

The Bible as Ideology, The Contribution of Ideological Criticism to Interreligious Hermeneutics in Indonesia

Rev. Dr Robert Setio, Dean at the Faculty of Theology, UKDW, Yogyakarta

This presentation argues that ideological criticism offers a vital hermeneutical resource for Muslim–Christian relations. The Bible, when read as an ideological text, is revealed to be both a source of integration and distortion: it shapes communal identity but also legitimates domination. Recognizing this ambivalence enables Christians to confront the complicities of their scripture while retrieving liberating counter-voices. In dialogue with Muslim approaches to the Qur'an, ideological criticism provides a shared posture for interreligious hermeneutics. I illustrate this through several case studies and then draw implications for theological education, church life, and interreligious praxis in Indonesia.