

Holmes, B. (2019) “Let Go of Laqueur: Toward New Histories of the Sexed Body.” *Eugesta: Journal of Gender Studies in Antiquity* 9, 1-40.

This article contests the influential argument about sexed bodies in ancient Greece and Rome advanced by Thomas Laqueur’s 1990 book *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud*. Laqueur argued that the concept of the sexed body that emerged in the eighteenth century broke radically with the premodern one-sex body, in which the difference between men and women was rooted in metaphysical and social — rather than biological — principles. The article first argues that Laqueur’s work misrepresents the logic of sexed embodiment in Greco-Roman antiquity by taking the nature–culture binary as universal and forcing the ancient evidence into its constraints. It then challenges the dominant historiographical principle by which the premodern is cast as the inversion of the modern. It advocates an approach to the history of the sexed body that contends with the multiplicity of sexed bodies in the past and places the entangled receptions of ancient Greek texts at the center of its methodology.