

Special Issue

Religions in Colonial Korea: Traditions, Reconfigurations, and New Beginnings

Message from the Guest Editor

The modern era in Korea was marked by profound and disruptive transformations. Within this altered landscape, religious traditions were compelled to renegotiate their identities. Buddhism, long regarded as a “traditional” religion, confronted the challenge of modernity by adopting Japanese Buddhism as a model while also responding to Protestant Christianity. At the same time, new religious movements such as Won Buddhism arose to articulate spiritual and national aspirations that established world religions could not fully satisfy. While the study of Christianity in this period has been extensive, comparatively little attention has been paid to Korea’s “traditional” religions or newly founded religions rooted in Korean culture and philosophy.

This Issue seeks to address this lacuna by exploring the ways in which diverse religious traditions such as Buddhism, Won Buddhism, and other new religions in colonial Korea were reshaped under the constraints of colonial modernity.

We invite original research articles focusing primarily on religions other than Christianity, although comparative perspectives on the intersections between Christianity and other traditions are also welcome.

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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