

*Taking It to the Streets: Public Theologies of Activism and Resistance* is an edited volume that explores the critical intersection of public theology, political theology, and communal practices of activism and political resistance. This volume functions as a sister and companion to the text *Religion and Science as Political Theology: Navigating Post-Truth and Alternative Facts* and focuses on public, civic, and performative action as a response to experiences of injustice and diminishments of humanity. There are periods in a nation's civil history when the tides of social unrest rise into waves upon waves of public activism and resistance of the dominant uses of power. In American history, activism and public action—including and extending beyond women's suffrage, the Million Man March, protests against the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Boston Tea Party, Black Lives Matter, and the Stonewall Rebellion—are hallmarks of transitional or liminal moments in our development as a society. Critical periods marked by increases in public activism and political resistance are opportunities for a society to once again decide who we will be as a people. Will we move toward a more perfect union in which all people gain freedom in fulfilling their potential? Or will we choose the perceived safety of the status quo and established norms of power? Whose voices will be heard? Whose voices will be silenced through intimidation or harm? Ultimately, these are theological questions.

Like other forms of non-textual research subjects (movement, dance, performance art), public activism requires a set of research lenses that are often neglected in theological and religious studies. Attention to bodies—as a category, performance, or epistemological vehicle—is sorely lacking, so it is no wonder that attention to the mass of moving bodies in activism is largely absent. Activism and public political resistance are hallmarks of our current social webbing and deserve scholarly attention. *Taking It to the Streets* aims to expand awareness and discourse on this important feature of our contemporary social and theological life.

## Contributors

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