

**Everyday crime, criminal justice and gender in early modern Bologna** Muurling, S.T.D.

## Citation

Muurling, S. T. D. (2019, May 16). Everyday crime, criminal justice and gender in early modern Bologna. Retrieved from https://hdl.handle.net/1887/72414

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: Leiden University Non-exclusive license

Downloaded from: https://hdl.handle.net/1887/72414

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

- The crimes of men and women are in essence far more alike than different. The most important historical dissimilarities arose from a patriarchal society and its institutions perceiving and treating these crimes and their offenders in another way.
- 2. The legal agency of men and women in Bologna has been pivotal in shaping a more nuanced image of violence in the past. Their ability to record complaints reveal a large bulk of petty physical altercations that is much more telling of individuals' everyday encounters with violence and the law than homicide prosecutions alone.
- 3. The concept of separate spheres fails to capture the complexities of everyday life in the early modern period. In particular, the assumed association between women and the private sphere does not do justice to the myriad public, urban spaces in which women conducted their licit and illicit activities.
- 4. Historians should be careful not to present crime patterns found in northern European cities as a generalized model of 'urban crime'. Data from Italy underscores the need for a more differentiated understanding of urban crime patterns across different regions of Europe.
- 5. It is imperative to teach students of history to read both with and against the archival grain. Even though sources are often shaped by an institution of dominance, they also offer valuable windows into other voices, perspectives and agency of those otherwise not recorded.
- 6. While research funding bodies stress the importance of interdisciplinarity, it is undervalued how much there is still to gain from bridging the gaps within the historical discipline itself. Reinforced dialogues between those engaged in social history, the New History from Below, micro-historians and institutional historians through a topic like crime could yield significant new insights.
- 7. The critical evaluation of the primary and secondary sources constituting the basis for assertions is one of the most valuable skills that the historical discipline teaches us. It continues to be of tremendous relevance, especially in this supposed 'post-truth' era.
- 8. Historians should put more effort into making their science open. Publishing open access and the sharing of data should be perceived less as a nuisance and/or a threat, and more as an opportunity to build on each other's work and to further progress in the field.
- To reflect socio-historical realities, the next instalment of the video game Grand Theft Auto should include a female protagonist.