



A Network for Researchers in Catholic Education event hosted by the Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education (DCU)

Conference organisers: Dr Sean Whittle (sean.whittle@stmarys.ac.uk) and Dr Seán Henry (sean.henry@tudublin.ie)

This one-day event, the first of its kind, will be putting the spotlight on the relationship between LGBTQ+ matters and the philosophy and theology of Catholic education.

On the whole many contemporary Catholic schools have become inclusive communities, in which there are pastorally sensitive ways of accommodating (and in some instances even celebrating) LGBTQ+ students. However, approaches framed in terms of ‘accommodation’ and ‘pastoral support’ can be limited, particularly when they are situated within philosophical and theological traditions that have (historically to the present day) marginalised LGBTQ+ people. In light of this, how can we go beyond a pastoral approach to these issues and explore how a positive engagement with LGBTQ+ matters can enrich and develop Catholic education? What insights might queer theology offer Catholic education? What would it mean to queer Catholic education?

Conference confirmed keynote speakers include:

Dr Seán Henry (Technological University Dublin)

Dr Patricia Kieran (Mary Immaculate College)

Alongside our expert keynote speakers there will be a panel discussion and a range of short papers.

Call for papers

We invite submissions to present short papers (15-20 minutes) on LGBTQ+ matters in relation to Catholic education. We would particularly welcome papers that explore the positive benefits that could come from being attentive to the insights of queer theology for Catholic education and schooling.

Questions of interest to the conference include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Is it possible for Catholic education to sit in harmony with the concerns of LGBTQ+ inclusive education?
- What does it mean to ‘queer’ education at all? How does this sit in relation to Catholic perspectives on the purpose of Catholic education?
- When it comes to LGBTQ+ issues in relation to Catholic education, what is the research agenda?
- How might Catholic schools move beyond a ‘pastoral accommodation’ approach to LGBTQ+ students?
- What does the evidence from research in Catholic schools indicate? Are they places of inclusion, hospitality and welcome for LGBTQ+ young people?

For informal discussion of possible papers please contact the conference organisers.

Abstracts of up to 300 words should be submitted to Dr Sean Whittle (sean.whittle@stmarys.ac.uk) by Wed 19th January 2022. Notifications of acceptance will be made by Wed 26th January 2022.

Registration

Registration fee: 35 euros

Booking is via the following [link](#).

Conference updates can be found on the website of the *Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education* at DCU at the following [link](#)

This event is sponsored by the *Network for Researchers in Catholic Education and Networking Education Trust*.