

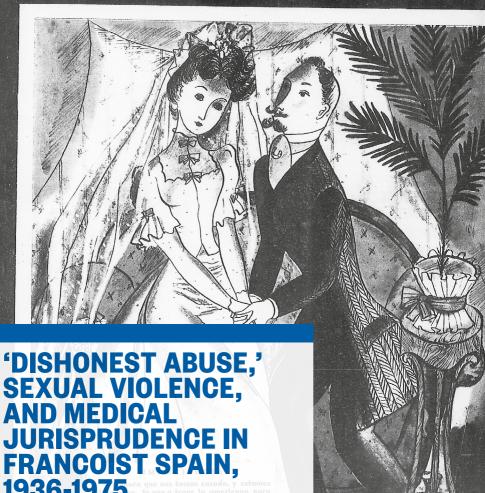


La inventiva humana no tiene límites. Ayer fué la radio; más tarde, la televisión, y hoy, esto. Esto es un invento que no sabemos para qué sirve, pero que está muy bien inventado.

MADRID, 7 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1941 - AÑO I - NUM. 14

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JURISPRUDENCE IN FRANCOIST SPAIN, 1936-1975

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, CLASSICS AND ARCHAEOLOGY BIRKBECK, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

SEXUAL HARMS + MEDICAL ENCOUNTERS

About Us

Sexual Harms and Medical Encounters (SHaME) is a research project exploring the role of medicine and psychiatry in sexual violence. We aim to move beyond shame to address this global health crisis. The project is funded by the Wellcome Trust and led by historian Joanna Bourke.

Our Research

Sexual violence is one of the most serious problems in the contemporary world. Our interdisciplinary project seeks to understand the role played by medical professionals, including psychiatrists, in understanding and dealing with sexual harms.

Instead of shame, we advocate for empowerment and knowledge.

'Dishonest abuse', sexual violence, and medical iurisprudence in Francoist Spain, 1936-1975

Stephanie Wright explores the role of forensic doctors and psychiatrists in sexual violence court cases in Spain under the Francoist dictatorship. The project constitutes a historical study of the legal term 'dishonest abuses,' which referred to a broad spectrum of criminalised sexual acts from rape and child abuse to homosexuality. Given the strong influence of National Catholicism on discourses surrounding sex, virginity, and marriage, the case of Françoist Spain has much to contribute to historical understandings of sexual violence, particularly under dictatorial regimes.

This project will test the impact of sociopolitical context on peacetime experiences of sexual abuse through an exploration of how Franco's dictatorship affected the authority of the police surgeon and forensic psychiatrist.

Drawing on court records, medical textbooks and feminist publications, the project will elucidate the hierarchies between scientific and testimonial evidence within Spanish rape cases under Francoism, thereby offering an innovative perspective on sexual violence in the modern world.

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