



SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR A CONFERENCE ON THE TOPIC

INTEGRATING THEORY AND PRAXIS IN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

24 - 25 AUGUST 2020

AT FORUM WIEDENEST/GERMANY (NEAR COLOGNE)

This conference wants to bring together scholars from a variety of disciplines related to the Christian faith and to theology to reflect on issues pertinent to the relation and the integration of “theory” and “practice” in academic research, writing and teaching.

The convener of the conference is GBFE, a network for research and higher education in Europe in collaboration with the University of South Africa. In 2020 GBFE and Unisa will celebrate 20 years of fruitful partnership. Issues and topics such as the contextuality of theology, empirical research and empirical theology, as well as the proper relation of action and reflection have been at the core of these 20 years of collaboration.

We think it is time to reflect critically and constructively on these topics and we invite academics related to the GBFE-Unisa network, as well as specialists (in one of the areas identified below) from outside GBFE/Unisa who can bring insights from the current academic discussion to the table.

The conference shall address fundamental and critical issues with regard to methodologies in theological studies and by doing so, sharpen the vision and the focus of GBFE’s contribution to theological studies for the years ahead.

Presenters are asked to address topics pertinent to one of the following issues:

- Bridging the gap between the praxis of faith and theological theory through research and teaching in theology. Critical reflections on ideals, achievements and failures.
- Understanding theology as “practical science” (Handlungswissenschaft). Reflections on epistemological and methodological issues.
- Research and reflection across the borders of disciplines (interdisciplinary studies). This includes both opportunities and challenges.
- The role of the Bible and the Christian tradition in contextual theologies. This include issues of normativity and relativity.
- The opportunities and or challenges of doing theology missionally and contextually.

The conference will include a number of plenaries as well as group sessions devoted to the different disciplines (Biblical Studies, Systematic Theology, Practical Theology, Missiology, as well as other areas of theology-related studies such as Development Studies, Leadership or Counselling).

Selected core literature on the subject the conference:

- Dinter A., Heimbrock H.G. and Söderblom, K. (Ed.) 2007. *Einführung in die empirische Theologie*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. 382 pp.
- Green, Laurie 2012. *Let's do theology. Resources for Contextual Theology*. London: Bloomsbury. 196 pp.
- Kirk, Andrew 1997. *The Mission of Theology and Theology as Mission*. Valley Forge: Trinity Press International. 71 pp.
- Klein, Stephanie 2005. *Erkenntnis und Methode in der Praktischen Theologie*. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer. 317 pp.
- Sedmak, Clemens 2000. *Lokale Theologien und globale Kirche. Eine erkenntnistheoretische Grundlegung in praktischer Absicht*. Freiburg: Herder. 370pp.
- Sohm, Kurt 1999. *Praxisbezogene Ausbildung auf Hochschulniveau. Eine pädagogisch-didaktische Herausforderung*. Wien: Universitätsverlag. 193 pp.
- van der Ven, Johannes A. and Scherer-Rath, Michael 2004. *Normativity and Empirical Research in Theology (Empirical Studies in Theology Vol. 10)*. Leiden: Brill. 218 pp.
- Volf, Miroslav and Croasmun, Matthew 2019. *For the Life of the World. Theology that Makes a Difference*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press. 195 pp.

Please submit a title and abstract of no more than 200 words by March 31 2020 to Dorothea Krämer (dorothea.kraemer@gbfe.eu). The program will be finalised in April 2020.

All contributions and discussions will be in English.

The aim is to publish the revised conference papers in a conference volume.

Date: 24-25 August 2020

Conveners:

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