

“Navigating Queer Borders”-Paradoxes within Southern African Protestantism

Abstract

Framed within discourse analysis, the paper discusses paradoxes in Southern African Protestantism in relation to diverse sexual identities. Using Zambian Christian men of same-sex orientation as a case study, I show that Protestantism has made strides towards embracing queer sexualities while at the same time largely remains opposed to queer sexualities: highlighting two paradoxical expressions of contemporary Protestantism. Opposition to queer sexualities spotlights how Protestantism remains “undemocratic” on sexual diversities and also its theological limitations to address queer sexualities but at the same time, embracing queer sexualities has enabled Protestantism undergo theological and ecclesiological shifts. I conclude that it is necessary for Protestantism in Southern Africa to continue mapping its way on borders that come with queer sexualities as these demand for new ways of theologizing and being Protestant.