

Special Issue

Theology and Aesthetics in the Spanish and Portuguese Empires

Message from the Guest Editors

The fifteenth century Spanish and Portuguese voyages of territorial expansion initiated “the violent destruction of old social and metaphysical bonds which tied people to one another and to the world around them in order to bind them to new masters who were appropriating for themselves both legal and sovereign power” (Marika Rose). The rise of empires, nation states, identities and social power relations also hinged on the emergence of a new definition of Western Man. Sylvia Wynter has described this definition in *Unsettling the Coloniality of Being* as arising from a process in which the European laity wrested power from the clergy over words and symbolic representations.

This Special Issue aims to examine efforts to push against the developing global organizing principle of racialized Western Man as well as to the dominant Counter Reformation narrative of divinely sanctioned imperial expansion. We are pleased to invite you to contribute studies of contestatory religious culture from the Iberian peninsula and Spanish and Portuguese colonial worlds that examine the relationship between theology and aesthetics. Original research articles and reviews are welcome.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

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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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