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Stile der Theologie. Einheit und Vielfalt katholischer Systematik in der Gegenwart. (Styles of Theology. Unity and Plurality of Contemporary Catholic Systematic Theology.) Pustet, Regensburg 2017, 334 pp.

This volume is due to an initiative of young German theologians who regard the plurality of styles, schools and approaches in German Catholic systematic theology both as a sociological fact and a question for the philosophy of science. Is there a normative centre orienting the different projects, is it possible to find criteria vouching for the unity of systematic theology in the difference of its forms of rationality, or is this neither necessary nor possible nor desirable? To address these questions, proponents of the different approaches were asked to give a short introduction, to which a younger colleague responded by pointing out some critical aspects or applying the approach to present challenges. These pairs are completed by two contributions considering all articles out of the perspective of pedagogy of religion thus broadening the spectrum.

The individual articles are as different in style and focus as the approaches they represent: Thomas Schärfl discusses specific questions of philosophy of science as applied to theology, Hans-Joachim Höhn presents his understanding of systematic theology after the "cultural turn" as existential semiotics of faith, Hans-Joachim Sander deals with the topological problem of identification, Magnus Striet points out the importance of combining practical reason with a transcendental method focusing on theory of freedom, Thomas Marschler explains how he understands the significance of history of dogma in dogmatics, Roman Siebenrock refers to Karl Rahner and transcendental theology for depicting theology as "reductio in mysterium", Klaus von Stosch introduces his understanding of comparative theology by expressing its philosophical basis, Saskia Wendel pleads for a rational theology and thus understands revelation not as basis for belief but as a category of interpretation, Erwin Dirscherl proposes a phenomenological approach regarding the body as space of presence of God and Man, and Dorothea Sattler addresses pneumatological reflections in ecumenical theology. While most of them focus solely on their approach, some include references to others and thus offer a starting point for the discussion of the younger colleagues some of which try to point out the complementarity of different approaches.

Although the reader should not expect to get a clear answer to the question of unity and plurality in contemporary Catholic systematic theology, this volume is a very helpful guide to its diversity and its dependence of the particular philosophical bases.

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