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Sommario/riassunto

This collection tells the story of the case study genre at a time when it became the genre par excellence for discussing human sexuality across the humanities and life sciences. It is a transcontinental journey from the imperial world of fin-de-siecle Central Europe to the interwar metropolises of Weimar Germany and to the United States of America in the post-war years. Foregrounding the figures of case study pioneers, and highlighting their often radical engagements with the genre, the book scrutinises the case writing practices of Sigmund Freud and his predecessor sexologist Richard von Krafft-Ebing; writers including Leopold von Sacher-Masoch and Alfred Döblin; Weimar intellectuals such as Erich Wulffen and psychoanalyst Viola Bernard. The results are important new insights into the continuing legacy of such writers and into the agency increasingly claimed by the readerships that emerged with the development of modernity.