

TQEF Research-Informed Teaching Initiative

Project Title

An examination of violence against women in eighteenth-century England

Project Team

This project was undertaken by Dr Richard Williams, History Department, University of Plymouth

Aim of the Project

To produce an electronic information/data solving package for teaching

To produce an electronic information/data solving pack for students and researchers

The project will have a contemporary resonance. Gender and violence are current areas of research amongst scholars in a range of disciplines. The project will acquaint students with a serious contemporary issue and help them to understand the historical context in which violence against women can be placed.

Methodology

The aim of the project was to provide a searchable collection of court depositions. These were transcribed from original court documents from the Oxford Assize Circuit, viewable via a web-based interface. The database is similar in concept to the 'Old Bailey Proceedings [1674-1913, <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org>]. The learning technologists [EdaLT] designed an easily navigable web interface and the database has been constructed using ASP.NET framework. The database can be searched using three criteria: name,

date and location, and currently includes only rape cases. However, the plan is to expand the content to include other crimes. There are approximately 30 cases in total which have all been transcribed from the original records [at the National Archives]. Each individual case has several depositions from victim and witnesses, that have been transcribed and inputted to the database.

Student participation

Students examined and evaluated the primary sources used in this database. Small groups of students [3/4 students] who attended the module HIST327 Crime and the Courts in 18/19c England and MASH503 Poverty and Crime in 18c England, were asked to provide critical commentaries on the Depositions used in the database.

However, the original intention was to involve students to a far greater degree in the in the design of the project. This proved difficult to achieve. Students were reluctant to participate in a project that was not directly linked to their assessment schedule.

Future plans

There are plans to develop the project further and more funding and support is being sought.