This series aims to stimulate international scholarship in Practical Theology. Publications will represent high quality foundational research in Comparative and international perspective from scholars from a variety of cultural, national and denominational backgrounds. The series will be a forum for the development of intellectual and theoretical exchanges in Practical Theology and its different paradigms in cooperation with the International Academy of Practical Theology (IAPT), represented by Heather Walton (President) and Robert Mager (Vice President).
Clear and well-defined identities are hard to sustain in a rapidly shifting world. Peoples, goods and cultures are on the move. Internet and other technologies increase the amount, the speed and the intensity of cultural exchanges. Individuals, organizations and nations develop complex identities out of many traditions, different ideals, various ways of life and many models of organization. Religious traditions both collide and interact; spiritual journeys cross religious boundaries. More than twenty authors from different backgrounds and academic disciplines offer an array of practical theological perspectives to help us understand these complex identities and negotiate this shifting world.

Pamela Couture; Robert Mager; Pamela McCarroll; Natalie Wigg-Stevenson (Eds.)

Complex Identities in a Shifting World
Practical Theological Perspectives

City of Desires – a Place for God?
Practical theological perspectives

Originating at the 2011 conference of the International Academy of Practical Theology in the iconic city of Amsterdam, this volume explores the practical theological significance of desire. Although desire is central to many issues in practical theology and related disciplines, it is only rarely discussed under its own name. Three introductory chapters locate desire in concrete practices in the city and discuss the phenomenology, theology, and ethics of desire. Subsequent sections are organized around embodying desire, culturing desire, and transforming desire. The chapters include various kinds of desire, including sexuality, consumerism, and spirituality. Perspectives from different contexts and religious traditions are offered in this rich and thought-provoking book.

R. Ruard Ganzevoort; Rein Brouwer; Bonnie Miller-McLemore (Eds.)
City of Desires – a Place for God?
Practical theological perspectives

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While religion can be a source of healing, peace and reconciliation, it can also be at least a trigger if not an underlying cause for conflict between peoples of varying beliefs. With that awareness, the International Academy of Practical Theology convened its 2007 meeting around the theme of “Religion, Diversity and Conflict.” From the multiple seminars, lectures and studies presented at that meeting, a selection was chosen for this volume. Representing contributions from four continents, and drawing upon perspectives from African Traditional Religions, Judaism, Islam and Christianity this volume offers a rich introduction to the problems and promises of religion in dialogue with 21st century diversity. With contributions from leading figures in the field across a range of methods, Religion, Diversity and Conflict also serves as a valuable primer on the field of practical theology.

Heid Leganger-Krogstad

The Religious Dimension of Intercultural Education
Contributions to a Contextual Understanding
This book explores the religious dimension in intercultural education and states that religion plays a key role in value conflicts and worldview differences in schools in pluralistic societies. Religion is considered having a double role, both as the reason for deep differences in mental mapping and worldviews and as a contributor to intercultural understanding and dialogue. The book discusses the role religion has in education both at an institutional level, in the whole school society, and in Religious Education as a specific school subject. Underlying Western worldviews in subject curricula and subject didactics need to be revealed and contested to increase the benefit of education for all students. It argues for the need of a contextual understanding to help teaching and learning address religious diversity in schools.

Annemie Dillen; Anne Vandenhoeck (Eds.)
Prophetic Witness in World Christianities
Rethinking Pastoral Care and Counseling

Prophets have a reputation of changing the relation between people and God for the better. Christianity has a long history of prophets who direct the faithful towards more justice and righteousness. What can Christians learn from prophets for daily life, for contemporary theology and pastoral care? This book undertakes the endeavor to look at prophetic acting from a biblical, pastoral and ethical perspective. The contributions of both, pastoral theologians and pastors from around the globe, make this study a unique exercise to keep the prophetic perspective in theological reflection and pastoral practice.

Hans-Georg Ziebertz; Ulrich Riegel (Eds.)

How Teachers in Europe Teach Religion
An International Empirical Study

In 2007 about 3500 teachers in 16 European countries participated at a cross-cultural study “Teaching Religion in a multicultural Europe”. The empirical survey researches existing teaching procedures in religion and theology. The book presents the results which are different approaches, strategies and ways of thinking when it comes to teaching religion in a multicultural context. This research was stimulated by the TRES Network (Teaching Religion in a multicultural European Society) which has been selected and approved by the EU Commission for a Socrates thematic network.

vol. 12, 2009, 408 pp., 34.90 €, pb., ISBN 978-3-643-10043-6
Hans-Georg Ziebertz; William K Kay; Ulrich Riegel (Eds.)

Youth in Europe III
An international Empirical Study about the Impact of Religion on Life Orientation. With a preface by Silviu E. Rogobete

This book draws upon empirical data collected from 10,000 adolescent young people in 10 European countries. The first volume of this project was about young people’s lifeperspectives and the second about their religious attitudes and practices. The current and final volume of this cross-cultural study connects both research dimensions. The analyses make clear that the influence of religion on values, life-orientation and politics differs strongly between different groups within Christianity and between Christians, Jews and Muslims. Many findings contain obvious surprises because they refute mainstream opinion on many topics. This book gives detailed and new insights in the public relevance of the religiosity of young people across Europe. All three volumes together are indispensable for scholars who work in public, religious and educational contexts.

Religion is back on the agenda. Western societies are searching for an adequate understanding of religion. Media move religion into focus as a resource of significance in modern societies, but also as a source of tension and conflict. Politics is testing how to manage religious pluralism. Education is developing concepts of interreligious dialogue in order to promote a better intercultural understanding. The book discusses if the concept post-secularity allows a suitable understanding of the public presence of religion.

Mechteld Jansen; Hijme Stoffels (Eds.)

A Moving God
Immigrant Churches in the Netherlands

This volume focuses on Christian immigrants and their churches in the Netherlands, with a special emphasis on the Amsterdam area. Many immigrants join one of the new immigrant churches that have originated in recent decades, while others attend Dutch Roman Catholic or Protestant congregations with a special ministry to immigrants. Immigrant churches form an exciting and multifaceted phenomenon in the Netherlands, just as they do in other parts of Europe and in North America. This volume is a joint effort of practical theologians and social scientists from VU University Amsterdam.

Wilhelm Gräb; Lars Charbonnier (Eds.)

**Secularization Theories, Religious Identity and Practical Theology**

*Developing international Practical Theology for the 21st Century*

International Academy of Practical Theology  

This volume represents the proceedings of the 2007 meeting of the International Academy of Practical Theology, which was held in Berlin (GER) on the theme of “secularization theories, religious identity and practical theology”. This volume offers a wide variety of perspectives on the relationship between (practical) theology and sociology, psychology, education and culture, featuring papers from some of the world’s leading practical theologians. They include subjects as “creating space within the dynamics of interculturality: the impact of religious and cultural transformations in post-apartheid South Africa”, “redefining children’s spirituality”, “educating for religious identity in a secularizing world” and “Europe – a post-secular society”. In this diversity of subjects, the common trend in international practical theological research regarding theories on secularization and religious identity in the globalized world is represented in this volume. Therefore, this book will be of interest not only to theological educators and students, but also to all those interested in the analysis of religion in its various phenomena at the beginning of the 21st century.

Religious ideas, feelings and their interrelationship
Research into the effects of religious education in parables on 10- to 12-year-olds

Religious education seeks to help students acquire religious ideas by interpreting religious and other stories in accordance with their life world. Schools pursue this goal by organising religious learning activities. The question is whether the acquisition of religious ideas is possible for young students, considering the difficulties such as the complex and not readily understandable religious stories, and social developments as de-institutionalisation, de-traditionalisation and pluralisation? What are the possibilities for primary schools of teaching their students knowledge about religious ideas? What is the influence of feelings on the acquisition? What possibilities in the form of learning arrangements can be created for primary school students, with their diverse religious backgrounds, to acquire religious ideas optimally? That is the cardinal problem explored in this study.

Dreaming the Land: Theologies of Resistance and Hope is a theme that testifies to the contextual nature of practical theology. This present volume contains a collection of essays with international contributions to practical theology. In their original form, these essays were presented at the seventh biennial conference of the International Academy of Practical Theology (IAPT) held at Brisbane/Australia in June 2005. The dreaming and the land are both concepts central to the thinking of the aboriginal peoples of Australia. The dreaming encompasses the creative and life giving forces which govern and express the lifeworld of these same people, while the land is sacred space where the spirits of the ancestors of all human, plant and animal life are represented. The theme is the common thread in the first part of the book. Here, the search for Theologies of Resistance and Hope is related to experiences in the southern hemisphere, to issues of the land as a concept for practical theology and to questions of human rights.

Hans-Georg Ziebertz; William K Kay (eds.)

Youth in Europe II
An international empirical Study about Religiosity. With a preface by Cardinal Josip Bozanić, Vice-President of the European Bishops’ Conference

"This book that carefully compiled all the data gathered from young people through empirical research, gives us the opportunity to understand, on the basis of this data, their philosophy of life, religiosity, their hopes and fears, and to help them to achieve their goals and overcome their fears. This is a great challenge and a task for religious leaders and those responsible in society and politics, respectively."

Cardinal Josip Bozanic, Zagreb Vice-President of the European Bishops’ Conference (CCEE)
This groundbreaking book draws together an international team of practical theologians and researchers from around the world to explore the relationship between adolescence, religion, and globalization. Research is reported on young people in Japan, Russia, Germany, India, Argentina, Paraguay, Ghana, and the United States. Critical, normative, and practical proposals are offered, taking concrete shape in case studies of good practice. The book fills a gaping hole in the current literature on adolescence and the impact of globalization on their religious lives. This project was sponsored by the Institute for Youth Ministry, Princeton Theological Seminary.

Richard R. Osmer; Kenda Creasy Dean (Eds.)
Youth, Religion and Globalization
New Research in Practical Theology. Preface by Friedrich Schweitzer
Hans-Georg Ziebertz; William K Kay (eds.)

Youth in Europe I
An international empirical Study about Life Perspectives
With a preface by Lambert van Nistelrooij (MEP)

This book contains a report of an extraordinary study about life perspectives of young people in different countries in Europe. It reveals remarkable differences in perspective for the future of the young people in these countries. Are we in the process of establishing a society in which future generations will feel at home and in which they can put their faith? The European Union should support this kind of research. This first report by “Youth in Europe” makes me anxious for the next two reports of this research, which are due later.

Elaine Graham; Anna Rowlands (eds.)
*Pathways to the Public Square*
Practical Theology in an Age of Pluralism. International Academy of Practical Theology, Manchester 2004
This volume represents the proceedings of the 2003 meeting of the International Academy of Practical Theology, which was held in Manchester (UK) on the theme of ‘public theology’. Featuring over twenty papers from some of the world’s leading practical theologians, ‘Pathways to the Public Square’ offers a wide variety of perspectives on the relationship between theology and politics, education, law, culture and economics. They include subjects as diverse as the role of religion in the constitution of the European Union, theological themes in popular music, Roman Catholic-Muslim dialogue in the U.S.A., and the spirituality of the public realm. This book will be of interest to theological educators and students, church leaders, policy-makers and all those interested in the relationship between religion and public life.
vol. 1, 2005, 328 pp., 39.90 €, pb., ISBN 3-8258-8423-6
LIT VERLAG Münster – Berlin – London
D-48159 Münster  Fresnostr. 2  Tel.  +49 (0) 2 51 / 62032 - 0
Fax e+49 (0) 2 51 / 9226099  E-Mail: lit@lit-verlag.de
D-10117 Berlin  Schumannstr. 18  Tel.  +49 (0) 30 / 2804080
Fax e+49 (0) 30 / 28040882  E-Mail: berlin@lit-verlag.de
Tel./Fax 0044/(0) 2078132524  E-Mail: london@lit-verlag.de

LIT VERLAG GmbH & Co. KG, Wien – Zürich
A-1080 Wien  Krotenthalergasse. 10  Tel.  +43(0)1 / 4095661
Fax +43 (0) 1/4095687  E-Mail: wien@lit-verlag.at
CH-8032 Zürich  Kloshbacherstr. 107  CH-8032 Zürich  Tel.  +41 (0) 44-2517505
Fax +41 (0) 44-2517510  E-Mail: zuerich@lit-verlag.ch

Auslieferung:
Deutschland: LIT Verlag, Fresnostr. 2, D-48159 Münster
Tel.+49 (0) 251-6203222, Fax +49 (0) 251-9226099, E-Mail: vertrieb@lit-verlag.de
Österreich: Medienlogistik Pichler-ÖBZ, IZ-NÖ, Süd, Straße 1, Objekt 34, A-2355
Wiener Neudorf
Tel. +43 (0) 2236-63532049, Fax +43 (0) 2236-6353243, E-Mail: ml@medien-
logistik.at
Schweiz: B + M Buch- und Medienvertrieb, Hochstr. 357, CH-8200 Schaffhausen
Fax +41 (0) 526435435, E-Mail: order@buchmedien.ch
Phone +44 (0)2085355800, Fax +44 (0)160775563
North America: International Specialized Book Services, 920 NE 58th Ave. Suite 300,
Portland, OR 97213, USA
Phone +1 (800)4446190 / +1 (503)2873093, Fax +1 (503)2808832, E-Mail: or-
ders@isbs.com