

Lecture Series Public Theology: An International and Intercontextual Assessment

*Task sheet: Henrik Simojoki * Public Theology and Education*

This lecture is available free of charge as comprehensive video file (mp4) or as audio file (mp3) with accompanying slides in pdf-format.

This task sheet contains:

1. Three impulses for group discussion
2. Three suggested titles for further reading
3. A timeline to match audio file and pdf slide presentation
4. A list of references for the lecture

1. Three impulses for group discussion:

1. Public Theologies and the voice of children

- How are / were children represented in the public discourse on the COVID-19-pandemic in your context?
- Were they given opportunities to express their concerns, feelings and hopes?
- Where do the pitfalls lie when adult theologians claim to speak for children?
- How should Public Theologies be constructed to credibly represent the voice of children?

2. Telic reflexivity and global education

- According to Roland Robertson, questions of universal meaning and ultimate ends gain importance in a globalized world. Try to identify crystallizations of such "global telic concern" in the current public debates of your context. Then, decide on one key debate you want to focus on.
- Which images of human flourishing and global wellbeing are important for your own perspectives on this debate. What biblical resources and theological concepts do you draw on?
- Discuss ways of fostering telic reflexivity in the horizon of Christian faith among young people who are not particularly religious.

3. Linking Public Theology with public education

- Compare the German model of Religious Education with the position of religion in the public school system in your context. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each model?
- How should truth claims and particular convictions be addressed in public education?
- According to Manfred Pirner, translation between different religious and secular languages becomes a major task of RE in public schools. Discuss his thesis, with particular emphasis on the complexity of translating religious language into generally and rationally accessible, albeit secular language.

2. Three suggested titles for further reading

1. International Journal of Public Theology (2017). Issue 3: Theology – Religion(s) – Education.
2. Pirner, M., Lähnemann, J., Haussmann, W. & Schwarz, S. (Eds.) (2018). Public Theology, Religious Diversity, and Interreligious Learning. New York & London: Routledge.
3. Pirner, M., Lähnemann, J., Haussmann, W. & Schwarz, S. (Eds.) (2019). Public Theology. Perspectives on Religion and Education. New York & London: Routledge.

3. A timeline to match audio file and pdf slide-presentation

Slide	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Time	00'16	02'09	02'14	03'25	03'59	04'06	04'43	05'01	05'55	06'31
Slide	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Time	06'43	06'57	07'17	07'34	08'44	09'18	10'04	10'52	11'39	11'46
Slide	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Time	12'15	14'00	14'23	15'40	16'45	17'04	17'42	18'15	18'19	19'16
Slide	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Time	19'57	21'13	21'56	23'29	25'08	25'11	25'21	26'36	28'46	28'49
Slide	41	42								
Time	30'03	32'12								

4. References

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Meireis, T. (2020). Die Rückkehr des ‚Prophetischen Wächteramtes der Kirche‘? Öffentliche als kritische Theologie. In U. H. J. Körtner, R. Anselm & C. Albrecht (Eds.), *Konzepte und Räume Öffentlicher Theologie. Wissenschaft- Kirche - Diakonie* (27-42). Leipzig: EVA.

Pirner, M. (2018). The Contribution of Religions to the Common Good. In M. Pirner et al. (Eds.), *Public Theology, Religious Diversity, and Interreligious Learning* (66-78). New York & London: Routledge.

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Robertson, R. & Chirico, JoAnne (1985). Humanity, Globalization, and Worldwide Religious Resurgence: A Theoretical Exploration. *Sociological Analysis* 46(3), 219-242.

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Simojoki, H. (2020b). Öffentliche Theologie und Religionspädagogik. Ein Rezeptionsverhältnis mit Schlagseite und wechselseitigem Anregungspotenzial. In U. H. J. Körtner, R. Anselm & C. Albrecht (Eds.), *Konzepte und Räume Öffentlicher Theologie. Wissenschaft- Kirche - Diakonie* (253-268). Leipzig: EVA.

Stackhouse, M. (2007). *Globalization and Grace: A Christian Public Theology for a Global Future*. New York & London: continuum.