



The Society for the History of Women in the Americas (SHAW)



Charlie Jeffries (Sussex) in conversation with Grace Watkins (Yale Law School) about Jeffries, *Teenage Dreams: Girlhood Sexualities in the US Culture Wars* (2022) 13 December 2022, 6-7pm.

Please join us online on 13 December 2022 (6-7pm) to hear Charlie Jeffries (Sussex) in conversation with Grace Watkins (Yale Law School) about Jeffries, *Teenage Dreams: Girlhood Sexualities in the US Culture Wars* (2022).

Charlie Jeffries (she/her) is Lecturer in American and Media Studies at the University of Sussex. Her research focuses on the history of sexuality and the history of social movements in the late twentieth-century and early twenty-first century United States.

Utilizing a breadth of archival sources from activists, artists, and policymakers, *Teenage Dreams* examines the race- and class-inflected battles over adolescent women's sexual and reproductive lives in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century United States. Charlie Jeffries finds that most adults in this period hesitated to advocate for adolescent sexual and reproductive rights, revealing a new culture war altogether--one between adults of various political stripes in the cultural mainstream who prioritized the desire to delay girlhood sexual experience at all costs, and adults who remained culturally underground in their support for teenagers' access to frank sexual information, and who would dare to advocate for this in public. The book tells the story of how the latter group of adults fought alongside teenagers themselves, who constituted a large and increasingly visible part of this activism. The history of the debates over teenage sexual behavior reveals unexpected alliances in American political battles, and sheds new light on the resurgence of the right in the US in recent years.

Grace Watkins is a law student at Yale University and doctoral candidate in History at the University of Oxford. Her dissertation is on the history of campus police in the United States from 1948-1990. She is the co-editor of a forthcoming volume *Cops on Campus: Critical Perspectives on Policing in Higher Education* with the University of Washington Press.

Attendance is free but you must sign up in advance via <https://www.history.ac.uk/seminars/gender-and-history-americas>