



# Student Sex Work

International Perspectives and Implications for Policy and Practice

*Edited by*  
Debbie Jones · Teela Sanders



# Stigma and the Hostile University: A Cross-National, Comparative Analysis of Student Sex Work in the UK and Australia

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- [Cassandra Beer](#)

- Chapter
- [First Online: 28 September 2022](#)

- **85** Accesses

Part of the [Palgrave Advances in Sex Work Studies](#) book series (PASWS)

## Abstract

In this chapter, Simpson and Beer analyse how cis women university students in the UK and Australia negotiate their dual roles/identities as students and sex workers. Through a cross-national analysis, we demonstrate how women in both countries adopt similar approaches to respond to sex work stigma by drawing on their socially positive status as students. While our student sample experienced relative privilege within the whorearchy and in their workplaces, as primarily white, middle class, heterosexual, cis women, within the context of the university, their experience was largely hostile and unsupportive. Overall, we argue that universities in both countries must actively address the whorephobia embedded within the higher education system producing shame, fear and pushing students into hiding as a strategy to continue their education.

## Keywords

- **Cis women**
- **duality**
- **stigma**
- **hostile educational environments**

- **Australia**

- **UK**

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Cite this chapter

Simpson, J., Beer, C. (2022). Stigma and the Hostile University: A Cross-National, Comparative Analysis of Student Sex Work in the UK and Australia. In: Jones, D., Sanders, T. (eds) Student Sex Work. Palgrave Advances in Sex Work Studies. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-07777-7\\_8](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-07777-7_8)

Download citation

- [.RIS](#)
- [.ENW](#)
- [.BIB](#)

- DOI [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-07777-7\\_8](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-07777-7_8)
- Published 28 September 2022
- Publisher Name Palgrave Macmillan, Cham
- Print ISBN 978-3-031-07776-0
- Online ISBN 978-3-031-07777-7
- eBook Packages [Social Sciences Social Sciences \(R0\)](#)