Special Issue

Religious Representations in and around War

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue explores various patterns of religionwar relations and provides theoretical perspectives to understand why, how, and in which forms religion and war are connected. Within their own disciplines, authors can examine cases of religion-war relations in any place and in any age (from the ancient to the modern ages) and can extract any pattern from or present any perspective of these relations. "Religion" is not confined to those having established doctrines and church organizations, which is perhaps what people primarily mean by that concept. "Religion" includes any system with a "religious" nature or elements, which may not be socially recognized as a religion, but instead as a custom or tradition, and those that followers call "being spiritual and not religious". "War" includes any forms of military battle between different groups, such as the Crusades, private wars in tribal societies, international wars, and asymmetric wars (guerrilla warfare and terrorism).

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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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