

## Special Issue

# Heavens and Grottos: New Explorations in Daoist Cosmography

### Message from the Guest Editors

Heavens and grotto-heavens are important and special parts of the Daoist universe and, in Daoist traditions, they are, respectively located in the upper and lower planes of the universe, as distinguished from the middle or terrestrial space inhabited by humans. These special cosmic planes are considered to be the sacred areas where the gods are hidden and they are also the destinations that practitioners of Daoist religions yearn to reach. Their efforts translate into a host of this-worldly practices. In this Special Issue, we propose a collection of articles focused on these two planes of the Daoist conception of the universe in order to reveal a better understanding of the special cultural value of Daoist cosmography.

We invite those who are interested to contribute an academic paper that may encompass, but is not limited, to the exploration of the following research topics and questions: The evolution of Daoist concepts of the heavens within the larger history of Chinese cosmology; The evolution of the Daoist concepts of grotto-heavens and differences compared to other Daoist sacred places; The temporal dimensions of the concept of grotto-heavens.

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### Guest Editors

Dr. Zhaojie Bai

Dr. Vincent Goossaert

Dr. Johan Rols

Dr. Jonathan Pettit

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 September 2025



## Religions

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*Religions*

Editorial Office

MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5

4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34

[religions@mdpi.com](mailto:religions@mdpi.com)

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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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Prof. Dr. Arndt Büssing

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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