

Special Issue

Religion, Liberalism and the Nation in East Asia

Message from the Guest Editor

The discourse of religion has profoundly shaped East Asian modernity. Since the mid-nineteenth century, pre-modern East Asian pursuits of human emancipation and fulfillment assisted by supra-natural beings as well as various forms of the self, community, and power have been reconfigured to establish religion, the liberty-bearing citizen, and the nation. However, like anywhere else, this process of reconfiguration has been marked by inconsistencies, fractures, and tensions. This Special Issue explores these fractures and inconsistencies in modern East Asian experience and seeks to contribute new perspectives for the critical examination of the distinctions of public vs. private, religious vs. secular, and state vs. society. The Special Issue also asks whether, and if so, how, the concept of religion has operated to block alternative inspirations and imaginations of forming society and the self. As such, this Special Issue sets out to explore possibilities that are lost in East Asia's modernizing experience as well as new ones that may be yet to come.

Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Yijiang Zhong
Department of Japanese, University of Macau, Macau, China

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Religions
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
religions@mdpi.com

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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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Professorship Quality of Life, Spirituality and Coping, Faculty of Health, Witten/Herdecke University, Gerhard-Kienle-Weg 4, 58313 Herdecke, Germany

Prof. Dr. Klaus Baumann

Caritaswissenschaft und Christliche Sozialarbeit, Theologische Fakultät, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Platz der Universität 3, D-79098 Freiburg, Germany

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manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 24.5 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 4.9 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the second half of 2025).

