

Special Issue

The Functions of Religion for Human Society

Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue of *Religions* attempts to examine and explore the psychological and sociological functions of religion and spirituality for the individual and for any number of social collectivities. Key research questions include, but are not limited to: What are the functions of religion for distressed or marginalized communities or communities that view themselves as under siege? How do prison inmates use religious resources to cope with the vicissitudes of confinement? How do young adults use religion to navigate the negative influences around them? How do racial, ethnic, and gender groups employ religion to cope with discrimination and/or promote and inform social movements of liberation? How do organizations and institutions use religion to promote their mission, solidify followership, and ensure compliance? How do countries use religion to form and promote a social, political, and national identity? This volume seeks original papers that explore the contemporary functions of religion at various levels of sociological analysis. Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods studies are welcomed.

Guest Editor

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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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