



Death in the New World: The Rise of Santa Muerte

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The cult of Santa Muerte, or Saint Death, is becoming one of the fastest growing spiritual traditions in the world. In this Special Issue of *Religions*, scholars take a multi-disciplinary look at the tradition and explore the ways in which Santa Muerte's popularity challenges societal views of spirituality. Despite her long history as an occult, liminal figure in the Americas, and her explosive growth over the past decade, scholarly research on Santa Muerte has been marginal. With this Special Issue we hope to bring more light into the shadows of contemporary US and Latin American cultures where Saint Death holds sway.

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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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