Faith in the Public Square

Public theology is about bringing fresh insights to bear on issues of current concern – issues like the economy, crime and punishment, community cohesion, climate change, international development and peace-making.

Public theology looks to go, not ‘left’ or ‘right’, but deeper. It seeks to raise the quality of public debates and sometimes even to reframe them.

The Centre:

- conducts research and contributes to public dialogue on a range of topical issues, and identifies issues for the future
- produces high-quality resources to promote critical and engaged thinking about faith and current issues
- works with churches, networks, agencies and other organisations committed to the common good
- facilitates constructive dialogue between representatives of differing or conflicting viewpoints on current issues.
Professor David Tombs holds the Howard Paterson Chair in Theology and Public Issues, and is Director of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues at the University of Otago.

WORK AND STUDY WITH US

The Centre has excellent networks both within and beyond the University of Otago, which are a valuable resource on public theology issues.

Research Opportunities

The Centre seeks established practitioners and scholars wanting to utilise their research leave at the University of Otago.

Undergraduate Study

Students enrolled in undergraduate degree programmes at the University of Otago can take papers in ‘Public Theology: Faith in the Public Square’, ‘Roots of Public Theology’, ‘Reconciliation, Christian Ethics and Public Theology’ and ‘Public Theology and Social Justice’.

CONTACT US

Please register your name and contact details with the Centre if you are interested in this work and would like to hear about future events, publications and research. We would also like to hear from you if you are interested in studying with the Centre, or supporting the Centre financially. Many of our forums on public issues are live-streamed across the internet, and available to view and download as podcasts. Full information is on our website.

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