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Oral history of contraception: A review

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A small sexual revolution? Andalusian women's experiences of sexuality and contraception between the 1950s and 1980s

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1.—Introduction. 2.—«Before the wedding we did everything»: Sex before marriage 3.—«He didn't care that I had no pleasure»: Sexuality in marriage, violence, and pleasure. 4.—«What came along, came along, and that's that»: The decision to have children. 5.—«Be careful»: Responsibility, gender, and the contraceptive practices of men and couples. 6.—«No matter how married you were and how many children you had, they would not sell you contraception without a prescription»: Uses of the pill. 7.—Conclusions.

ABSTRACT: This article addresses the impact of the official «gender models» of Francoism, linked to the regime's birth rate promotion and criminalization of contraception, on women's sexual and reproductive practices. We also analyze how these practices changed in relation to the progressive dismantling of these models during the Democratic Transition. The aim of this article is to explore the subjectivity and diversity of experiences related to sex and birth control reported by women who had lived in the Southern Spanish region of Andalusia du-

ring the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. For this purpose, we conducted 22 oral history interviews in Granada city and in two small towns, one in Cordoba province and the other in Granada province. Based on their accounts, we affirm that prohibition of the sale and dissemination of contraceptive methods was highly ineffective. Regardless of their social class or area of residence, both the women and their partners used various contraceptive techniques and products to space out or limit the number of their children. Tales of premarital sex, the active search of women's for sexual pleasure, and the somewhat random decision-making on family size, allow us to question the monolithic image of «sexual repression» in Francoist Spain. They also raise questions about micro-negotiations around gender models and anti-contraception legislation in different social settings and in couples with different degrees of mutual understanding and equality. Experiences of urban women, who spoke of pre-marital sexual relations (with or without penetration) and the importance of sexual pleasure, contrast with testimony of sexual violence from some older women in a rural environment. While the former lived through their sexual revolution, which took place within a formal and egalitarian relationship, sexuality and pregnancies were a tool of male domination for the latter group.

In their own words: Stories of the sexual and (non-) reproductive life of young Mexican women between the 1960s and 1970s

Karina Alejandra Felitti 333

1.—Introduction. 2.—Women of the pill. 2.1.—Pioneers. 2.2. —Male power and machismo. 3.—Liberation pathways. 3.1.—Feminist movements. 3.2.—Cultural industry, models, and decisions. 4.—Conclusions.

ABSTRACT: This article studies the experiences of a group of Mexican women, born between 1941 and 1955, who lived part of their puberty, adolescence, and youth between 1960 and 1970. It analyzes their opinions and experiences related to contraceptive methods, the dynamics of their first sexual intercourse, social and personal considerations about female virginity, and the influence of religions and feminism on these issues. Their testimonies are contextualized by the available literature on this period, much of which is also based on women's testimony. The women's experiences are also discussed in relation to cultural industry materials such as Mexican books, magazines, and films, many of which were referred to by the interviewees. Their life stories, obtained from in-depth interviews, reveal the negotiations that these women established with certain social meanings, beliefs, models, and obligations.

Sexuality and contraception in the Spanish periphery during the democratic transition: Advice Centers for Women and Families in the Region of Murcia (1980-1982)

Ramón Casejón Bolea 363

1.—Introduction. 2.—Social movements in the periphery: The feminist movement in Murcia. 3.—Advice Centers for Women and Families: A time of political

and cultural change, 1980-1982. 4.—The feminist movement and its relations with the Advice Centers: Body and sexuality. 5.—Conclusions.

ABSTRACT: During the last years of Francoism and Spain's transition to democracy, a social movement emerged to promote the legalization and mainstreaming of contraceptive methods (prohibited in Spain since 1941). One of the key features of this process was the interaction of social, political, scientific, and healthcare interests pursued by participants in the afore mentioned movement, which included feminists, human rights and pro-democracy activists, and medical professionals. Another feature was the creation of family planning centers characterized by a wide regional diversity in their origin, development, and consolidation. This study analyzes the ways in which family planning centers in Murcia, a region where the Catholic Church has played a central role in society, contributed to the expansion of the health rights of women, their knowledge of their own bodies, and their sexuality. This paper focuses on the Advice Centers for Women and Families created by the Regional Council of Murcia in 1980, which were active until 1982. The existence of an organized feminist movement that was independent from political parties played an important role in the practices of these centers, which went far beyond offering contraceptive methods to working-class women. The close connection between feminist organizations and the Advice Centers allowed for the transfer of specific knowledge and practices linked to the women's health movement, which were in turn disseminated amongst working-class women.

ARTICLES

Family, feud, and fertility in late Medieval Artois and Flanders

Theresa Lorraine Tyers

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1.—Introduction. 2.—Fertility and literature. 3.—Connections to medical knowledge. 4.—Feuds and failing families. 5.—Families and the Manuscript. 6.—The Manuscript and its texts. 7.—Additions, innovation, and change. 8.—Conclusion.

ABSTRACT: This case study considers the origins, contents, and ownership of the 15th century manuscript MS Kassel, Murhardsche Bibliothek der Stadt und Landesbibliothek 4^o med. 1. It examines the ways in which a number of vernacular texts in this manuscript were influenced by social and cultural forces in the area in which it was produced, which is now well known for its female patronage of religious charitable foundations and the number of illegitimate births. Considering the contents of the compilation related to fertility, connections to other miscellanies, and its circulation, alongside an anonymous romance prose text *Le Comte d'Artois et sa femme*, this study argues that the Kassel compilation was put together with the express purpose of addressing healthcare and fertility needs of the families and the community in which the owner(s) lived. This miscellany is just one of many late medieval manuscripts that help us to understand why vernacular texts on women's medicine and fertility were disseminated in the la-

te medieval period and how their contents circulated outside scholarly circles. It demonstrates that fruitful new areas can be revealed by putting together two sets of evidence: textual analysis and genealogy.

The medical controversy around the drinking of cold water in Early Modern Spain

Ana Isabel Martín Ferreira and Cristina de la Rosa Cubo 407

1.—Introduction. 2.—Ethical aspects of the cold water controversy. 3.—Arguments among physicians. 4.—Deaths from drinking cold water: A myth or a real danger? 5.—The religious factor: cold drink, mortal sin. 6.—By way of conclusion.

ABSTRACT: There was controversy around the drinking of cold water in Spain during the 16th and 17th centuries, appearing in a wide range of medical, literary and religious texts. It concerned the benefits or detriments of drinking refrigerated water, which could lead to death when consumed in excess. Sources offer three distinct standpoints on this topic: the ethical/moral, the strictly medical, and the religious.

«Las declaraciones de esencia» (surgical-legal declarations) of the 18th century: A textual type for the study of anatomic terminology

Miguel Calderón Campos 427

1.—Surgical-legal declarations. 2.—Authors of the «declaraciones de esencia»: surgeons and blood-letters. 3.—Dual designations, vernacular and erudite, in the «declaraciones de esencia». 3.1.—Cartilage, xiphoid cartilage or mucronate cartilage. 3.2.—Designations of the fleshy part of the arm. 3.3.—Other alternations between Romance and «Specialist» designations. 4.—Conclusions. 5.—Appendix.

ABSTRACT: Surgical-legal declarations were often called «declaraciones de esencia» in lawsuits and witness statements in 18th century Spain. These were medical certifications, in which surgeons and blood-letters dictated to a notary a detailed description of the wounds observed in the victim of an aggression. This is a highly interesting textual genre for studying the medical lexicon used in day-to-day therapeutic practice, because it gathers both vernacular vocabulary and technical medical and anatomic terminology used at the time. The article closes with the transcription of seven declarations drawn up by surgeons and blood-letters in the Kingdom of Granada, selected from among the thirty-seven that form our study corpus.

Medicine, power, and material culture: The case of the force-feeding of suffragettes in the United Kingdom, 1909-1914

Juan Manuel Zaragoza 453

1.—Introduction. 2.—Paternalism, theater, and material culture. 2.1.—The staging of paternalism 3.—Women in struggle: The hunger strike as political tool.

4.—The profession under debate. 4.1—Murderers and lunatics. 4.2.—Artifacts in dispute. 4.3.—The naked King. 5.—Conclusions.

ABSTRACT: Relationships between medicine and power have been a major concern in the History of Medicine, especially in the works of Michel Foucault around the concept of biopower. In this article, we slightly distance ourselves from this research program and seek a distinct approach. Starting from an extremely well-known case, the force feeding of suffragettes in Edwardian England, our aim was to identify and analyze material practices that relate medicine, as a knowledge discipline, to the practice of power by the State. In our analysis, we use the metaphor of the theater, understanding that certain forms of power are above all representation, in that they are performed in front of an «audience» in a certain manner and with the appropriate «props». In this article, we understand that the form of power exerted by medicine, which we identify as paternalism, is power of this type. We explore its functioning in relation to two phenomena: on one hand, the paternalist strategy, analyzed through various studies on the history of labor relationships; and on the other hand, the material practices and objects by which suffragists were force-fed. We draw dual conclusions: first, that paternalism (understood as a historically determined power relationship) is embedded in medical material culture, to the point that we cannot think of it without including the specific objects in which it is actualized; and second, that the relationships between medicine and power can be understood through the idea of pastoral power developed by Foucault in his final years, facilitating a distinct and potentially highly productive reading of the progression of the discipline during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Education or motivation? The Human Biology exhibition and the new exhibition approach at the London Natural History Museum, 1968-1977

Gustavo Corral Guillé

477

1.—Introduction. 2.—Epistemological reconfiguration: from natural history to experimental biology. 3.—Museum technology: the professionalization of exhibition design at the Natural History Museum. 4.—The interactive paradigm: empowerment, learning or entertainment? 5.—Economic pressure and accountability. 6.—Conclusions.

ABSTRACT: This article analyzes changes made in the exhibition program of the London Natural History Museum (NHM) throughout the 1970s, moving from a discourse based on real specimens to one centered on audiovisual media, interactive devices, and highly structured scripts. We explore the difficult economic state of the United Kingdom at this time, which impacted on the funding for museums in general and for the NHM in particular. We suggest that this situation encouraged and accelerated these major changes, given that the Museum had to demonstrate that it was a socially responsible institution. From this time on, the visitor acquired greater importance, even above that of the collections. Designers of exhibitions turned to the latest education and communication theories and exhibition techniques in order to combine education and enter-

tainment. New professionals at the Museum were incorporated into the exhibition creation process, replacing curators who were traditionally responsible for this work and had very different values and practices.

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