

Special Issue

Religion, Ritual, and Political Leader Cults

Message from the Guest Editor

This special issue of *Religions* on Religion, Ritual, and Political Leader Cults addresses the question of the relationship between religious phenomena and political leader cults. This issue aims both to re-focus scholarly attention on cult practices (including rituals and other forms of “cult communication”) and cult reception (including counter-rituals) rather than cult artifacts or top-down cult production, as well as to broaden the geographical focus of the study of leader cults. We thus welcome both theoretical studies and case studies of leader cults from a wide variety of regions, on topics including the emergence of practices of “leader worship”; the boundaries between cult and non-cult phenomena, and the usefulness of religious concepts to understand practices of leader worship; the distinction between practices of worship or charismatic construction from other forms of political followership and admiration; political leader cult reception and “cult communication” at the grassroots level; and any other topic reflecting on the use of religious concepts in the study of leader cults.

Guest Editor

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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.

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