Indonesian Christian Young People Resisting Dominant Discourses Surrounding Intimate Partner Sexual Violence

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Contemporary feminist studies have demonstrated how the binary constitution of men as desiring/dangerous and women as asexual/vulnerable has enabled, normalised, and sustained intimate partner sexual violence against women. Such binary positioning has also been (re)produced through conservative religious discourses, given rise to gendered religious and sexual subjectivities that severely constrain women's sexual agency. However, only a few studies have explored the ways this binary might be contested in one's becoming of a sexual subject, particularly the identification of alternative discourses one's may draw upon to challenge the dominant one. Seeking to fill this gap, this paper presents four narratives of resistance which might rework this gendered positioning among young Indonesian Christians vis-à-vis intimate partner sexual violence. The analysis revealed that these young religious actors drew on various alternative discourses to which they have access – from biological, religious, to same-sex sexuality – to give new meanings to men and women as sexual subjects and resist the normalisation of intimate partner sexual violence.