

Special Issue

Diaconia and Christian Social Practice in a Global Perspective

Message from the Guest Editors

Today's Christian diaconal welfare organizations mostly emerged in the 19th century to combat the social consequences of industrialization in Europe. Christian missionaries in turn spread the concept of *diaconia* to other parts of the world in the wake of colonialism. Thus, manifold traditions of Diaconia and Christian Social Practice have evolved worldwide that today noticeably also include the many Christian formations that have grown independently from the mainline Christian traditions (e.g., African Initiated Churches, Pentecostal-Charismatic Churches). Against this background, this Call for Papers invites contributions from across the aforementioned wide spectrum of formations and traditions to advance a *global* debate on diaconia and Christian social practice. In view of meeting this aim, the call takes account of the fact that "diaconia" may not be the salient concept used in many contexts and that the notion of "Christian social practice" more appropriately incorporates and defines the practices of Christian social care, social welfare and social development prevalent in those contexts.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Johannes Eurich

Department of Practical Theology and Missiology, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch 7599, South Africa

Prof. Dr. Ignatius Swart

Department of Religion and Theology, University of the Western Cape, Bellville 7535, South Africa

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (20 April 2023)



Religions

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Impact Factor 0.6
CiteScore 1.3



mdpi.com/si/131023

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

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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

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