

Women and naturalisation of their gender in discussing ordination in Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church

Aivita Putniņa, University of Latvia

The presentation looks at symbolic work of gender in creating and justifying power relationships in Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church. Gender creates difference between two categories of persons: men and women using reproductive function of women as the main symbol. The difference extends to gendering sacraments and priesthood and blends modern understandings of nature into organization of religious life. Based in interviews with lay Lutherans and pastors, the presentation looks at the ways beliefs about gender influence and organize relationships in Church. Predominant majority of interviews present a Conservative view on gender, taking a modernist view on relationships between men and women while only a few interlocutors accept cultural relativism in interpreting gender.