

# 什么是“公共神学”<sup>\*</sup>

What is “Public Theology”?

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## [英文提要]

In a globalizing era, when a new and wider public than most of the world had previously imagined is being created, the attempt to find a more universal, genuinely ecumenical and catholic way of speaking theologically and ethically about the common life is indispensable. The temptation to a neo-sectarian understanding of theology is a present danger, in part because many recognize that the age of national creeds by politically established churches, a legacy of Westphalia, is over. Both sectarian particularity and national creeds make theology a merely private matter of this or that community.

“Public theology” is intended to point to certain indispensable aspects of theology that have been neglected, overshadowed, or even

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\* 本文是美国普林斯顿神学院斯塔克豪斯 (Max L. Stackhouse) 教授在 2003 年布拉格“公共神学”研讨会上的发言稿, 原拟全文翻译并由《基督教文化学刊》发表, 但作者希望进一步修改后再译成中文。故而暂将文章的开头部分及第一节“公共神学的来龙去脉”摘要译出, 以供中国人民大学与香港浸会大学之“神学的公共性”合作课题参考。文章的另外两节分别是“何谓‘公共’的神学?”和“何来‘基督教’的公共神学”。——译者注。

shouted down by some recent theological developments. These entail the presumption that theology as a critical and constructive discipline is, among other things, also a mode of public discourse that interprets key areas of the common life and offers normative ethical guidance for the formation and sustenance of a viable civil society. The author tries to suggest clarifications of some areas of the usage of "public theology". In his view, the term is important in part because of competing understandings of the term "public", which is almost as controversial as the term "theology", as will become clear when we relate these more definitional matters to specific continuing debates over what they may imply as we look at debated issues today.

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“公共神学”是当前美国最重要的神学运动。“公共神学”的概念是由几位美国学者在特定的语境中发展而来，然而它又指向超越这一语境的神学关注。对我和其他一些人来说，采纳并调整这一概念既是要使之成为神学话语中的新鲜声音，又要在保留美国神学的实践和伦理重心的同时，对那些局限于美国经验的意涵“祛地域化”（de-provincialize）。目前，关于“公共神学”的研究机构和出版物已见于德国、苏格兰、南非、澳大利亚，不久前还出现在韩国和印度尼西亚。但是无论在什么地方，它都还是一项尚未完结的工程。

在全球化的时代，当一种前所未有的、更广阔的公共性被创立时，寻求一种更普遍的方式、就越来越具共同性的生活发表神学的和伦理的意见，是必不可少的；这也正是真正的普世性和大公性（genuinely ecumenical and catholic）。对于神学的新宗派性理解是当今的危险。产生新宗派性理解的部分原因，在于许多人