Special Issue

Catholic Propaganda on the Frontiers: Evangelizing Pagans, Protestants, and Non-Believers in the 16th and 17th Centuries

Message from the Guest Editors

In the 16th century, strategies for the evangelization and promotion of Catholicism among the still predominantly pagan populations of the world underwent significant transformations. This Special Issue seeks to examine the diverse approaches employed to teach and persuade different populations to embrace Catholicism across a wide range of contexts. It will explore missionary efforts among the seemingly "savage" indigenous communities of the Brazilian Amazon and northern Mexico, as well as the conversion of Asian societies and Muslim populations. Additionally, it will analyze the Catholic response to what were considered Protestant heresies in Europe. These varied contexts led to the development of diverse methodologies, which were shaped by clear ethnographic criteria and the specific political conditions of each region, as exemplified by different missionary enterprises. This Special Issue will feature contributions from specialists in Catholic evangelization across various regions of the world. Beyond historical analyses, this work will also explore the theological and intellectual foundations of missionary activity. We look forward to receiving your contributions.

Guest Editors

Dr. Manuel Mendez Alonzo

- Department of Historical Sciences, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 35004 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain
- 2. Institute of Cultural History SAZU (Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts), Novi trg 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Dr. Gregor Pobežin

Institute of Cultural History SAZU (Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts), Novi trg 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

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Religions
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
religions@mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/religions





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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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Prof. Dr. Arndt Büssing

Professorship Quality of Life, Spirituality and Coping, Faculty of Health, Witten/Herdecke 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

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