

Gilles Vidal

La contextualisation de la théologie protestante comme lieu de changement du christianisme en Océanie

[Archives de sciences sociales des religions 157, 2012, p. 157-177]

This paper sets out to consider protestant religious discourse in contemporary oceania as a particularly valuable place to observe change in society. In the first part, three key concepts developed by three “figureheads” of contemporary protestant theology in the Pacific are discussed: the concept of community in the work of the Tongan Sione Amanaki Havea, *vanua* (land) in that of the Fijian theologian Sevati Tuwere, and *aiga* (or extended family) in that of the Samoan Ama Amalele Tofaeono. The second part of the paper shows how these three concepts have remained in theological thinking either as a continuation of missionary theology from the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century or, on the other hand, as a transformation between critical contextualisation and a holistic type of Christianity. Next, a division of the protestant theology in the Pacific from the 1970s to the 2000s in different phases is given, showing the evolution from a theology of identity based on tradition to an intercultural theology based on ecumenical dialogic. Finally, the conclusion evaluates the effective impact on church institutions of the discourse of urban intellectuals broadly influenced by the Panoceanian “Pacific way” ideology.