

## Special Issue

# Holy Cities in the 21st Century: Images, Identities, and Networks

### Message from the Guest Editor

We invite submissions to a Special Issue of *Religions* titled **“Holy Cities in the 21st Century: Images, Identities, and Networks.”** This Issue explores the significance of contemporary holy cities across major world religions, examining their cultural, religious, and political roles in an era shaped by globalization and digital media. While the focus is on current developments, historical perspectives that clarify present practices are also welcome. Topics of interest include how sacred and secular elements intersect in holy cities; digital and physical pilgrimage and the influence of visual media; online and visual promotion through websites, images, and maps; interactions among religion, tourism, and global audiences; layered religious meanings in urban contexts; interfaith exhibitions; international networks linking holy cities; and political or legal challenges they face. Analyses of visitor flows, tourism, pilgrimage routes, and transportation networks are also encouraged, with case studies such as Rome, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Mecca, Varanasi, Angkor Wat, and Teotihuacan.

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### Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Stanley Brunn

Department of Geography, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

1 June 2026



## Religions

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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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### Editors-in-Chief

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### 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).