Sexual History Before *The History of Sexuality*: Constructions of the Past in Havelock Ellis' *Studies In the Psychology of Sex*

It is by now a commonplace that present-day sexual terminologies are, in large parts, inherited from the sexual sciences of the late nineteenth- and early twentieth century. Because *scientia sexualis* tends to be understood as a *new* discourse, emerging in the second half of the nineteenth century and presenting a turning point in the history of sexuality, we often forget that sexologists themselves drew heavily on the past in their bid to construct sexual knowledge, thus writing their own histories of sexuality. Outlining the history of sexuality presented in Havelock Ellis’ 7-volume *Studies in the Psychology of Sex*, this paper shows that sexual science and sexual history were intimately related disciplines. Looking at the different ways in which the past was evoked in Ellis’ writings and taking into consideration his self-reflexive comments on sexual historiography, we can understand why and how sexological discourse turned to the past. Examining the use of disciplines such as archaeology, anthropology, and ethnology in sexological discourse, we can arrive at a significantly richer and more complex understanding of the way in which sexuality came to be articulated within the context of sexual science. Most importantly, going beyond Ellis’ widely-discussed book on *Sexual Inversion*, which was published as the second volume of his *Studies in the Psychology of Sex*, the paper investigates the use of sexual history across the binaries of homosexuality and heterosexuality. To conclude, the paper considers to what degree today’s queer historiographical projects are indebted to the sexual histories written by sexological predecessors.

**Biography**

Jana Funke (MA, MSt, PhD) is associate research fellow at the Centre for Medical History, University of Exeter. As part of the ‘Sexual History, Sexual Knowledge’ project, she is currently working on a monograph about sexual uses of the past in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century sexology, literature and culture. In 2008, she co-organised the AHRC-funded *Sexualities In and Out of Time Conference* at the University of Edinburgh. In 2010, she was the recipient of a Harry Ransom Center Fellowship. She has published on the intersections of sexuality and time as well as the sexological case history. She is the co-editor of *Sex, Gender and Time in Fiction and Culture* (Palgrave, 2011).