

Special Issue

From Dogmatism to a Public Theology: An Archeology of Theological Knowledge and Religious Studies

Message from the Guest Editors

This special issue aims to think about the question of what would be a theology “which goes forth” (*Evangelii gaudium* 20), or more precisely a theological hermeneutics out of its self-referentiality, as a challenge that has been imposed since the emergence of a public rationality, and which consolidate a certain State reason, not without incurring the risk of reducing the notion of public. Such a tension between theological self-referentiality and public rationality focuses over the primacy of the dogmatic on the one hand and the primacy of the ethical on the other, thus creating an apparent incompatibility in such a context. The archaeological exercise, as was done for example by Michel Foucault and others, aims to critically analyze how some epistemological choices legitimized some theological hermeneutics. In this way this special issue aims to offer more complex analysis tools for the issue of the resurgence of political theological discourse in post-secular societies and to establish an epistemological critique of theological self-referentiality, mapping its contemporary forms of dialogue with a public ethics.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Alex Villas Boas

Prof. Dr. João Duque

Prof. Dr. Isidro Lamelas

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MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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Professorship Quality of Life, Spirituality and Coping, Faculty of Health,
Witten/Herdecke University, Gerhard-Kienle-Weg 4, 58313 Herdecke,
Germany

Prof. Dr. Klaus Baumann

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79098 Freiburg, Germany

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