

Special Issue

Renewal, Innovation, and Transformation: The Changing Face of Judaism in Modern Times

Message from the Guest Editor

The decades following World War II have seen significant changes in Judaism, its diverse groups, and their interactions with broader cultural trends. These transformations include the formation of new movements, spiritual practices, leadership patterns, and educational initiatives, impacting all segments of Jewry. Among the developments, there has been notable growth in anti-modernist Ultra-Orthodox groups, including yeshivot and Hasidic courts. New trends such as Hardalim have combined Ultra-Nationalism with Ultra-Orthodoxy. Outreach efforts, particularly by Chabad, have aimed to bring non-observant Jews back to tradition. Jewish feminists have worked to create more egalitarian spaces in synagogues, while the Renewal movement has integrated Hasidic practices with countercultural values. New communities like Messianic Jews and Jewish Buddhists have emerged, challenging traditional Jewish definitions. This Issue invites scholars to examine and evaluate these evolving trends and their impact on the definition and expressions of Judaism today.

Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Yaakov Ariel

Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3225, USA

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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,
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