

News from the Intersex, Identity and Disability project at the Lincoln Theological Institute, University of Manchester

Colloquium and Conference: Intersex, Theology and the Bible

On 12th March 2013, LTI hosted a conference on Intersex, Theology and the Bible. This followed a day-long colloquium involving scholars who have worked in the area of intersex and religion.



Nathan Carlin,
John Hare,
Susannah
Cornwall, Joseph
Marchal, Megan
DeFranza

Themes included a pastoral theological reading of the novel *Middlesex*; the potential of feminist and queer hermeneutics for reflection on intersex; and intersex in eschatological perspective.

Two speakers joined us via Skype. Stephen Kerry, from Darwin, Australia, spoke on the significance of religiosity for the wellbeing of intersex people. Sally Gross, director of Intersex South Africa, drew on her own experiences as an intersex person made to leave the Dominican Order because of her openness about her condition.

The other contributors were Nathan Carlin (University of Texas), Patricia Beattie Jung (Saint Paul School of Theology), Megan DeFranza (Gordon College), Joseph A. Marchal (Ball State University), and John Hare (Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge).

It was a stimulating day, attended by delegates from Britain, the USA and Norway. They included academics from a

range of disciplines (e.g. theology, biblical studies, Jewish studies, law, anthropology, sociology), as well as healthcare chaplains, clergy, representatives of intersex support and advocacy groups, and other interested parties.

Publication of books

12th March also saw the launch of my new book, *SCM Core Text: Theology and Sexuality* (SCM Press, 2013), a textbook designed for upper-level undergraduate students of theology.

The papers presented at the conference will, in due course, be published as a book, provisionally titled *Intersex, Theology and the Bible: Troubling Bodies in Church, Text and Society* (Palgrave Macmillan). This volume will also contain a chapter drawing on my own research into intersex and faith identity with intersex Christians in Britain.

Visit to USA and other events

In May 2013 I will present on the project and my related work in queer theology at the New School, New York City.

I am also due to present at events in Manchester, Sheffield and London. More details will be available via the project website soon.

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