

Special Issue

Monastic Identities: Comparative and Historical Perspectives

Message from the Guest Editor

This volume aims to treat contexts wherein female and male monastics confronted, reinforced, or questioned their own identities, whether individual or collective. In doing so, it builds upon a growing body of literature about monasticism in various traditions, including Catholic, Orthodox, Buddhist, and Jain. While many studies have addressed such issues as the origins and development of monastic norms, fewer works have treated the ways monks and nuns have thought intentionally (or perhaps unintentionally) about their own identities. Fewer still have done so with a comparative focus, actively seeking to juxtapose different monastic traditions in order to underscore similarities and differences in an open, unbiased, intentional way.

The volume treats historical rather than contemporary monasticism. However, it aims to be as inclusive as possible within that broad framework and will entertain submissions that examine monastic situations from antiquity through the nineteenth century. The editor is particularly interested in submissions that adopt a comparative framework, analyzing different monastic situations to draw conclusions about one or more of the comparative foci.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 December 2024)



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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.

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

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