



Inaugural Lecture, The Lerner Workshop in Religion and Society at NYU

RELIGION, SEXUALITY AND AIDS: ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT?

Thursday, April 26, 2012, 6 - 7:30 pm

Jurow Lecture Hall, Silver Center, 100 Washington Square East



DIANE WINSTON

Knight Chair, Media and Religion, Annenberg
School for Communication & Journalism, USC

Winston examines three newspapers, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, and the Dallas Morning News, to consider the impact of AIDS coverage especially on reporting about religion and sexuality.

What began in 1981 as a brief about an unusual cancer occurring among homosexual men, soon became more than a medical story as AIDS exposed social and cultural fault lines in the nation. Its initial outbreak in the homosexual community also made it a story about sexuality and religion since, in 1981, the majority of American Christians believed that the Bible forbade homosexuality. By 1983, an emergent medical/moral frame for the disease made religion an integral part of the story in three dominant tropes: AIDS as a punishment for immorality, as a pastoral challenge for denominations, and as a spiritual trial for the afflicted.

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For further information contact religious.studies@nyu.edu