

Selling Sex in the City: Prostitution in World Cities, 1600 to the Present

For the sake of comparison, we aim to gather as much as possible similar information for all towns described in the project. We expect urban overviews to cover prostitution in the town in question between 1600 and the present (or for the time the town existed, if it did not exist as a town of sufficient size for the full four centuries). Please try to cover all aspects mentioned below (as far as they are relevant in the town and period discussed) and give all periods due attention. Do not focus solely on an aspect that you have devoted your research to and/or that you can offer new information on.

Framework document for urban overviews

1. Introduction: A few paragraphs for any remarks on historiography, methodology and sources.
2. Definitions (overlapping of legal and cultural definitions throughout place and time): This section should make clear what in the town (country, culture) discussed a prostitute was considered to be. What activities constituted (also) prostitution (e.g. adultery) and which did not (e.g. sexual services from a slave to her master); which sexual services were considered close to or distinct from prostitution; was prostitution (perceived as) a criminal or a moral offence and which aspect of it were considered criminal?
3. The labour market for prostitution:
 - a. Prostitutes' social profiles
 - i. Religious, racial and ethnic backgrounds
 - ii. Education level
 - iii. Employment prior or parallel to prostitution
 - iv. Family situation (married; unmarried; children...)
 - v. Age structure (age of beginning and end of prostitution): temporary or life-long activity?
 - vi. Prostitutes' physical and psychological health
 - b. Push and pull factors
 - i. Urbanization and industrialization
 - ii. Proletarianization and pauperization
 - iii. Gender segregation in the 'regular' labour market
 - iv. Demographic transition (e.g. gender balance in population; delayed marriages and family formation)
 - v. Concentrations of males with money to spend: mines, garrison towns, naval bases, ports...
 - vi. War
 - vii. Migration; trafficking
 - viii. Impact of women's socio-economic emancipation on prostitution

- ix. Communication and transport revolutions and their influence on prostitution
- c. Changes of working conditions throughout time and place:
 - i. In-door; out-door soliciting
 - ii. Payment systems (exchange of sex for any valued commodity/sexual barter: also considered prostitution?)
 - iii. Prostitution during wartimes and near military concentrations in peace times
 - iv. Prostitution as casual or permanent employment: part- or full-time activity?
 - v. Relation to other forms of sex work (dancing, stripping, massage) or related professions (masseur, nightclub hostess)
 - vi. Material conditions of subservience imbedded in a wider structure of gendered, economic, class or racial subservience?
- d. Prostitute/employer/client-relationship:
 - i. Independent work or under 'protection' of madams, pimps or escort agents?
 - ii. Forced or free choice (as far as this can be determined)?
 - iii. Conditions of compliance and traces of defiance (formal and informal activism) towards clients, employers and/or labour intermediaries (pimps, madams, brothel keepers, escort agents, owners of massage parlours or barber shops...)
- e. Prostitutes' culture
 - i. Hierarchy
 - Did issues of race, ethnicity and class play a role in the shaping of hierarchy? And vice versa: did prostitution help produce racial and class hierarchies?
 - How did location, types of clients, levels of 'protection' (madams, pimps, escort agents...) and earnings influence the shaping of hierarchies?
 - ii. Solidarity: did social constructs based on race, religion, class and age encourage or discourage group solidarity?
 - iii. Self-presentation and prostitutes' attitudes towards prostitution: survival, inclination, emancipation, desire for luxury consumption, attraction to easy earnings, disdain of 'normal' work...?
- 4. Society and prostitutes
 - a. (State and non-state) Persecution and violence
 - b. State regulation/prohibition/tolerance
 - c. Non-state actors' activism: religious and secular social workers; feminists
 - d. Effects of women liberalization (tolerance of pre-marital sex): decline of prostitution? Increased acceptance of prostitution as a way of life?
- 5. (Optional) Special cases
 - a. Child prostitution
 - b. Male and homosexual prostitution
 - c. Prostitution in non-urban areas