

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

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Title:

Rethinking Integrity - the Experience of Intersexuality in the Perspective of Binary Sex/Gender Normativity

Abstract:

In my presentation, I offer a phenomenological analysis of the lived experience of intersexuality, which I view from the perspective of indeterminacy concerning the horizon of the givenness of the homeworld founded on the broader basis of the pregivenness of the lifeworld.. These horizons define the structure of the sedimentation of subjective experience, as well as the layers of cultural meanings and norms sedimented in the lifeworld. The sedimented layers of self-experience and of the shared lifeworld function as a sphere of indeterminacy, that is, the horizons of constituted phenomena. In this sense, all intentional acts have the nature of horizontal indeterminacy, the layers of which are revealed in the genetic question (*Rückfrage*) directed toward them. Horizontal indeterminacy also accounts for the distinction between the homeworld and the alienworld, which appears as something unobvious and unexpected against the obviousness of the homeworld, at the same time thematizing the latter. The notion of human corporeality as given in the sex/gender binary is one element of the sedimented normative system, which operates as the horizon of indeterminacy of both self-experience and the pre-reflective life-world.

Hida Viloría's account of her lived experience of intersexuality (Viloría, H. (2017). *Born both: An intersex life*. Hachette Books) provided a unique opportunity for phenomenological insight into the normative constitution of the phenomenon of sex/gender. Her lived body, first experienced pre-reflectively as a transparent medium and a perfectly handy tool of undisturbed intentionality, gradually underwent alienation under the gaze demanding 'normality' determined by the binary normativity pattern of sex/gender. Becoming an alienated object, Viloría's body lost its transparency. She began to experience her corporeality and identity in a way determined by the sedimented normativity of sex and gender. Having "tried on" the normative constructs of masculine and feminine identities, Viloría eventually overcame alienation and, in the process of secondary self-identification, reclaimed her integral self: her lived body in its intersexuality and her identity in its non-binary gender fluidity.