

Contents

Acknowledgements VII

Introduction

Sex Work and Faith-Based Outreach 1

Background to This Study 1

The Ethics of Examining Sex Workers 8

From the Bedroom to the Page: an Approach 9

Scope of the Text 12

1 Sex Work in Australia 16

Local Context 16

Roots 16

Convict to Colonial 17

A Modern History of Perverted Employment 21

Challenging Stigma and the Myths of Disease 26

Clients of Sex Industry Workers 34

Conflict and Confusion in Legal Status 36

2 Prostitution, Feminist Discourse and Theology 43

Radical Feminism and Abolitionists 43

Liberal Feminism and Sex Worker Activists 49

A Range of Feminist Positions 57

A Critical Conversation with Casting Stones 60

Other Voices in Feminist Liberation Theology 68

Grassroots Christian Praxis 74

The Space Where Complexity Emerges 78

3 A New Position: Postcolonialism 81

Questioning Established Order 81

The Postcolonial Matrix 85

Otherness 88

Hybrid Identity and the Third Space 92

Agency 99

Politics of Rescue 101

Intersections of Power: First Peoples, Colonialism and Sex Work 107

Further Probing Questions 112

| | |
|---|------------|
| 4 Australian Missionary Positions | 114 |
| Otherness | 117 |
| Hybrid Identity | 121 |
| Agency | 126 |
| Politics of Rescue | 131 |
| The Sexual Values Underpinning Ministry | 135 |
| The Third Space | 141 |
| | |
| 5 Feminist Theology with Sex Workers | 142 |
| Working It as Subjects | 142 |
| Challenging the Decent/Indecent Sexual Code | 148 |
| Sex Worker Seeks Justice and Liberation | 153 |
| What About the Sin? | 159 |
| Wisdom Woman/Strange Woman | 163 |
| An Invitation | 171 |
| | |
| 6 Postcolonial and Feminist Christian Practices | 173 |
| Like Flying | 174 |
| Otherness: Where Two or Three are Gathered | 179 |
| Can It be Embodied and Ethical? | 183 |
| Hybrid Identity: Lube My Wheels | 184 |
| Agency: a Faithful Christian Sex Worker | 187 |
| The Politics of Rescue: Places I Didn't Think I'd Go | 193 |
| Here's the Rub | 197 |
| | |
| Conclusion | |
| <i>An Emergent Theology for Sex Workers as Whole People</i> | 202 |
| The Reckoning of Postcolonial Justice | 203 |
| Shared Strength and Loss | 208 |
| | |
| Bibliography | 213 |
| Index of Authors and Works Cited | 234 |
| Index of Subjects | 246 |