

Special Issue

Heretical Religiosity

Message from the Guest Editor

“Heretical religiosity” represents a particular theological position which perceives religiosity as being independent of traditional social structures or normative world-views. It embodies a dual and perhaps conflicting passion: to take part in history and share normative beliefs and at the same time to rebel against them and harness this rebellion to modernity. Although one can find precedents for this phenomenon in the history of ideas and in the history of religions before modern times, it is only with modernity and, paradoxically, with the advent of rapid secularization that one finds “heretical religiosity” at full strength. The phenomenon reached its climax with Nietzsche and his declaration that “God is dead”. Parallel with the widespread belief that the liquidation of the concept of “God” was the official birth of secularism, “heretical religiosity” suggests another possibility, different from the “religious” and “secular” positions.

Guest Editor

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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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