

Special Issue

The Role of the Christian Clergy in Colonizing and (De)colonizing Asia, 1800s to 2000s

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue seeks for contributions which focus on understanding, interpreting and theorizing the political, theological and socio-cultural roles played by the Christian clergy in colonizing and (de)colonizing Asia during the 19th and 20th centuries. Our broad desire to encourage more scholarship which take Christian clerical actors in Asia as direct subjects of investigation and theorization during this period of intense modernization, globalization, and cross-cultural exchange. Historiographically, while non-Western or “native” clerics have increasingly become important subjects of interest alongside Euro-American missionaries in these periods, not much work has been undertaken to theorize their agency, thought, beliefs, behaviours and networks. Anthropologically, there has been growing interest in studying Christianity as culture in specific communities across Asia. While clerical leaders have been important sources of evidence for these analyses, findings about them remain largely empirical and do not yet provide a substantial level of critical insight. As such, we welcome interpretive and theoretical analyses of these said actors.

Guest Editors

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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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