered Behaviour	75
Defining Patriarchy and Controlling Women	77
Using Medieval Laws in Modern Struggles	80
Religious Laws	84
Regulating Men	86
What is a 'Law'?	88
Modelling the Ideals: Late Medieval Conduct Literature	90
Source Hunt: Laws and Gender	91
Key Reading	92
Further Reading	93
Glossary	95
5 Voices: Authority and Suppression	97
Access to Education	100
Medieval Literacy	101
What is an Author?	103
Finding Female Authors: Dhuoda, Hrotswitha, Anna Komnena	104
Approaches to Authorship	107
Processes of Exclusion and Excision: Women's Letters	112
Source Hunt: Women's Voices in the Text	116
Key Reading	117
Further Reading	117
Glossary	120
6 Identities: Categories and Their Complications	121
Exceptional Women?	122
Medieval Feminist Identities? Christine de Pizan and Margery Kempe	127

Economic Status, Class Identities and Power	131
Being a Man: Masculinity and Identity	133
Religious and Ethnic Identities: Beyond 'Other'	140
Source Hunt: Individual and Group Identities	143
Key Reading	144
Further Reading	145
Glossary	148
7 Studying Gender and Queering the Picture	151
Queering the Agenda	153
Beyond Different	157
Post Gender?	159
Key Reading	163
Glossary	164
Appendix: Selected Works in Languages Other than English	165
Index	169