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Editorial

With three articles, this issue of *Exchange* circles around methodological and analytical considerations about queer sexuality and same-sex partnerships. A final article addresses the value of social sciences for ecumenical dialogue.

In the first article, Adriaan van Klinken engages with African feminist storytelling as spirituality and addresses popular representations of queer sexuality as “un-African” or “un-Christian”. He argues that queer autobiographical storytelling can be an interesting basis for the development of queer theologies and applies his argument to the Kenyan queer anthology *Stories of Our Lives*. Two contributions following Van Klinken’s article focus on same-sex marriage within the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The first article by Pekka Metso and Laura Kallatsa also includes the Orthodox Church in Finland and deals with the question how these churches have sought ways to recognize and affirm the position of sexual minorities following the ‘gender-neutral marriage’ law that became effective in March 2017. In a subsequent article by Elina Hellqvist and Auli Vähäkangas a similar topic is addressed on same-sex partnerships in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Based on interviews, the authors focus on experiences of recognition and misrecognition of same-sex couples. They distinguish between (institutional) ‘vertical recognition’ and (interpersonal) ‘horizontal recognition’ in order to provide a frame in which experiences can be understood as part of different networks. They conclude by affirming the importance of experiences and feelings as indicators in identifying struggles for recognition. The final article deals with the relationship between theology and social sciences. Ikenna Paschal Okpaleke argues for a more intense relationship between the two disciplines and explains how especially ecumenical dialogue can benefit from the developments within, and insights from the social sciences.

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