

# A Political Sexual Revolution: Sexual Autonomy in the British Women's Liberation Movement in the 1970s and 1980s

## Abstract

In the 1970s and 1980s, women across Britain—particularly those in the Women's Liberation Movement (WLM)—took part in a distinct sexual revolution fuelled by a very specific question—who gets to determine the ways in which I am sexual? The active engagement by women with this question of sexual selfhood belies a historiography of sexual revolution—real or imagined—in which women were the passive beneficiaries (or victims) of technological, cultural, religious, social and/or, economic shifts. Drawing on the writing of women in the feminist press, mainstream media, books, and pamphlets, this article describes the specific contribution of the WLM to shaping new possibilities for a sexuality defined, and controlled, by women. I argue that the WLM combined a powerful political framework with an influential social network to significantly contribute to a far-reaching process of deconstructing and recasting female sexuality and sexual relations.

'Not long ago I made the intellectual decision to become bisexual', 25-year-old London resident Linda told *Guardian* reporter Lindsay Mackie in 1973.<sup>1</sup> Separated from her husband and in love with a man at the time of her interview, Linda continued: 'I am in a bit of a state of flux with this new-found independence but I feel amazingly self-contained.'

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<sup>1</sup> In an account by Lindsay Mackie, 'Guardian miscellany', *The Guardian* (29 November 1973), 11.

# Sexual Arena And Womens Liberation

**Annie S. Barnes**



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*The Sexual Arena and Women's Liberation* Edward J. Bardon, 1978 Psychiatric point of view Misha Schutt      **The Sexual Arena and Women's Liberation** Edward J. Bardon, 1978      **The Women's Liberation Movement in Russia** Richard Stites, 2021-07-13 Richard Stites views the struggle for liberation of Russian women in the context of both nineteenth century European feminism and twentieth century communism The central personalities their vigorous exchange of ideas the social and political events that marked the emerging ideal of emancipation all come to life in this absorbing and dramatic account The author s history begins with the feminist nihilist and populist impulses of the 1860s and 1870s and leads to the social mobilization campaigns of the early Soviet period      *Routledge International Handbook of Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health* Jane M. Ussher, Joan C. Chrisler, Janette Perz, 2019-09-23 The Routledge International Handbook of Women s Sexual and Reproductive Health is the authoritative reference work on important leading edge developments in the domains of women s sexual and reproductive health The handbook adopts a life cycle approach to examine key milestones and events in women s sexual and reproductive health Contributors drawn from a range of disciplines including psychology medicine nursing and midwifery sociology public health women s studies and indigenous studies explore issues through three main lenses the biopsychosocial model feminist perspectives international multidisciplinary perspectives that acknowledge the intersection of identities in women s lives The handbook presents an authoritative review of the field with a focus on state of the art work encouraging future research and policy development in women s sexual and reproductive health Finally the handbook will inform health care providers about the latest research and clinical developments including women s experiences of both normal and abnormal sexual and reproductive functions Drawing upon international expertise from leading academics and clinicians in the field this is essential reading for scholars and students interested in women s reproductive health      *Sex, Politics and Society* , 2014-05-22 A pioneering study which has become an established classic in its field *Sex Politics and Society* provides a lucid and comprehensive analysis of the transformations of British sexual life from 1800 to the present These changes are firmly located in the wider context of social change from industrialization and the experience of Empire through the establishment of the welfare state to the rise of new social movements such as feminism and gay liberation and new forms of social conservatism Now fully revised and updated and with a new chapter bringing the story right up to date this new edition considers the transformation of the sexual world through globalization and the internet the changing impact of the AIDS pandemic over the last thirty years the influence of new currents in social and cultural theory on the study of sexuality the gradual depoliticization and mainstreaming of sexuality within historical study Combining rich empirical detail with innovative theoretical insights *Sex Politics and Society* remains at the cutting edge of the subject and this third edition will inspire and provoke a whole new generation of readers in history sociology social policy and the study of sexuality      *Feminism and Women's Writing* Catherine Riley, 2018-02-09 Explores the transformative reign of the

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**Family in Transition** Arlene S. Skolnick, Jerome H. Skolnick, 1977 The authors assume that the traditional family will continue to be the major but not the only living pattern in our changing society      *Sex Matters* Mindy Stomblor, 2004 *Sex Matters* The Sexuality and Society Reader 2 E Mindy Stomblor Georgia State University Dawn M Baunach Georgia State University Elisabeth O Burgess Georgia State University Denise Donnelly Georgia State University Wendy Simonds Georgia State University ISBN 0205485448 This anthology of 62 readings from contemporary scholarly literature trade books popular media as well as contributed articles examines the many ways in which human sexuality is a socially constructed and regulated behavior and how it is studied by social scientists New To This Edition 39 of the 62 readings are new Several chapters including Sexual Practices Sexual Violence and Commercialized Sex have been greatly expanded Each chapter now concludes with Sextistics a set of relevant research data      **women studies abstracts**, 1980      **Subject Catalog** Library

of Congress,1978      **Sexual Behavior in the 1970s** Morton M. Hunt,1974      *National Union Catalog* ,1978 Includes  
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