

Special Issue

Space for Worship in East Asia

Message from the Guest Editors

This Issue focuses on the spaces for worship in East Asia. In this Special Issue, we welcome new scholarships on East Asian worshiping space in all areas and from any religious backgrounds, Buddhism, Confucian, Daoism, Shintoism, Islam, Christianity, and various folk and shamanistic practices. Architecture is a comprehensive expression of, and the most visible contributors to, the identity of a place, religious, cultural, and regional. A mosque in Xi'an shares more formal and structural common features with a local Buddhist temple than with a mosque in Xinjiang. Buddhist temples in Japan may contain thatch-roofed Shinto shrines while those in China feature halls for worshipping the Martial God Guandi. Such a reality makes it more revealing for a focus of subject on space for worship than architecture of a specific religion. In addition to studies on such conventional fields as Buddhist, Daoist, or Shinto architecture, we encourage new research with a comparative methodology or on worshiping spaces beyond the well-established religious compartments.

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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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