

Centre for the Study of Violence

Hidden Patterns: Gendered abuse of adult women in the Catholic Church

Seminar: Wednesday 9th October, 1-2pm SR202 & Zoom

<https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/j/83183863573?pwd=wsEkWRKunTMBCcOObb7PX1dHy03qHRa.1>

Prof Ute Leimgruber and Dr. Magdalena Hürten from the University of Regensburg will share insights from their research on the abuse of adult women in the Catholic Church. They will provide an overview of the state of research in Germany, the challenges they face, and how they combine a theological and a gender-sensitive perspective. Based on the accounts of survivors, the course will provide instruction on identifying hidden patterns in grooming, justification, and cover-up of the abuse, and engage in a discourse with the participants regarding this matter.

Professor Ute Leimgruber is a Catholic theologian, professor of pastoral theology and homiletics at the University of Regensburg (Germany) and currently dean of this faculty. She was a member of the German Synodal Path (2019-2023) and is a theologian councilor of the German Bishops' conference.

Her research focuses on sexual and spiritual abuse of women in the Catholic Church and abuse in pastoral care contexts.

Dr Magdalena Hürten is a theologian with expertise in political and social studies at the University of Regensburg. For her doctoral thesis she analysed the founding history of a female religious congregation and the abuse that the founder had committed against some of the first nuns as well as other adult women. By developing and applying a hermeneutics of epistemic injustice she examined the conditions and forms in which knowledge about the abuse could be shared.

Their visit is funded by the Australia- Germany grant and supported by Centre for the Study of Violence and HClISS at the University of Newcastle. While at UON they will work with researchers Kath McPhillips and Tracy McEwan in HClISS on a collaborative project of gender based violence among communities of Catholic women religious.

