

Special Issue

A Sociological Approach to the Study of the Sanskrit Purānas

Message from the Guest Editors

For this Special Issue of Religions, we invite scholars focused on the historical–sociological study of the Purānas, illuminating the ways that paurānikas throughout history have focused, and/or continue to focus, on the lived practice of their communities.

We welcome both original research articles and reviews of existing research from a historical–sociological perspective. Researchers are encouraged to engage in the systematic comparison of contextual clues related to themes in the Purāna scholarship outlined above, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Pilgrimage, sectarian affiliations and associated rituals treated in purānas, including distinguishing between travel prescriptions vs. glorification of worship sites at a distance;
- (b) Lineages of sages, storytellers and listeners identified in outermost frame stories;
- (c) Alignment (or lack thereof) of a given purana with other paurānika lineages and/or traditional lists of 18 Purānas.

Guest Editors

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 January 2026)



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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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