

1982 Die Relevanz des Wortes im Entwicklungsprozess (The relevance of the Word of God in the process of economic development). For detail see List of Publications below.

[Key terms: Economic development – Christian social engagement – ecology]. My passion throughout my career was to witness to Christ in a way that makes sense and that leads to transformation in the real contexts of life. As an academic theologian I attempted to integrate the insights of the social sciences with those of theology. This book is my first major attempt to establish a link between theology and economics – a theme that has characterised much of my later work. I depart from the observation that existential motivations and social processes are based on clusters of ultimate assumptions that have the power to lead personal decision making and social behaviour in particular directions. The proclaimed Word of God is one of these clusters and such the foundation of Christian existence. If proclaimed appropriately it will get into confrontation with other such clusters and impact decisions and behaviour. This approach is then applied to three models of economic development: modernisation, liberation and ecological equilibrium. The book dates back to a guest lecture held in Berlin in 1974/5. It was submitted as a doctoral thesis in Theological Ethics at the University of South Africa and recognised by German faculties as a 'Habilitationsschrift'.