

## Special Issue

# Embellishing Belief: Sacred Objects and Spaces in Premodern East Asia and Southeast Asia

### Message from the Guest Editors

Research on material manifestations of religious practice has emerged as a vital methodological intervention within cultural studies, art history, and religious studies. While scholarship often explores the relationship between material expression and religious praxis, this volume focuses specifically on how meaning is conveyed and transformed through material and immaterial enhancement, and how objects gain sacred significance through different kinds of agency. Building on this approach, *Embellishing Belief: Sacred Objects and Spaces in Premodern East Asia and Southeast Asia* examines how material and symbolic embellishment configures and transforms sacred spaces, icons, and forms in premodern East and Southeast Asia—with "premodern" defined within each culture's historical context. We welcome proposals featuring religious, ritual, and funerary examples. To ground these investigations, our theoretical framework understands "embellishment" as both physical and artistic decoration and as the processes by which objects and spaces become imbued with sacred significance through political and cultural signifiers, symbols, and modes of expression.

### Guest Editors

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

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## 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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