

Special Issue

Divine Warfare, Heresy and Witchcraft: Connecting Witch Trials and Religious Persecutions in the Premodern World (to 1900)

Message from the Guest Editor

We are pleased to invite contributions to a Special Issue of Religions focused on the connections between divine warfare and the persecution of religious deviancy, especially heresy and witchcraft in the pre-modern world. Our chronology extends from “pre-modern” to the 19th century both because “modernity” is a fraught concept and because we intend for the Special Issue to be as global as possible in approach. We ask contributors to think about the meaning of our primary categories of analysis, “divine” warfare, heresy, religious persecution, and witchcraft, and to look for causal connections among them. Did religious wars entail a rise in witchcraft accusations and trials? Was witchcraft always considered a “heresy,” or could there be such a thing as a religiously orthodox witch or sorcerer? The answers to these questions will vary by time and place, and across disciplinary approaches. Our aim is to allow for a comparative analysis that reveals the causal links among persecution of practitioners of magic, conceptions of heresy, and religious conflict.

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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