

## Special Issue

# Exploring the Complexity of Identities and Boundaries within the New Testament World

### Message from the Guest Editors

In this issue, we seek to reflect on and explore the complexity of identity and boundaries in the New Testament and Early Christianity against the background of the Graeco-Roman world. How can we better explain what Brian Tucker calls “the continuation of existing identities” and “the nested social dilemma”. And how can Tajfel and Turner’s Social Identity and Self-Categorization Theory and Social Identity Complexity Theory (hereon SIT), developed by Roccas and Brewer, and used in New Testament Studies by Jacobus Kok and others, help us to see the complex nature of ancient identity? We invite papers that explore ancient (Christian) identity complexity and nestedness, both in New Testament and Early Christian texts, and texts from its Graeco-Roman and Jewish Umwelt. Social Identity approaches are especially welcomed, but also those that use other theories and approaches like ethnicity theory, memory studies, ritual studies, network analyses, and more.

### Guest Editors

Dr. H. H. Drake Williams III

Department New Testament Studies, Evangelische Theologische Fakultät, Leuven, 3001 Leuven, Belgium

Prof. Dr. Jacobus (Kobus) Kok

Department New Testament Studies, Evangelische Theologische Fakultät, Leuven, 3001 Leuven, Belgium

### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 June 2023)



## Religions

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

Impact Factor 0.6  
CiteScore 1.3



[mdpi.com/si/144014](https://mdpi.com/si/144014)

*Religions*  
Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[religions@mdpi.com](mailto:religions@mdpi.com)

[mdpi.com/journal/  
religions](https://mdpi.com/journal/religions)





# Religions

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 0.6  
CiteScore 1.3



[mdpi.com/journal/  
religions](https://mdpi.com/journal/religions)



## About the Journal

### 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.

*Religions* is inviting innovative and comparative contributions. Please consider Religions as an exceptional, exciting enterprise ready to reward your trust, attention, and participation.

---

### Editors-in-Chief

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

---

### Author Benefits

#### High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, AHCI (Web of Science), ATLA Religion Database, Religious and Theological Abstracts, and other databases.

#### Journal Rank:

CiteScore – Q1 (Religious Studies)

#### Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 24.5 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 4.9 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the second half of 2025).