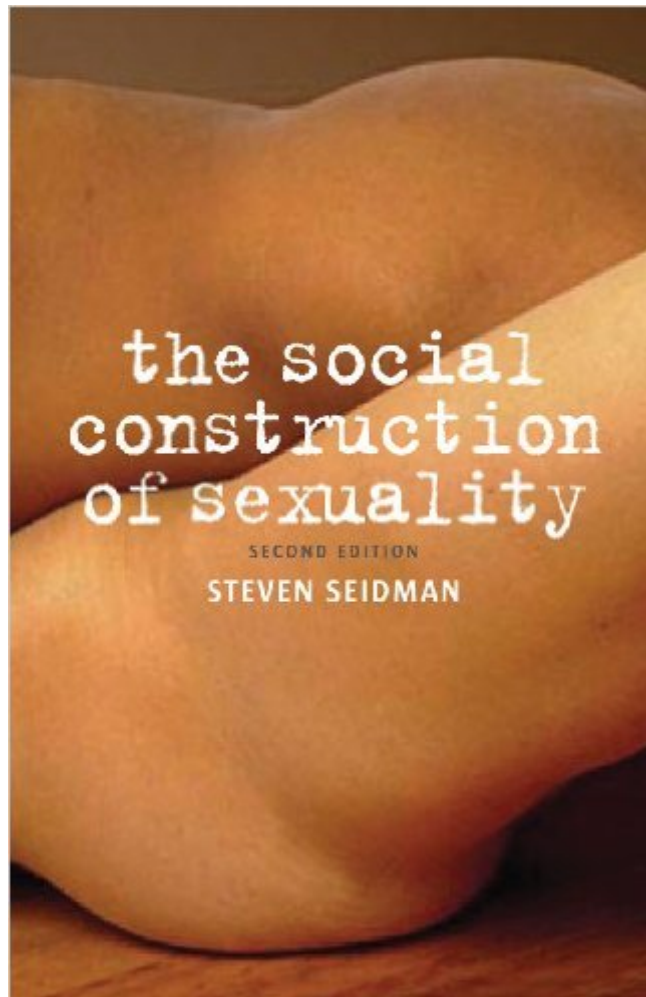


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The Social Construction Of Sexuality (Second Edition) (Contemporary Societies Series)



Synopsis

An affordable primer to sexuality from a sociological perspective. In *The Social Construction of Sexuality*, Steven Seidman investigates the political and social consequences of privileging certain sexual practices and identities while stigmatizing others. Addressing a range of topics from gay and lesbian identities to sex work, he delves into issues of social control that inform popular beliefs and moral standards. The Second Edition of *The Social Construction of Sexuality* features a new part that focuses on sexuality and social institutions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The *Social Construction of Sexuality* is an excellent INTRODUCTION to sociological theorizing on sexuality. The book is a teaser, in a sense, because it leaves the reader eager to read past theorists for themselves or explore individual topics in greater detail. Ideal for UNDERgraduate sociology courses. A succinct, well explicated, quick read. My main problem with the book is that it is so heavy on theory that interesting empirical niceties have been ignored. If using this text for a "Social Construction of Sexuality" course, I would recommend an anthology or reader with empirical findings to supplement the pure theory found in the book. Another criticism of the book is that it follows the lead of too many recent "social constructionists" in explaining how categories of knowledge are socially conceived. I prefer a different strain of empirical social constructionist work - a type best executed in Frankenberg's *"The Social Construction of Whiteness."* In the original work by Berger & Luckmann, as well as the Frankenberg book, an attempt is made to trace the social construction of

categories of meaning throughout the life cycle of the individual or group. In Seidman's work, he resorts to broad historical generalities which amount to male-good, female-bad, and homosexual-bad, heterosexual-good. The book is worth the read, but I don't think a reader will walk away convinced that a social constructionist approach is the best one to use when approaching sexuality. Use the book as a quick way to survey the sociological literature on the subject, and move on.

I started reading this as required material for a class that I was taking and ended up finishing the book before the class started. Received this book two days ago and couldn't put it down. Very easy read with informative and interesting material. Highly recommended as a side read and especially for someone ready to explore their sexuality. Outstanding literature...

This book was assigned in a college course, and I honestly did not read it at first.... When it came time for our Midterm, I began reading the book in order to study, and I quickly realized I had read past the portion assigned -- it was a really good read, and it is one of the few books from my college career that I plan on keeping rather than selling back. Good intro to, as the title states, the idea of sexuality as a social construction.

Got this book for a college course very easy to understand and VERY interesting pictures!

it is what it is...a ridiculously high priced new textbook....but a very good read

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