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## The author

**Jeffrey Weeks** is a historian and sociologist specialising in work on sexuality, and is also a gay activist.

He is among the academics in the early period of gay men's studies in Britain that emerged from the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) which he joined in 1970 and the Gay Left of which he was a founder member.

## Bibliography

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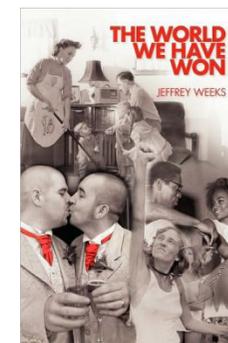
***Sex, Politics and Society. the regulation of sexuality since 1800*** (Longman 1981-1989) (320 p.)

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## Zoom

***The world we have won : The Remaking of Erotic and intimate Life*** (Routledge, 2007) (288 p.)



*The World We Have Won* is a major study of transformations in erotic and intimate life since 1945. We are living in a world of transition, in the midst of a long, unfinished but profound revolution that has transformed the possibilities of living out our sexual diversities.

This book provides a balance sheet of the changes that have transformed our ways of being, from welfarism to the pill, women's and gay liberation, from globalization, consumerism and individualization to new forms of intimacy, from friends as family to same sex marriage. Some respond to these challenges with a deep cultural pessimism or moral conservatism. It rejects such views and argues that this is a world we are increasingly making for ourselves, part of the long process of democratization of everyday life. Unless we grasp this we cannot understand, not only the problems and anxieties, but the opportunities and hopes in this world we have won.

## Keywords

Histoire  
Homosexualité  
Militantisme  
Politique  
Sexualité  
Socialisme

Société  
Sociologie

# Jeffrey Weeks

## Wales

**Same sex intimacies : Families of choice and other life experiments** (Routledge, 2001) (255 p.)



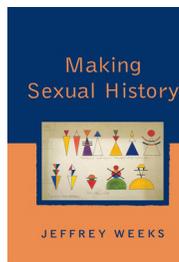
Our families are increasingly a matter of choice, and the choices are widening all the time. This is particularly true of the non-heterosexual world, where the last ten years have seen a popular acceptance of same sex partnerships and, to a lesser extent, of same sex

parenting.

Based on extensive interviews with people in a variety of non-traditional relationships, this fascinating new book argues that these developments in the non-heterosexual world are closely linked to wider changes in the meaning of family in society at large, and that each can cast light on the other.

Same Sex Intimacies gives vivid accounts of the different ways non-heterosexual people have been able to create meaningful intimate relationships for themselves, and highlights the role of individual agency and collective endeavour in forging these roles: as friends, partners, parents and as members of communities. This topical book will provide compelling reading for students of the family, sexuality and lesbian and gay studies.

**Making sexual history** (Polity Press, 2000) (272 p.)

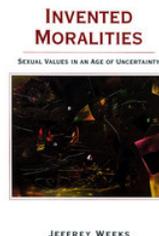


Jeffrey Weeks has established an international reputation as one of the most original and influential writers on the social history of sexuality. This new book brings together some of his most important work on the changing patterns of our sexual and intimate lives today.

The first part of the book discusses writers on sexuality, from Havelock Ellis to more recent influential thinkers such as Michel Foucault. Jeffrey Weeks gives an account of the social and political context in which they wrote, and assesses how their work has shaped our concepts of sexuality and intimacy. The second part of the book explores the ways in which sociologists and historians have been rethinking sexuality, and how 'the erotic' is being reinvented by new sexual and social movements. He examines the impact of AIDS as well as the gradual changes which have transformed personal lives in this century, and concludes with a review of attitudes and ideas at the end of the millennium.

This highly accessible text will be of interest to specialists and students in the areas of sociology and social theory, and history, as well as all those working in the area of gender studies who are concerned with issues of sexuality and intimate life.

**Invented Moralities. Sexual values in an age of uncertainty** (Polity press, 1995) (209 p.)



At the core of the ongoing debate over « values » is the issue of sexuality. Indeed, when conservative politicians invoke the notion of « family values », they imply a range of ideals centered around the limitation of sexual freedom. Sex and morality have become hot topics in this age

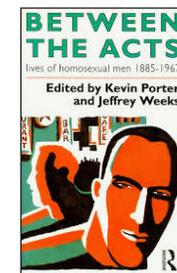
of widespread uncertainty about the location of « right » and « wrong ».

In *Invented Moralities*, renowned scholar Jeffrey Weeks explores the clashes over sexual values that characterize these contemporary debates. Working from what he calls a radical humanist perspective, Weeks looks at sexual mores in these times of confusion - from AIDS and the challenges of love and death, to the politics of diversity, to controversial topics such as sadomasochism, rape, and abortion rights.

*Invented Moralities* asks us to move beyond the narrow focus on « right » and « wrong » sexual behavior, and instead turn our attention to the ethics of how we engage with the shifting landscapes of sexuality. As Weeks puts it, we need to develop « an ethic of relationships, not a morality of [sex] acts ».

As a point of entry into the debate on values, *Invented Moralities* presents an imperative for the contemporary Left. In an even broader sense, this important work offers a celebration of individual freedom and the rich diversity of human goals.

**Between the acts. Lives of homosexual men 1885-1967** (With Kevin Porter) (Routledge, 1990-1998) (153 p.)

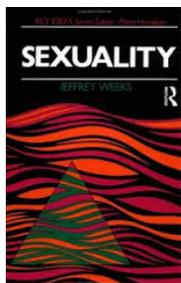


People's lives are complex, contradictory and inconsistent. They can also be rich and passionate, at times lonely, at times exciting. *Between the Acts* reflects this in the life stories of fifteen gay men in the years when homosexual acts were illegal in the United

Kingdom.

The interviews give a vivid impression of gay male life when documentary evidence is limited. These memories and experiences allow us exceptional insights into how gay men made sense of their needs and desires, and fashioned for themselves manageable personal and social identities. These moving accounts of individual quests for identity and community will appeal to gay readers and to those with an interest in life during the earlier part of this century.

**Sexuality** (Ellis Horwood/Tavistock, 1986-2003) (128 p.)



For over twenty years, *Sexuality* has provided a cutting edge introduction to debates about sexualities, gender, and intimate life. Previous editions included pioneering discussions of the historical shaping of sexuality, identity politics, the rise of fundamentalism, the social impact of AIDS, the influence of the new genetics, 'global sex', queer theory, 'sex wars', the debates about values, new patterns of intimacy, and much more. In this new edition,

Jeffrey Weeks offers a thorough update of these debates, and introduces new concepts and issues. Globalization is now a key way of understanding the reshaping of sexual life, and is discussed in relation to global flows, neo-liberalism, new forms of opposition, cosmopolitanism and the heated debates around sex trafficking and sex tourism. Arguments about the regulation and control of sexuality, and the intersection of various dimensions of power and domination are contextualised by a sustained argument about the importance of agency in remaking sexual and intimate life. In particular, new forms of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer politics, and the high impact of the debates about same-sex marriage are explored. These controversies, in turn, feed into debates about what is 'transgressive', 'normal', 'ordinary'; into the nature of heter-normativity; and into the meanings of diversity and choice. To conclude, the book turns to questions of values and ethics, recognition, sexual citizenship and human sexual rights.

This book displays the succinctness, clarity and comprehensiveness for which Jeffrey Weeks has become well known. It will appeal to a wide range of readers internationally.

**Sexuality and its discontents : Meanings, myths and modern sexualities** (Routledge, 1985) (336 p.)

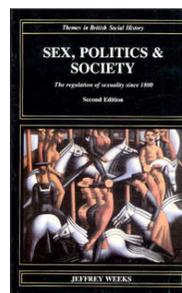


Few topics evoke so much anxiety and pleasure, pain and hope, discussion and silence as sexuality. Throughout the Christian era it has been a major moral preoccupation. Since the eighteenth century it has also been the focus of 'scientific' exploration and political activity. But, despite this obsessive concern, we are still as baffled as our predecessors about the 'true' meaning of sex. In this book Jeffrey Weeks unravels the dense web of historical, theoretical and political forces that have culminated in the contemporary crisis of sexual meanings and values.

The book begins with a powerful evocation of our present discontents and their potent signs: the rise of the New Right, the retreat of progressive forces and a wave of moral panics around sex. It argues that this crisis is rooted in a tradition which has ascribed an inflated importance to sexuality, whilst claiming a privileged access to truth. The author then examines radical debates of recent years, and asks whether they contain the potentiality for taking us beyond the existing boundaries of sexuality. From this analysis emerges a controversial 'radical pluralist' approach to sexuality built on an acceptance of diversity and choice.

By linking our present discontents to a clear understanding of the past, Jeffrey Weeks presents a rational, optimistic and challenging vision of a realizable future.

**Sex, Politics and Society. the regulation of sexuality since 1800** (Longman 1981-1989) (320 p.)



This major work explores the transformation of attitudes to sexuality over the last 200 years. It provides detailed discussions of class differences, the significance of family, the changing experiences of childhood, changing concepts of female sexuality, the development of theories of homosexuality and the role of class.

Since the first edition of this major work was published in 1981 Britain has experienced major social and political transformations, which have had a significant impact on the regulation of sexuality. This book has been revised and a new chapter examines the effects of AIDS and its relationship to the new 'moral agenda' that has emerged in recent years.