
Based on vivid court records and newspaper advertisements, this book is a pioneering account of the expectations and experiences of married life among the middle and labouring ranks in the long eighteenth century.

Its original methodology draws attention to the material life of marriage, which has long been dominated by theories of emotional shifts or fashionable accounts of spouses’ gendered, oppositional lives. Thus it challenges preconceptions about authority in the household, by showing the extent to which husbands depended upon their wives’ vital economic activities, household management and child care. Not only did this forge co-dependency between spouses, it undermined men’s autonomy. The power balance within marriage is further revised by evidence that the sexual double-standard was not rigidly applied in everyday life. The book also shows that ideas about adultery and domestic violence evolved in the eighteenth century, influenced by new models of masculinity and femininity.

Joanne Bailey is a Junior Research Fellow at Merton College, Oxford.
Cambridge Studies in Early Modern British History

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UNQUIET LIVES
Marriage and Marriage Breakdown in England, 1660–1800

JOANNE BAILEY
Merton College, Oxford
In memory of
my father Giovanni Begiato
and my grandfather Stanley McDermott
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ABBREVIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

All dates are in the old style, but with the new year beginning on 1 January

ABBREVIATIONS

Published works


Bailey, ‘Voices in court’ J. Bailey, ‘Voices in court: lawyers’ or litigants?’ Historical Research 74, 186 (2001), 392–408


Erickson, Women and Property A. L. Erickson, Women and Property in Early Modern England, London, 1993


List of abbreviations and conventions


VCH The Victoria County History of the Counties of England


Archival sources

BIHR: Borthwick Institute of Historical Research
Chanc.CP. Chancery cause papers
Cons.CP. Consistory cause papers
CP. Cause papers
D/C.CP. Dean and Chapter cause papers
Trans.CP. Transmitted cause papers

CBS: Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies
Q/SM/ Quarter sessions minute books
Q/SO/ Quarter sessions order books
QS Rolls Quarter sessions rolls
List of abbreviations and conventions

DRO: Durham Record Office
DPR/ Durham Probate Records
EP/ Church of England parish records
Q/S/OB Quarter sessions order books

NCAS: Northumberland County Archives Service
QSB/ Quarter sessions bundles
QSO Quarter sessions order books

NYA: North Yorkshire Archives
PR/ Parish records
QSB/ Quarter sessions rolls and bundles
QSM Quarter sessions minute and order books

OA: Oxfordshire Archives
Mss.D.D.Par/ Parish collections
Mss.Oxf. dioc.papers Diocesan papers, consistory and archdeaconry court
Par Parish
QS/ Quarter sessions records

TWA: Tyne and Wear Archives
QS/ Quarter sessions order books

UOD: University of Durham, University Library, Palace Green section
DDR/EJ/CC Durham diocesan records, ecclesiastical jurisdiction, court books
DDR/EJ/CCD/ Durham diocesan records, ecclesiastical jurisdiction, Consistory court documents
DDR/EJ/PRC/ Durham diocesan records, ecclesiastical jurisdiction, Proctors’ correspondence
DDR/EJ/PRO Durham diocesan records, ecclesiastical jurisdiction, probate records

GM Gentleman’s Magazine
JOJ Jackson’s Oxford Journal (1753–1800)
N.Ad Newcastle Advertiser (1788–1800)
N.Chron Newcastle Chronicle (1764–1800)
N.Cour Newcastle Courant (1711–1800)
N.Jour Newcastle Journal (1739–88)
NCJ North Country Journal (1734–8)
Y.Chron York Chronicle (1773–1800)
Y.Cour York Courant (1728–1800)
Y.Her York Herald and County Advertiser (1790–1800)