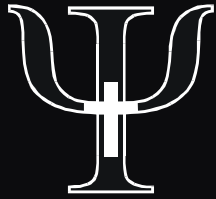


*Network of
Christians in
Psychology*



14th Annual NeCIP Conference 2004

*Sex, sexuality, and
relationships: Christian and
psychological perspectives*

Trinity College, Bristol
2-4 April, 2004

Keynote speaker:

**Professor David G. Myers, PhD
Hope College, Michigan, USA**

Booking forms and further details are available from www.necip.org.uk. Other details are available from Mrs. Janet Jackson at conference@necip.org.uk or on 0116 230 1057.

Keynote address 1

Friday 2 April 20.45-21.45

**David G. Myers, PhD
Hope College, Michigan, USA**

Psychological science meets the world of faith

NeCIP has invited David Myers to give an overview of his professional career and writings and to offer his perspective on religion and contemporary psychology. He will also draw on research that speaks to a hotly debated issue: Does religion do more harm or good?

Keynote address 2

Saturday 3 April 10.00-11.15

**David G. Myers, PhD
Hope College, Michigan, USA**

Marriage, family, and social renewal

In the third of a century after 1960, western cultures experienced gratifying increases in wealth, technology, and civil rights, mixed with disturbing declines in the well-being of marriage, families, and youth. This talk will describe the interrelatedness of these trends and the communitarian social renewal movement they have sparked. The bottom line: marriage and covenant relationships are associated with thriving children, adults, and communities.

Keynote address 3

Saturday 3 April 11.45-13.00

**David G. Myers, PhD
Hope College, Michigan, USA**

Sexual orientation: Christian and psychological perspectives

Is sexual orientation a choice? What influences sexual orientation? Is it malleable? What insights from psychological research might inform Christian thinking and debates over clergy ordination and gay marriage?

Breakout session #1

Saturday 3 April, 14.15-15.15

**Fraser Watts, PhD
University of Cambridge**

The quality of sexual relationships

Much Church discussion has been concerned with whether or not any form of non-marital sexuality is permissible. In the heat of that debate, there has been inadequate attention to the quality of sexual relationships, both marital and (if they are regarded as permissible) non-marital ones. I will draw on both theology and psychology in approaching this topic. The theologian I will use is Rowan Williams, particularly his articles, *Is there a Christian sexual ethic?* and *The body's grace*. The fact that he is Archbishop of Canterbury gives his views particular interest but,

in addition, *The body's grace* has been called “the best ten pages on sex” written in the 20th century. His approach is not explicitly psychological, though there is a good deal of sound psychological sense implicit in it. I will try to draw that out and articulate it more fully than he does himself.

Ad van Heeswijk, CPsychol
Community Adult Psychological Therapies
NHS Service, Newport, Isle of Wight

Tamar, sex, and the law: A psychological exploration of an intriguing Bible story

The intriguing story of Tamar and Judah (Gen. 38) triggers lots of questions about the complex relationships between faith, sex, gender issues and the law, to mention but a few. After telling the story (illustrated with some works of art – the story has always been very attractive to painters!) and elucidating it on the basis of biblical anthropology, I will endeavour to further clarify the story using concepts from psychoanalysis, cultural psychology and systemic theory. However, I would also like to find out what is the message in this story -about a selfish patriarchal man and a clever maverick woman, who both transgressed the Law and yet ended up in Christ's genealogy (Mat. 1:3)- for us 21st century citizens. I intend to do this, evidently not as an exegete, but by ‘playing’ psychologically with the concepts of ‘sin’ and ‘law’.

Lori Burkett, MA & Jacqueline Gatewood, PsyD
Regent University, Virginia, USA

Christianity and survivors of sexual abuse: Theory, research, and practice

[NB: This is a two-hour seminar continued in Breakout session #2]

While leaders within the field debate operational definitions of sexual abuse, the presence or absence of its lasting effects and whether a child is capable to give sexual consent, survivors continue to seek services from various mental health and religious organizations. Within our Christian community, many sexual abuse survivors struggle to recover from this debilitating trauma. Adult women survivors of childhood sexual abuse are in need of grace, compassion, and the freedom to heal from the devastating wounds of their abuse. How are Christian mental health providers, lay counsellors and pastors choosing to respond to the spiritual and emotional needs of this population? What types of resources are available? Unfortunately there is a dearth of empirical research related to the various interventions and techniques utilized by Christian mental health providers, lay counsellors, and pastors. Given that many individuals reach out to religious resources to help them address a myriad of issues, assessing the church's response to women survivors of childhood sexual abuse is essential.

The purpose of this seminar is to provide a framework for Christian mental health professionals and lay counsellors who respond to the needs of sexually abused women in a manner that is responsible to our faith, informed by theory and current research, and clinically ethical. Additionally, specific examples of faith-based interventions currently found within the Christian community will be offered and examined in light of empirical research and best clinical practice. Seminar participants will gain an understanding of the current state of empirical research in the area of faith-based interventions and treatment for sexual abuse survivors, and will examine a biblical and clinical rationale for developing a unique Christian approach to the treatment of sexual abuse.

Participants will also be provided with and encouraged to interact with specific examples of faith-based techniques found within various religiously congruent models of treatment.

Breakout session #2

Saturday 5 April, 14.30-15.45

Andrew Yip, PhD
Nottingham Trent University

Managing dissident sexual identity: British lesbian and gay Christians

Drawing upon quantitative and qualitative data from various research projects on the experiences of British lesbian and gay Christians, this paper highlights the various strategies they employed to manage their dissident sexual identity on three levels – individual/cognitive, interpersonal/social, and intergroup/social. These strategies include: (i) discarding religion altogether to eradicate psychological or identity dissonance; (ii) refraining from ‘practising’ their sexuality (e.g. through assistance from the ‘ex-gay’ movement) to minimise psychological dissonance; (iii) privatising their religious faith by dissociating from religious community; and (iv) engaging with the debate and effect changes from within. The last two strategies are predicated on theologically-informed rationalisation that justifies the acceptability of their sexuality by, for instance, the re-interpretation of religious texts and traditions that stigmatise homosexuality. On the whole, these context-specific

strategies, which are also closely informed by the significant changes of the participant's journey of sexuality and spirituality, demonstrate how individuals with counter-normative identity manage their lives on various levels in order to achieve identity coherence.

Chuck MacKnee, PhD
Trinity Western University, British Columbia

Christian sexual and spiritual connection: Preconditions and facilitating events

Using a modification of Flanagan's (1954) critical incident methodology, five Christian men and five Christian women who had experienced profound sexual and spiritual encounters described by MacKnee (2002) were asked, "What were the preconditions and facilitating events that led up to those moments of sexual and spiritual connection?" Emerging from the 123 incidents and factors that were elicited were the following eight categories: Precondition of Unsettledness; Predisposing Beliefs and Expectations; Revelation of Truth; Reconciliation through Confession and Forgiveness; Preceding Spiritual Event; Communion with God; State of Receptivity; and Mental and Sensory Preparation. Results reveal a map that can guide practitioners and followers of Christ to more holistic intimacy. Implications for Christian theological practices in light of the "common elements" leading to transpersonal experiences are discussed. Christians are encouraged to discover God's passion through their sexuality and enhance their sexual intimacy through their spiritual connection to God.

Lori Burkett, MA & Jacqui Gatewood, PsyD
Regent University, Virginia, USA

Christianity and survivors of sexual abuse: Theory, research, and practice (Part II)

[NB This is a continuation from Breakout session #1]

Sunday service

Sunday 4 April 11.00-13.00

Revd Nat Schluter, PhD
St James Churches, Gerrards Cross and Fulmer

In the image of God he made them...

Presenters

Lori A. Burkett, MA is a doctoral candidate in Clinical Psychology at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia. She is currently completing her pre-doctoral internship at EMERGE Ministries in Akron, OH. Committed to ethical and effective treatment, Lori invests time in various research endeavours and is published in peer-reviewed journals. She has presented at regional and national conferences on topics related to human sexuality,

and the integration of psychology and theology. She recently published a book with co-author Dr. Mark Yarhouse - *Sexual Identity: A Guide to Living in the Time Between the Times* for University Press of America.

Jacqueline Gatewood, PsyD is an Assistant Professor within the School of Psychology and Counseling at Regent University, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Dr. Gatewood teaches courses within the Master's of Counselling Program on Ethics, Family Therapy and Clinical Skills. She is a local and national presenter on issues related to ethics, grief and loss, school counselling and late life divorce. Expanding her interests to human sexuality, Dr. Gatewood is currently working on research in the area of sexual abuse and sexual identity.

Ad van Heeswijk, CPsychol was born in the traditionally Roman Catholic South of The Netherlands and, in spite of an adolescence spent at Minor Seminary, still an unruly (non-dogmatic, 'wild') Catholic. Studied psychology at Catholic University of Nijmegen, including two years Assistantship with the redoubtable Pastoral Psychologist Rev. Prof. Willem Berger. Later postgraduate training courses in several psychotherapies. Worked four years as Junior Lecturer at Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy of the Catholic University of Tilburg, and after that eighteen years as Clinical Psychologist (in Rehab) & Psychotherapist (in Outpatients' Dept.) in Psychiatric Hospital of Maastricht. On Isle of Wight since April 1996. Relevant interests: Clinical psychology/ psychoanalysis of religion; the Bible and psychoanalysis; religion and mental health; treatment of religious professionals.

Chuck MacKnee, PhD received his B.A. in Psychology from Trinity Western University in 1982. Following earning a Master's degree in Counselling Psychology from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois, he taught undergraduate psychology and counselled in a community counselling agency at Simpson College in San Francisco, CA. In 1989 he returned to his alma mater to teach psychology and completed his doctorate in Counselling Psychology from University of British Columbia in 1998. He is director of a private counselling practice and has worked with mental health agencies in local communities. Married since 1976 with three children born in 1979, 1982, and 1989, his qualitative research interests include sexuality, spirituality in therapeutic interventions and relationships, and the relationship between sexuality and spirituality.

David Myers, PhD is a social psychologist and communicator of psychological science to college students and the general public. His scientific writings have appeared in more than three dozen periodicals, including *Science*, the *American Psychologist*, and *Psychological Science*. Myers has digested psychological research for the public through articles in more than three dozen magazines, and through fifteen books. These include *The Pursuit of Happiness: Who Is Happy—and Why* (1992) and *Intuition: Its Powers and Perils* (2002). His texts for introductory and social psychology are studied by students at some 1000 colleges and universities and translated into eight languages. Other books relate psychological science to religious faith, including *Psychology Through the Eyes of Faith* (with Malcolm Jeeves, 1987/2002).

Revd. Nat Schluter, DPhD is curate at St James Churches, Gerrards Cross and Fulmer, where he

helps to coordinate the work among those aged 16-30, and runs their discipleship course and Christian Training School. Following his doctoral work in cognitive neuroscience with Dick Passingham, Nat remained in Oxford to complete his theological training at Wycliffe Hall. He is married to Helen, and they have two young children.

Revd. Fraser Watts, PhD is Starbridge Lecturer in Theology and Natural Science at the Faculty of Divinity of the University of Cambridge, Director of the Psychology and Religion Research Programme, Fellow of Queens' College, Cambridge, and Vicar-Chaplain of St Edward King and Martyr, Cambridge. Prior to his current posts, Fraser was Head of the Department of Clinical Psychology at King's College Hospital, London, and subsequently Senior Scientist at the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge. He is the founding editor of the journal *Cognition and Emotion* and is a former President of the British Psychological Society. He has written or edited fourteen books and is the author of more than 120 journal articles and chapters. Fraser was a contributor to *Being Human: Power, Money, Sex, and Time*, a report of the Doctrine Commission of the General Synod of the Church of England.

Andrew K.T. Yip, PhD is Senior Lecturer of Sociology. He has published extensively on the issue of homosexuality and religion (Christianity and Islam). He is the author of *Gay Male Christian Couples; Life Stories* (1997, Praeger), and articles in journals such as the *British Journal of Sociology*, *Feminism and Psychology*, and *Sociology of Religion*.