

Special Issue

The Encounter of Colonialism and Indian Religious Traditions

Message from the Guest Editor

What is the role of colonialism as a hermeneutical key today in India, with local religious traditions being challenged by modernity, nationalism, and increasing competition with China?

The encounter of colonialism with Indian religious traditions is the story of the intertwining of empire, mission, and whiteness. But the encounter between colonialism and Indian religious tradition does not only speak with the voice of the white missionaries but with that of local Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs as well.

Colonialism cut into Indian religious traditions at both social and ecclesial levels. Is the liturgy perceived as Western in Indian Christianity? Or, piece by piece, has worship been transformed and made Indian, that is, de-Westernized?

Is colonialism only Christian? Were the Islamic invasions of Northern India a form of colonialism too?

Is colonialism a great excuse? Eighty years after Independence, is it not time for India to be over colonialism? Is this the time for Indian religious tradition to debate new themes and address new issues?

We welcome papers written from a variety of methods: historical, social, anthropological, theological, philosophical, and biblical.

Guest Editor

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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.

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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).