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Cupid on a leash: sexual codes of conduct in Renaissance Italy, 1450-1550

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Propositions

1. Sexual codes of conduct in Renaissance Italy cannot be properly understood without considering perceptions of sexual nature.
2. In Italy between c. 1450-1550, most beliefs about sexual nature were a reflection of male (upper-class) interests.
3. The impact of gender hierarchy on sexual codes of conduct for men and women in Renaissance Italy cannot be overestimated.
4. With regard to matters of sexuality, the amount of leeway that any individual was permitted in Italy between c. 1450-1550, strongly depended on gender, age, social class and sexual orientations.
5. When studying the history of sexuality, one should think in terms of contradictory codes of conduct rather than in terms of an opposition between normative behavior and sexual deviancy.
6. When looking at the past, researchers should note that the existence of many different, often contradictory codes of conduct could be both liberating and restrictive.
7. Using a wide variety of sources is the only way to examine how broadly a particular code of conduct was shared in the past.
8. Contrary to what Jacqueline Murray and Nicholas Terpstra have claimed, monographs that offer generalized conclusions relating to sex, gender and sexuality in Renaissance Italy are a vital means for the dissemination of research, even at this point in the evolution of the history of sexuality. [Contra: J.M. Murray and N. Terpstra, 'Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Renaissance Italy: Themes and Approaches in Recent Scholarship' in: Idem eds., *Sex, Gender and Sexuality in Renaissance Italy* (Abingdon/New York 2019) 6.]

9. When comparing the sexual codes of conduct in modern Europe and Renaissance Italy, the differences outweigh the similarities.
10. When comparing the sexual codes of conduct in modern Europe and Renaissance Italy, the similarities outweigh the differences.
11. The taste of a cappuccino consumed in Italy after 11AM is markedly improved by the thrill of nonconformity.