

Despite generations of feminist and queer deconstructions of gender and sexual binarisms in diverse disciplines, the modern/colonial belief in the heteronormative sexual (and thus gender) binary between ‘man’ and ‘woman’ seems to still be strongly held in contemporary society. In this conference, we ask if the binary gender system works as a kind of belief, a question that leads us to explore the relationship between ‘gender’ and systems of ‘faith’ by focusing on three different relations between the two: ‘gender as faith’, ‘gender against faith’, and ‘gender in faith’. The convergences and conflicts between gender and faith also ask us to look more closely at the complex and diverse articulations of gender within different religious “faiths”.

Questions to be addressed by the conference include the following: Is the analogy of gender heteronormativity and “faith” still relevant in a cultural and religious context not focused on faith? Are “queerness” and “faith” compatible? How do actual non-heteronormative gender positions within religious traditions contradict conservative religious demonisations of gender theory as “gender ideology”?

In collaboration with the Zentrum für Gender- und Diversitätsforschung of the University of Tübingen (ZGD Tübingen)

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International Conference – 10 - 11 December 2015, In English

Organized by
Zairong Xiang (ICI Berlin) and
Gero Bauer (ZGD Tübingen)

THURSDAY – 10 DECEMBER 2015

- 15:00 INTRODUCTION: Zairong Xiang and Gero Bauer
- 15:15 – 16:00 ROUNDTABLE I: **Conversation Among Participants**
- 16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break
- 16:30 – 19:00 **PANEL I: GENDER IN / AGAINST FAITH**
CHAIR: Regina Ammicht Quinn
- Ayse Güc-Isik** (Ankara):
 The Construction of Femininity and Masculinity in Islamic Thought
- Marcin Sroczynski** (Warsaw):
 A Year of Conflict -
 The 'War on Gender Ideology' Discourse of the Polish Catholic Church,
 and the Liberal Backlash
- 17:30 – 18:00 Coffee break
- Azeezah Kanji** (Toronto and London):
 Queering Identity, Querying the State:
 A Critique of the Discourse on Sexual Minorities in
 Islamic Law and International Human Rights Law
- Aurica Nutt** (Cologne):
 The ,Queering of Nature' as a Challenge for a
 Roman Catholic ,Ökologie des Menschen'
- 19:00 – 19:30 Coffee break
- 19:30 INTRODUCTION: **Zairong Xiang**
- 19:40 KEYNOTE: **Catherine Keller** (Madison):
 The Queer Multiplicity of Becoming:
 a Feminist Theology of Entangled Difference

FRIDAY – 11 DECEMBER 2015

- 10:15 INTRODUCTION: **Zairong Xiang and Gero Bauer**
- 10:30 – 13:00 **PANEL II: CONTESTING HETERONORMATIVITY FROM WITHIN**
CHAIR: Whitney Bauman
- Willem Flinterman** (Amsterdam):
 Going Medieval? Jihad and Heteronormativity
- Keri Day** (Fort Worth):
 'Queering' Faith in U.S. Black Christianity:
 Black Feminist and Womanist Perspectives
- 11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break
- Piro Rexhepi** (New York):
 Regulating Faith through Sexual Representation:
 Balkan Islam (after) Homonationalism?
- Blossom Stefaniw** (Mainz):
 Queer Fathers in the Egyptian Desert:
 Four Stories of Masculinity Beyond Maleness
- 13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break
- 14:30 – 16:00 **PANEL III: QUEER POLITICS IN FAITH**
CHAIR: Gero Bauer
- Surat Shaan Rathgeber Knan** (London):
 Twilight People:
 Stories of Faith & Gender Beyond the Binary
- David K. Seitz** (Toronto):
 Repairing Faith, Repairing Citizenship?
 The Work of World-Building in Queer Church
- Maheshvari Naidu** (Kwa-Zulu Natal):
 Faith and the Lesbian Body: Narratives of Contested Belief
- 16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break
- 16:30 – 17:30 **PANEL IV: THEORIZING GENDER AND FAITH**
CHAIR: INGRID HOTZ-DAVIES
- Sourav Kargupta** (Kolkata):
 Witnessing the 'Outside' to Faith-Like Structures:
 Woman's Body and the Problem of the 'Sati'
- Nina Cvar / Jasmina Sepetavc** (Ljubljana):
 The Transcendence of the Momentary:
 Queering Sex, Gender, and Temporality
- 17:30 – 18:00 Coffee Break
- 18:00 ROUNDTABLE II: **Final Discussion**