

Special Issue

Religionizing Confucianism: Ritual, Transcendence, and Social Formations in East Asia

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue proposes reframing Confucianism through the conceptual toolkit of Religious Studies. We believe that Confucianism marks a living sacred presence of its own and a general enquiry of life itself. In this Special Issue, we take as our starting point the analytical act of religionizing Confucianism: asking what becomes visible, and what is distorted, when Confucian texts, practices, institutions, and imaginaries are examined in terms of ritual, transcendence, sacralization, social organization, and material culture.

Within this broad agenda, this Special Issue focuses on four interrelated priorities:

- The debate between rujia (Confucian “school”) and rujiao (Confucian “religion”).
- Inner transcendence and modes of sacrality in Confucian self-cultivation and ethics.
- Confucianism’s interactions with Daoism and Buddhism, especially under the rubric of sanjiao heyi (the unity of the three teachings).
- The embedding of Confucianism within local cults, popular practices, civic ritual, art, and materiality.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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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