

Approaches to theology

Common Awards



Level 4

Diversifying the Curriculum

Edited Volumes

Gustavo Gutiérrez, 'Introduction', in Gutiérrez, *On Job: God-Talk and the Suffering of the Innocent*, ed. by William E. Jerman (Orbis, 1987), pp. xi–xix



Content:

This is just a brief introduction to Gutiérrez reflections on the book of Job – but Gutiérrez uses it to outline his vision of theology: what it is, what it is for, and what it means to pursue it well. His fundamental question is, 'How are we to talk about a God who is revealed as love in a situation characterized by poverty and oppression?'

Author:

Gustavo Gutiérrez (1928–2024) was a Catholic theologian from Peru. His 1971 book *A Theology of Liberation* was one of the foundational texts of Latin American liberation theology.

Upolu Lumā Vaai, 'From *Atutasi* to *Atulasi*: Relational Theologizing and Why Pacific Islanders Think and Theologize Differently', in *Theologies from the Pacific*, ed. by Jione Havea (Palgrave Macmillan, 2021), pp. 235–49 (ch.17)



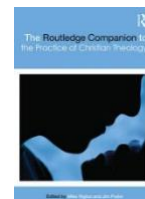
Content:

A rich, evocative call to imagine the task of theology differently. Vaai urges us to think in multi-stranded ways embedded within the complexity of our lives rather than single-stranded ways abstracted from life. There are occasional patches of technical language, but most of it is readable.

Author:

Upolu Lumā Vaai is Principal of the Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji, where he teaches Christian theology informed by Pasifika worldviews.

Willie James Jennings, 'Practicing Black Theologies, or, Challenging the Racial Matrix' in *The Routledge Companion to the Practice of Christian Theology*, ed. by Mike Higon and Jim Fodor (Routledge, 2015), pp. 350–61 (ch. 23)



Content:

This is, in places, a difficult text, but it's also a powerful challenge to the idea that doctrinal theology is an abstract discipline. Jennings argues that certain ways of thinking about and imagining Christian doctrine shaped – disastrously – the encounter of European Christians with the 'New World' of the Americas, and helped produce colonialism and racism. If that's the case, then part of the task of Christian theology is to *re*-think, *re*-imagine those ideas to do be truer to the God of love and justice.

Author:

Willie James Jennings is a Black theologian who teaches at Yale University in the United States; he is one of the leading voices in Black Theology globally.

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Video

Sarah Brush, Mike Higton, and Anderson Jeremiah, 'Introduction to Theology from Three Perspectives', St John's Timeline video (2022), <https://stjohnstimeline.hymnsam.co.uk/introduction-to-theology-from-three-perspectives/>



Content:

Anderson Jeremiah, Sarah Brush and Mike Higton explore different approaches to theology. Jeremiah approaches theology from the perspective of liberation, Brush is a practical theologian, and Higton describes himself as a doctrinal theologian – but they explore the overlaps and connections as much as the differences between their approaches.

Speakers:

Anderson Jeremiah was born in South India and is now the Bishop of Edmonton in the Church of England. Sarah Brush and Mike Higton are both white English theologians, teaching respectively for Ripon College Cuddesdon and Durham University.