

To move or not to! Queering Borders and Faith – The case of diverse sexualities in Zambia and South Africa

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Abstract

The paper discusses faith and borders as two crucial entities within the lives of persons of diverse sexualities, using some insights from my Zambian Christian gay study participants. Queer populations in South Africa and Zambia are analyzed as they navigate region-culture and civil law. Two major arguments are made: (1) that for some persons with sexual diversities, the tension remains whether to move out of their faith or not, owing to their sexualities which their faith may not readily accommodate and that within their faith, persons with diverse sexualities find theological doctrines that they identify with and use to enhance their religiosity/piety, and (2) in spite of the prohibitive religio-political and legal setup in Zambia, persons of sexual diversities choose to remain in the country and not migrate to South Africa which seemingly has a more accommodative legal framework in Southern Africa. They instead virtually transcend borders which in turn allow for creation of globalized gay culture, as well as, influence how they understand their sexualities and making friends across borders. It concludes that although some persons of sexual diversities may not necessarily desire to cross physical borders in pursuit of secure areas that accommodate their sexualities, social media still helps them overcome physical borders. Furthermore, they cross faith orders by identifying with specific theological doctrines that do not spotlight their sexualities.