

## Special Issue

# Religion and Medicine: Expanding Understandings of Human Flourishing

### Message from the Guest Editors

The understanding of religion and medicine as fundamentally incompatible, if not antagonistic, domains of exploration and of human experience has been, until recently, widely shared. Today, however, this view is being challenged from diverse quarters. Medicine's relative powerlessness to cure chronic illnesses and its lack of a coherent language with which to conceptualize and cope with human suffering has undermined confidence in its purely materialist frame. In addition, its narrow conceptualization of health as the absence of disease is giving way to a more holistic understanding, inclusive of such markers as positive connections with others, with nature, with space, to purpose, and to meaning.

We seek submissions from those whose work contributes to understanding "medicine" in its broadest terms, inclusive of physical, mental, communal, and ecological well-being, and which recognizes healing as inescapably a total experience—at once physiological, psychological, and spiritual/existential. The scope of this Special Issue will, as a necessity, be broad and seek to include diverse understandings of human flourishing, both historically and contemporarily.

---

### Guest Editors

Dr. Anne Vallely

Classics and Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ottawa, 75 Laurier Ave E, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5, Canada

Prof. Dr. Monnica T. Williams

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5, Canada

---

### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (1 June 2024)



## Religions

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 0.6  
CiteScore 1.3



[mdpi.com/si/121382](https://mdpi.com/si/121382)

*Religions*  
Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[religions@mdpi.com](mailto:religions@mdpi.com)

[mdpi.com/journal/  
religions](https://mdpi.com/journal/religions)





# Religions

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

Impact Factor 0.6  
CiteScore 1.3



[mdpi.com/journal/  
religions](http://mdpi.com/journal/religions)

## 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.

---

### Editors-in-Chief

#### Prof. Dr. Arndt Büsing

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

---

### Author Benefits

#### High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, AHCI (Web of Science), ATLA Religion Database, Religious and Theological Abstracts, and other databases.

#### Journal Rank:

CiteScore - Q1 (Religious Studies)

#### Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 24.5 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 4.9 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the second half of 2025).

