Editorial: Fresh Voices

One of the features of contemporary public theology is its continuing expansion around the globe. The occasional claim made that it is a preserve of mainly middle class western academics is far from the mark. In recent years the global flow has seen a healthy intersection between a world Christianity and public theology. The past decade has seen much fine work being done in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the liquid continent that is Oceania. This edition bears witness to the work of scholars in the post-Soviet world of Eastern Europe. It could not be more fitting in point of timing: the more immediate background is one of protests in the public domain in Minsk in Belarus. There is ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

It is highly likely that the great majority of those who practice a public theology elsewhere will be unaware of the scholarship in this field coming out of Ukraine and Romania. That is especially the case if some of the literature like that of Cyril Hovorun is published in the Ukrainian language. References to Maidan may not immediately resonate. That is to the loss of that wider world of a public theology. What follows in this edition of the journal is a volume which explores the intimations of and the need for a public theology in this 'strategic region'. The articles furnish examples of scholars seeking to nudge their churches beyond a somewhat introverted ecclesial concern and capturing a vision of transformed role in the pursuit of a civil society. They do so against a background of totalitarianism and its legacy.

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