

EROT

NUPTIAL IMAGERY AND THE EROTIC. FROM BERNARD TO BATAILLE

SEMI-OPEN SEMINAR

March 1 – 2, 2012

The Conference Center, Mødelokale 1.1
Frederik Nielsensvej 2, 8000 Aarhus C

This seminar will discuss marriage as an institution, the use of the nuptial metaphor, and matrimonial rhetoric from both a historical and a systematic perspective, dealing with a period that ranges from 12th to 21st centuries. How are the *Rezeptions- und Wirkungsgeschichte* of the nuptial motif in the Lutheran tradition as it was used and transformed before, during and after Luther's time? We will thus enquire such questions as to what happens when Luther reads and de-eroticizes the Song of Songs in relationship to the tradition, which Bernard refined from its usage since Origen; or when he interprets e.g. Ephesians 5 as in his influential treatise "The Freedom of a Christian" and in his comments on Hosea 1-2 in his preface to the book. Luther's rereading of the Song of Songs and employment of the nuptial metaphor has had a significant ethical, political and legal impact on the understanding of marriage and the erotic in those societies where his thoughts were most prominent. This gave expression to love and intimacy from which no human being should be hindered, etching the cultural contours of these societies to this day. The possibility of a follow-up seminar is being explored and planning is under way for the end of 2012 at Faculdades EST in Brazil.

PROGRAM

Thursday 1 March:

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| 9.00 | Else Marie Wiberg Pedersen:
<i>"Queering the Marriage? Bernard's and Luther's Use of the Nuptial Metaphor"</i> | 13.00 | Helle Møller Singh:
<i>"Matrimonial Discourse in Denmark 1200-1600"</i> |
| 10.30 | Line Cecilie Engh:
<i>"Gender and Nuptial Imagery. Bernard's Discourse in the Song of Songs"</i> | 14.30 | Bo Kristian Holm:
<i>"Luther's Theological and Political Use of the Nuptial Metaphor"</i> |
| 12.00 | Lunch | 16.00 | Svend Andersen:
<i>"The Happy Exchange as Constituting the Ethical Subject"</i> |
| | | 19.00 | Dinner |

Friday 2 March:

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| 9.00 | Nina Javette Koefoed:
<i>"The Construction of Sexuality in Matrimonial Law in the Period of Absolute Monarchy"</i> | 13.00 | Benedicte Hammer Præstholt:
<i>"Marriage and Ministry in Lutheran Theology"</i> |
| 10.30 | Carsten Bach-Nielsen:
<i>"Marriage and Marriage Ritual in the 19th and the 20th Centuries"</i> | 14.30 | Elisabeth Gerle:
<i>"Eros, Marriage, and Creation"</i> |
| 12.00 | Lunch | 16.00 | Vítor Westhelle:
<i>"Eros, Religion and Intimacy"</i> |
| | | 17.30 | Conclusion |

Organized by Vítor Westhelle and Else Marie Wiberg Pedersen. There is limited access to the seminar.

For participation, please contact Else Marie Wiberg Pedersen, ewp@teo.au.dk



Organized by Reformation Theology, Aarhus University