Theology in Practice

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Theology in Practice extends the horizons of the discipline and scholarship of practical theology. It promises to enrich the academic discourse and supply material of interest to scholars and professional graduate students. Books in the series will be in conversation with scholarship in the discipline and reflect engagement with diverse voices in the field (e.g., gender, race, international). They will feature developments in the theories of practice, experience, culture, and action that define the discipline, while also attending to the close study of lived faith and theologically significant practices. Authors will range from senior scholars presenting mature research to young scholars pursuing promising fresh avenues. The series is also open to edited volumes on emerging topics. Audiences will be practical theologians and other interested scholars and graduate students in established and emerging geographical, institutional, and religious contexts.

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Collaborative Practical Theology
Engaging Practitioners in Research on Christian Practices

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Collaborative Practical Theology documents and analyses research on Christian practices conducted by academic practical theologians in collaboration with practitioners of different kinds in Christian practices all around the world. These practitioners include professional practitioners, everyday believers, volunteers and students in theological education. The book offers rationales for setting up joint investigation groups with different ‘communities of practice’, describes a wide range of collaborative research strategies and methods and also has a clear eye for their limitations. In Christian practices faith is mediated, enacted and nurtured. The aim of the book is to improve the utility of theological research on these practices. It communicates the vision that academic research is for the people of God in today’s world.

Creating Resistances: Pastoral Care in a Postcolonial World

Melinda A. McGarrah Sharp, Columbia Theological Seminary

Using intercultural stories and pastoral care scholarship, this book charts pathways through five resistances (not me, not here, not now, not relevant, not possible) to awaken creative pastoral care in a postcolonial world. McGarrah Sharp recommends practices that everyone can do: believing in each other, revisiting how histories are taught, imagining more passable futures, heeding prophetic poets, and crossing borders with healthy boundaries.
Taking on Practical Theology

The Idolization of Context and the Hope of Community

Courtney T. Goto, Boston University School of Theology

In Taking on Practical Theology, Courtney T. Goto explores the regnant paradigm that shapes knowledge production and that preserves power, privilege, and historic communal injury even as scholars intend to enlighten and transform communities.

Missionary Positions

A Postcolonial Feminist Perspective on Sex Work and Faith-Based Outreach from Australia

Lauren McGrow, Independent Scholar

Missionary Positions challenges common Christian assumptions about sex workers. Using feminist, postcolonial perspectives, interviews with pastoral practitioners and personal narrative, Lauren McGrow carves out a space for the dynamic theological agency and life complexity of sex workers to be acknowledged.

A Graceful Embrace: Theological Reflections on Adopting Children

John Swinton and Brian Brock, University of Aberdeen

This book significantly deepens the contemporary discussion of the theology and practice of adopting children. Both interdisciplinary and international, the volume offers a unique and uniquely insightful vision of Christian adoption that unites practical and theoretical perspectives.

Mothering, Public Leadership, and Women’s Life Writing

Explorations in Spirituality Studies and Practical Theology

Claire E. Wolfteich, Boston University

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Conundrums in Practical Theology

Edited by Joyce Ann Mercer and Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore

In this landmark volume, internationally recognized scholars address with unheralded honesty key intellectual and practical conundrums that not only trouble practical theology but reflect biases and breakdowns in the construction of theological knowledge in academy and religious communities at large.

Caring for Joy: Narrative, Theology, and Practice

Mary Clark Moschella, Yale Divinity School

In Caring for Joy: Narrative, Theology, and Practice Mary Clark Moschella explores the lively narratives of five remarkable caregivers, offering theological wisdom and practical resources for scholars, counselors, religious leaders, and others who wish to live and move along more joyful, life-giving spiritual paths.