

Special Issue

Hindu and Buddhist Pilgrimage: The Persistence of Place

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue will explore the variety, structure, and meaning of Hindu and Buddhist pilgrimage with special emphasis on the importance of sacred space/place and on its transformation in contemporary settings. It encourages historical, literary, anthropological, and comparative approaches. We welcome articles that deploy ritual analysis, ethnographies of lived experience, study of media and material representations, the ecology of landscapes, and the ideology of maps and re-examine the “discourse” of pilgrimage in light of contemporary adaptations. While the themes of place and destination help to ground our discussion, we invite research that explores the impact of the dislodgement or displacement on traditional forms, as often happens in contemporary and diaspora settings. Though transformed in new ways, pilgrimage practices continue to revive traditional religious lives. The paradigm of four stages of pilgrimage—preparation, journey, worship at site, and return to the everyday world—largely holds, but contemporary cultural and religious changes require re-examination.

Guest Editors

Dr. Sam Britt

Department of Religion, Furman University, Greenville, SC 29613, USA

Dr. Claude Stulting

Department of Religion, Furman University, Greenville, SC 29613, USA

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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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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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