

Ecklund on Catholic Women Negotiating Feminism

Method: Interviews and focus groups with Catholic women

Three strategies for women who remain part of traditional religious institutions and embrace a feminist identity.

Re-interpreting feminism in light of Catholicism: Viewed feminism as a spiritual construct and negotiating the two as a theological project.

Re-interpreting Catholicism in light of feminism: Catholicism is one sphere into which more general ethic of equality is carried, resulting in desire to change Catholic institutions & doctrines.

Viewing both feminism and Catholicism as very subjective and personal identities: Personal spiritual pursuits are emphasized, rather than strict adherence to religious institutions or doctrines.

Heath on Promise Keepers Negotiating Gender & Race

Method: Participant observation and couples interviews

Three themes central to men's ideologies:

Men grappled with gender messages, but didn't challenge their position of authority. "Expressive masculinity" takes place in a "bounded masculine space."

Men formed identities "around a perceived need to deal with fragile masculinity and to make changes in their family relationships." But these don't challenge hegemonic masculinity and the movement promotes the "natural leadership qualities of men."

The men and their wives promoted a "different but equal" idea of gender that reaffirms men's leadership.

"In their day-to-day interactions, PK men seem willing to embrace a soft-boiled masculinity that empowers them to be more sensitive and caring husbands and fathers. Yet this soft-boiled, reformed masculinity is made possible by ignoring the structural conditions that empower men and provide payoffs based on claims to manhood."