

Special Issue

Magic, Religion, and Mysticism: Occult Traditions in Europe from Late Antiquity Through the Early Modern Period

Message from the Guest Editor

Magic, religion, and mysticism have captivated the imaginations of enthusiasts and scholars since the late nineteenth century. Yet over a hundred years later, there is little consensus as to the fundamental definitions of magic, mysticism, and religion, or the interconnectedness of the three. By the mid-twentieth century, sweeping anthropological schematizations of magic, science, and religion had given way to more nuanced studies of the occult, but even given this recalibration of magic and its relationship to mysticism, both suffered from a prejudice in the scholarly community. We are pleased to invite contributions to the on-going conversation about the occult in this Special Issue of *Religions*. The scope of articles and methodologies appropriate to this Special Issue is broad. We call for contributions that approach magic and occultism from the vantage point of their cultural and societal roles, theology, material culture, medicine, gender, ritual studies, microhistory, anthropology, and the history of religion.

Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Martha Rampton

Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences, Pacific University
Oregon, Forest Grove, OR 97116, USA

Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 April 2026



Religions

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 0.6
CiteScore 1.3



mdpi.com/si/235681

Religions
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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 25.4 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 4.5 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).