



Hindu and Buddhist Pilgrimage: The Persistence of Place

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

This Special Issue will explore the variety, structure, and meaning of Hindu and Buddhist pilgrimage with special emphasis on the importance of sacred space/place and on its transformation in contemporary settings. It encourages historical, literary, anthropological, and comparative approaches. We welcome articles that deploy ritual analysis, ethnographies of lived experience, study of media and material representations, the ecology of landscapes, and the ideology of maps and re-examine the “discourse” of pilgrimage in light of contemporary adaptations. While the themes of place and destination help to ground our discussion, we invite research that explores the impact of the dislodgement or displacement on traditional forms, as often happens in contemporary and diaspora settings. Though transformed in new ways, pilgrimage practices continue to revive traditional religious lives. The paradigm of four stages of pilgrimage—preparation, journey, worship at site, and return to the everyday world—largely holds, but contemporary cultural and religious changes require re-examination.





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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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