

Dr Miriam Galvin, *University of Bradford, United Kingdom*

Representations of Sexuality: Men who Interact Sexually with Children

miriam.galvin@gmail.com

This paper looks at questions surrounding sexuality and men who interact sexually with children. Dominant discourses represent these men as irrational and “other”. This “otherness” may be expressed in terms of evil, sin, deviance, perversion, and pathology. Sexual practices, expressions and identities are influenced by social, biological, legal and political considerations among many others. As part of large cultural systems, media sites are a central medium of popular culture. Media images constantly (re)present individuals and groups that are regarded as being deviant in society. Media (re) presentations influence and construct commonly shared notions of deviance and social otherness. This paper examines these issues, within the context of cultural representations of sexuality, using as a case study the representations of men who interact sexually with children in Irish newspapers. What do such representations allow us to think about the sexuality of these men and therefore sexuality in general?

My background is in human geography, public health and masculinity studies. I have worked as a researcher in education, health and social services for a number of years. My interests include the social determinants of health and illness, social exclusion, and men and masculinities. My doctoral research focused on explanations for why some men relate sexually to children, masculinity theories and through critical discourse analysis, examined how these men are represented in Irish newspapers.