A Contemporary History of Female Sexual Dysfunction, 1960-present

Katherine Angel,
Wellcome Trust Research Fellow

I explore how ‘FSD’ has emerged as a psychiatric category in the US and UK post-war, tracing the legacies of scientific and feminist critiques of psychiatry throughout the period.

My archival work at the American Psychiatric Association challenges increasingly standard views of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual’s emergence as a manifesto of a new ‘biological psychiatry’.

My analysis of psychiatric and popular sources also challenges the view of contemporary FSD as entirely pharmaceutically conceived, exploring instead the significance of a wide cultural discomfort with the psychoanalytic history of psychiatry, and the importance of the history of feminism and post-feminism.

Contact: K.Angel@warwick.ac.uk