



Church, Clergy, and Authority: An Exploration of Medieval Religious Life and Culture

Guest Editors:

Dr. Jack Cunningham

Theology Department, Bishop
Grosseteste University, Lincoln,
UK

Dr. Angelo M. Silvestri

School of Modern Languages,
Cardiff University, Cardiff CF10
3AS, UK

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Message from the Guest Editors

The medieval period from the 5 to the 14 century was one of enormous paradigm shifts regarding religious life in Europe and beyond. We have myriad events, wars, doctrinal discussions and power struggles in between. Such a period might well be looked upon as the most intense in terms of loyalties, persecutions, assertions of authority, heresy, subversion and movements of renewal, many of which still resonant in our religious and secular lives in the twenty-first century and have contributed to shape our way of living as we know it.

This Special Issue will consider the developments during this time with regard to the power and authority of the Churches, both in the West and East. It will look at how these developments redefined identities both clerical and lay. The articles will examine expressions of these changes within religious life and culture in terms of the arts, architecture, Church structures, power dynamics and theological understanding. In addition, it will discuss the impact of changes in perceptions towards ordinary people, women and society in general, and those who lived on the fringes or beyond the boundaries of Christendom such as heretics, Jews and Muslims.





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Editors-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Arndt Büssing

Professorship Quality of Life,
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University, Gerhard-Kienle-Weg 4,
58313 Herdecke, Germany

Prof. Dr. Klaus Baumann

Caritaswissenschaft und
Christliche Sozialarbeit,
Theologische Fakultät, Albert-
Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg,
Platz der Universität 3, D-79098
Freiburg, Germany

Message from the Editorial Board

Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community - disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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Religions Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
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