

Special Issue

Transition - Translation - Transformation: Phenomenology and Systematic Theology

Message from the Guest Editors

Phenomenology in theology marks a transition, as phenomenology plays an important role in theology in the time before and during Vatican II. It is a shift from traditional thinking (scholastics) to modern thinking, visible.

Phenomenology in dogmatics serves the purpose of translation: As phenomenology analyses the essence of the research object, it serves as a bridge between ontological and post-ontological thinking. Thus, phenomenology provides a foundation for “communicability”, which means to transfer content to another setting beyond the place of its origin.

Phenomenology stimulates transformation: It has the potential to open up fixed patterns of thinking and concepts taken for granted. A phenomenological analysis of the concept of “revelation”, for example, could reveal forgotten aspects of the established concept and even add new meanings not yet discovered.

These three notions show the focus and aim of the Special Issue; that is, to reflect on the role of a newly introduced methodology (phenomenology) and to reveal its potential: to facilitate translation and to stimulate transformation without losing sight of the essence of revelation.

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