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DISGRACE

Global Reflections on Sexual Violence

Joanna Bourke

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234 x 156 mm HB £20 352 pp

‘In *Disgrace*, Joanna Bourke engages carefully with “the political, economic and cultural labour” of diverse individuals and groups to craft a powerful, comprehensive and necessary intervention that travels across multiple contexts, while always holding connection and care. She is rigorous in her analyses and reflections, while lovingly and unflinchingly challenging us to rethink, reimagine and rework our individual and collective strategies for creating a world without sexual violence.’

– Marai Larasi, advocate, community organizer and social justice consultant

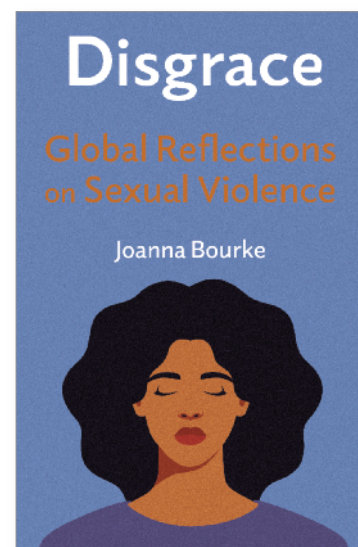
‘Joanna Bourke offers a transnational history of sexual violence, and calls for a transversal form of solidarity to bring sexual violence to an end.

This comprehensive work draws upon cases and reports from across the world to show both the specificity and pervasive quality of sexual violence . . . This work is a bold and impressive account of sexual violence, drawing its examples from multiple regions and languages, calling into question the normalization of violence as well as its depoliticized versions.’

– Judith Butler

Disgrace is the first truly global history of sexual violence. The book explores how sexual violence varies widely across time and place, from nineteenth-century peasant women in Ireland who were abducted as a way of forcing marriage, to date-raped high-school students in twentieth-century America, and from girls and women violated by Russian soldiers in 1945 to Dalit women raped by men of higher castes today. It delves into the factors that facilitate violence – including institutions, ideologies and practices – but also gives voice to survivors and activists, drawing inspiration from their struggles. Ultimately, Joanna Bourke intends to forge a transnational feminism that will promote a more harmonious, equal and rape- and violence-free world.

Joanna Bourke is Professor of History at Birkbeck, University of London, a Fellow of the British Academy, and the Gresham Professor of Rhetoric (until 2023). Her many books include *The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers* (2014) and *War and Art: A Visual History of Modern Conflict* (2017).



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Praise for

Disgrace

'*Disgrace* is a monumental feat of research and an act of political scrutiny at its most far-reaching. From India to Haiti, from Abu Ghraib to Namibia, Joanna Bourke trails the cruel incidence of rape across the globe. Not least remarkable is her respect for individual voices, the way she links the minutiae of local conditions to the universal endurance of rape, and her insistence on the vulnerability of all bodies and all genders in a "sexually harmful world". *Disgrace* will become required reading for anyone seeking to put rape at the forefront of the struggle to make the world a better and safer place.'

– Jacqueline Rose, author of *On Violence* and *On Violence Against Women*

'Bold in its global vision and eminently readable, *Disgrace* is a work of scholarship that is full of empathy and conviction. Joanna Bourke builds upon decades of her research and brings a historian's omniscient eye to a topic which may be called "timely," but in fact has long been a part of human history. Across geographies, cultures, and eras, the reality of sexual violence has always served as a sobering reminder of humanity's flaws and cruelties. Here is an eye-opening book to help us understand that reality more fully – and to help us envision a future free of rape.' – Winnie M Li, author of *Dark Chapter* and *Complicit*, activist and rape survivor