The Gendered Power System in the Catholic Church and its Impact on Women in Religious Communities

A trans-disciplinary and international workshop
Chair of Pastoral Theology and Homiletics, University of Regensburg
DFG-Research Projekt „Vulnerabilities“, University of Würzburg,
Faculty of Catholic Theology
8 - 10 June 2023, University of Regensburg

Program

Thursday, 8 June 2023
14.00 Introduction: Prof.in Dr. Hildegund Keul und Prof.in Dr. Ute Leimgruber
14.30-18.30: Systems of Vulnerability, Vulnerance and Agency/Resilience
Dr. Kathleen McPhillips (Newcastle/Australia): The Sexual Economies of Clericalism: Understanding religious women's agency in systems of gendered violence
Prof.in Dr. Katharina Karl (Eichstätt/Germany): Despite everything. Empowerment and Agency in Biographical Narratives of Young Women from Buenos Aires
Prof.in Dr. Hildegund Keul (Würzburg/Germany): Vulnerability, vulnerance and resilience – a three-dimensional research approach
20.00-22.00: International Networking

Friday, 9 June 2023
9.00-13.00: Studies on Women in Religious Communities – Women as Victims, Perpetrators and Agents of Change
Dr. Tracy McEwan (Newcastle/Australia): „From the beginning they have been a trouble to us“: Religious women struggling for agency in 19th century Australia
Dr. Rocio Figueroa (Auckland/New Zealand): A Pilot Program with Nuns in Africa: Addressing sexual and spiritual abuse
Dr. Barbara Haslbeck (Regensburg/Germany): Women religious as perpetrators of sexual abuse against women religious. Experiences of victims – patterns – interpretation
14.30-18.30: Practices of Gender-based Violence against Women in the Church

Dr. Judith König (Regensburg/Germany): Power and gender materialized. Some practical observations from a women’s convent

Magdalena Hürten (Regensburg/Germany): Sense of injustice. How gender frames what we perceive as abuse

Prof. in Dr. Ute Leimgruber (Regensburg/Germany): Hidden Patterns and Female ‘Consent’. How German diocesan reports (re)produce stereotypes about women and sex

20.00-22.00: International Networking

Saturday, 10 June 2023

9.00-13.00: Misogyny in Religious Communities and Constitutions – Deconstruction and Resistance

Dr. Regina Heyder (Mainz/Germany): Measured and presumptuous bodies. Virginity and abuse

Johanna Beck (Stuttgart/Germany): „The Girl Scout is chaste in thought, word and deed“. Abysses of a misogynistic and abusive Catholic sect and the lifelong impact on the survivors

Dr. Doris Reisinger (Frankfurt/Germany): The strange simultaneity of topicality and invisibility of the abuse of nuns. How third party interests have been re-victimizing and silencing abused nuns over centuries and how we can do better

Conclusion: Joint Evaluation of New Research Questions