

# Foundations for Theology and Reflective Practice (TMM1211) / Introducing Theological Reflection (TMM1437)

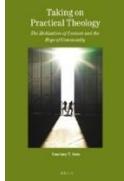
Common Awards



Level 4 Module

Diversifying the Curriculum

## Books



Goto, Courtney T., *Taking on Practical Theology: The Idolization of Context and the Hope of Community* (Leiden: Brill, 2018)

### Content:

In this book, Courtney Goto challenges the discipline of Practical Theology using 'context' as a case study. Goto argues that although Practical Theology is oriented around paying attention to context, its practices are in fact shaped by the taken-for-granted norms of the majority, which tend to remain hidden. As well as demonstrating how this is the case, Goto offers suggestions for practical theologians to counter these tendencies. While the book will be a challenging text for level 4 students, its argument and perspective are important, and it could therefore be included as further reading.

### Author:

Courtney Goto is a Japanese American theologian and Co-Director of the Centre for Practical Theology at Boston University.



Kim-Cragg, HyeRan, *Interdependence: A Postcolonial Feminist Practical Theology* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2018)

### Content:

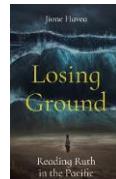
This book has been written in the context of the US but also holds relevance for the UK. HyeRan Kim-Cragg argues that colonialism is an essential lens for practical theology and demonstrates how it has a bearing on gender, class, disability and sexual orientation. In response, she puts forward an approach for the

discipline that is rooted in the concept of interdependence.

### Author:

HyeRan Kim-Cragg is Principal of Emmanuel College, University of Toronto, and Professor of Preaching.

## Book Chapters



Havea, Jione, 'Ruth at talanoa', Chapter 2 in *Losing Ground* (London: SCM Press, 2021)

### Content:

This is an important chapter given its focus on theological reflection on the Bible. Jione Havea has based the chapter around the term 'talanoa', which is used in some Pasifika languages and holds three meanings – 'story, telling (of stories), and conversation (concerning issues around stories and tellings).' Havea uses this concept to engage with the book of Ruth.

### Author:

Jione Havea is a native pastor in the Methodist Church in Tonga and research fellow with Trinity Methodist Theological College, Aotearoa.



Reddie, Anthony G., 'Teaching and Researching Practical Theology: A Liberative Participative Approach to Pedagogy and Qualitative Research,' in Moschella, Mary Clark and Susan Willhauck (eds), *Qualitative Research in Theological Education: Pedagogy in Practice* (London: SCM Press, 2018)

### Content:

In this short and accessible chapter, Anthony Reddie emphasises the embodied nature of theological

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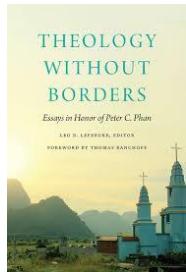
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reflection, and consequent importance of embodied approaches to learning and qualitative research. Reddie draws on the work of Paulo Freire, amongst other, to make a case for experiential learning and participative approaches and methods in practical theology.

#### Author:

Anthony Reddie is Professor of Black Theology at the University of Oxford.



Tran, Anh Q., 'Being Church among Asians: Perspective and Insights of the Asian Theology of the FABC,' in Lefebvre, Leo D. (ed), *Theology without Borders: Essays in Honor of Peter C. Phan* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2022)

#### Content:

In line with the notion that all theology is contextual theology, Anh Q. Tran SJ makes the important argument in this chapter that theologies emerging from the lived experiences of Asians are valuable in their own right as theological methods and contributions for the worldwide Church. Tran helpfully provides a historical backdrop for the emergence of contextual theology in Asia, focusing in particular on the Catholic Church, before offering some reflections on the challenges and opportunities of such theological reflection for the church.

#### Author:

Anh Q. Tran, SJ is a Vietnamese theologian and Associate Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, US.

#### Articles

Medina, Néstor, Becca Whitla and Ary Fernández-Albán, 'Liberation Theologies, Decolonial Thinking, and Practical Theologies: Odd Combinations?' *IJPT* 25(1) (2021): 110–131



#### Content:

This article explores some of the points of convergence between liberation theologies emerging from Latin America, decolonial thinking and practical theology. Importantly, the authors ground their insights in praxis, beginning with the experience of a Cuban community and explaining that their different relationships with the context of Cuba 'shape how we engage practical theoretical reflections, the kinds of questions we might ask of practical theology, and the kinds of answers we find as well' (112). This is a challenging text for level 4 but could be included as further reading. Section F (127–131), in particular, holds important insights for practical theologians.

#### Authors:

Néstor Medina is a Guatemalan-Canadian scholar and Associate Professor of Religious Ethics and Culture at Emmanuel College, University of Toronto; Becca Whitla is a Canadian scholar and Professor of Pastoral Studies at St Andrew's College, Canada; Ary Fernández-Albán is a Cuban theologian and Rector of Seminario Evangélico de Teología in Matanzas, Cuba.

Mombo, Esther, 'Considerations for an Inclusive Global Theological Education: Old Issues, New Questions,' *Ecumenical Review* 71(4) (2019): 449–460



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## ***Content:***

In this article, Esther Mombo highlights the role of culture in theological reflection. Mombo introduces and discusses work of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians, which seeks to do theology that is rooted in the perspectives and experiences of African women, and that is inclusive, recognising the importance of oral theology. For a talk based on this article, see [Bodies and Pedagogies 2](#), 2021 Theological Educators' Conference 2021 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9u7vseZBhE>).

## ***Author:***

Esther Mombo is a Kenyan theologian and Professor of theology at St Paul's University, Kenya.

## **Video**

**Why Global Conversations Matter – Pastoral and Practical Theology** ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r67aHpH\\_V5w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r67aHpH_V5w))

## ***Content:***

In this video, a small group of UK-based theological educators reflect on the importance of engaging with the perspectives of scholars of global majority heritage. They address questions such as: Why is this important? Why should students in the UK pay attention to, learn from and participate in global conversations? What practical advice would they give to students starting their studies?