



This module explores gender, sexuality and family in Ireland from the 1860s to the 1990s with a particular focus on how gender roles, understandings of gender, sexual expression and family life evolved. It examines the impact of changing social and economic realities, welfare ideologies, religious and moral imperatives and political activism. The module also considers how the historiography has developed and changed over time in relation to women's history and gender history and how this has informed understandings of the history of the family in Ireland.

Key questions considered are: What were the main changes in women's lives during this period? Was men's role equally important in shaping the family and society and was it also subject to change? How was female and male sexuality constructed, perceived and lived during this period? How did cultural understandings of sex and sexual morality impact on the regulation of sexuality in Ireland? How did social and legal responses to homosexuality evolve? How did understandings of gender change during this period?

A particular focus is placed on the everyday of gender experience using various primary sources, such as letters, diaries, memoirs, commissions of inquiry, photographs, fiction, films and newspapers.