



Recent Work on Catholicism

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Catholicism is one of the major religious systems of the world. Claiming more than a billion adherents, it has a visible presence **on every part of the globe**. In recent **years** interest in religious history has surged among professional historians. The religious experiences of human kind have become a portal to a fuller understanding of individuals, societies, and nations. Catholicism's historic contributions to global culture and its impact on the values and behavior of men and women (**not to mention the built environment and material culture**) of the past two millenia is the subject of this gathering of historical work. The cross fertilization of Catholic history with the social sciences, **the history of** theology and the "cultural turn" in recent historiography has produced a vibrant and stimulating burst of new scholarship.

Dr. Steven M. Avella
Guest Editor





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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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