



Dr. Suzanna Krivulskaya Receives LGBTQ Religious History Award

The LGBTQ Religious Archives Network (LGBTQ-RAN) honors Dr. Suzanna Krivulskaya with the 2019-20 LGBTQ Religious History Award. The review jury selected Krivulskaya's "'Queer' Rumors: Protestant Pastors, Unnatural Deeds, and Church Censure in the Twentieth-Century United States" from among eight papers submitted for the award this year.

Krivulskaya is an Assistant Professor of History at California State University San Marcos, where she teaches courses in U.S. religion, sexuality, gender, and digital history. Her work has been published in the *Journal of American Studies*, *Current Research in Digital History*, the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, and is forthcoming from the *Oxford Handbook of Christian Fundamentalism*. She has also written for popular outlets like *Religion Dispatches* and *The Revealer* on topics in queer religion and sexual abuse. She is currently writing a book about the long history of Protestant sex scandals. The project is tentatively titled *Disgraced: How Sex Scandals Transformed American Protestantism*.

Krivulskaya received her Ph.D. from the University at Notre Dame, and she holds a Master's degree from Yale Divinity School. Before that, she studied theology at a small, foundation-funded liberal arts college in Klaipėda, Lithuania. It was there—at a conservative Christian university with North American missionary instructors on the Baltic shore—that Krivulskaya first encountered the persistent threat that sex scandals posed for the apparently vulnerable evangelical theologies of sexuality. In 2006, Ted Haggard, megachurch pastor and president of the National Association of Evangelicals, was exposed for being the long-term client of a male sex worker from whom he occasionally purchased crystal meth. In the wake of the scandal, Pastor Ted's colleagues assured the public that Haggard was only in the news because he was a deviant, exceptional minority. Most American pastors were scandal-free, their public defenders proclaimed. In many ways, Krivulskaya's academic career has been dedicated to testing the veracity—and limits—of such assertions.

This particular paper, "'Queer' Rumors: Protestants Pastors, Unnatural Deeds, and Church Censure in the Twentieth-Century United States," is the product of an ongoing investigation into the complex and uneven histories of queerness among conservative Protestant ministers. If at the start of the century, pastors suspected of sexual deviance were silenced and made to disappear, by the end of the millennium, many ministers who faced even the most sensational accusations were able to return to their public posts through some creative "straight-washing" strategies. Whatever the "truth" (if such a thing could ever be ascertained) of their sexualities, the scandals of the nation's holy men have revealed the fragility of the very theologies of exclusion that sustain conservative religion. Krivulskaya is currently preparing the paper for publication in a major U.S. history journal and hopes to share the final version of the piece with the LGBTQ Religious Archives Network in the near future. She is honored to be part of this community and delighted to receive this important award.

Krivulskaya is the eleventh recipient of the LGBTQ Religious History Award that was initiated by the LGBTQ Religious Archives Network in 2005. It is the only award given for outstanding scholarship in this field of study. Jury members Dr. Joanne Carlson Brown, Dr. Gillian Frank and Dr. Bernard Schlager described Krivulskaya's work as offering a "good balance of research and analysis. Tracing the changing meaning of queerness and the shifting dynamics of church sex scandals, the author weaves together multiple historical threads. The essay maps the ways in which churches managed their reputations when revelations of ministerial sexual misconduct arose. It highlights the shifting meaning of queerness through the 20th century. And it analyzes how these dynamics played out vis-à-vis the media. Overall, this piece deserves acclaim for deep research, great style and an important historical intervention."

Submissions for next year's LGBTQ Religious History Award must be postmarked or received electronically by December 1, 2020. Complete information on submission guidelines for the award can be found at: <https://lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/history-award-guidelines>

The LGBTQ Religious Archives Network, a project of the Center for LGBTQ & Gender Studies in Religion at Pacific School of Religion, is a ground-breaking venture to preserve the history of LGBTQ religious movements around the world. It has two primary purposes: a) to assist LGBTQ religious groups and leaders in preserving their records in appropriate repositories; and b) providing an electronic information clearinghouse on LGBTQ religious collections and other historical source materials on its web site: <https://lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/>

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