

Sex before Sex

Figuring the Act in Early Modern England

James M. Bromley and Will Stockton, editors

Afterword by Valerie Traub



What is sex exactly? Does everyone agree on a definition? *Sex before Sex* makes clear that we cannot simply transfer our contemporary notions of what constitutes a sex act into the past and expect them to be true for the people who were then reading literature and watching plays. The contributors confront how our current critical assumptions about definitions of sex restrict our understanding of representations of sexuality in early modern England.

Drawing attention to overlooked forms of sexual activity in early modern culture, from anilingus and interspecies sex to “chin-chucking” and convivial drinking, *Sex before Sex* offers a multifaceted view of what sex looked like before the term entered history.

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