



## ABSTRACTS IN ENGLISH

TUIJA HOVI

### **Performatives of Faith in Personal Experience Stories**

The article is focused on the construction of a relationship between religious faith and personal narratives. The hypothesis advanced is that the maintenance of religious convictions within charismatic Christianity takes place thorough sharing personal experience stories, in which the course of everyday life is interpreted biblically.

The article is based on interview material. The interviewees are members of the Word of Faith congregation in Turku. The congregation represents the Faith Movement originating in North America, which was brought to Finland via Sweden (Livets Ord) at the beginning of the 1990s.

The writer combines the ideas of socio-psychology of religion (mainly role theory) and narrative research, which applies the idea of performative speech in speech act theory.

ARJA MÄKINEN

### **A Dubious Female – Impressions of Single Women’s Sexuality**

Plenty of impressions, expectations and fears are associated with single women’s sexuality. This article explores some of those associations, introducing four culturally familiar stereotypic images of unmarried childless women and their sexuality. The author has called those images *the traditional spinster*, *the female city single*, *the sad loser* and *the maybe lesbian*. All those images represent single women’s sexuality in a somehow strange and dubious way. The article is based on 34 interviews. All interviewees are 30–47-year-old Finnish women, who are both unmarried and childless. The perspective

of the article is social-constructional; women's sexuality as such has been examined as it becomes constructed through the interviewees' talk. According to the interviewees the space for a single woman's sexuality is narrow if a woman does not want to be treated as asexual, oversexual or homosexual. Yet, the women who were interviewed are able to resist stereotypes and construct positive images about themselves as sexually normal and acceptable heterosexual women. They do not describe themselves as different – but other people do.

PÄLVI RANTALA

### **Profession: a lampoonist**

The article gives a survey of the poems and life histories of four lampoonists. These four men, called Vihta-Paavo, Pastor of Kalkkima, Viina-Matti and Juho Tanholin lived in different parts of Finland in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The author examines the poets and their lampoons as part of their own time and community. Who were they and at what did they aim their mockery? In what kind of situations did they create their lampoons and what effect did the poems have in the community? The article also discusses the roles of the lampoonists in their community and the need for them in it.

The aforementioned questions are answered by analyzing the poems written by these four lampoonists. Some of their lampoons have been published, and some are collected in the archives. The life histories and stories about the poets from different time periods are also used. The author's aim is to give a general overview of both the poems and their context.

For the poets the creating of lampoons was a self-expression, a possibility of earning their living as well as a social activity. The lampoons also serve as entertainment, a means of communication and as an attribute of power.