

Special Issue

The Tradition of Mystical Theology and Its Challenges to Contemporaneous Theology

Message from the Guest Editor

The focus of this Special Issue of *Religions* is the tradition of mystical theology, and its relevance for today's theology. In the course of time, various interests, controversies, and discussions have been developed, and all these issues need to be studied and understood in their own historical context. Nevertheless, they may also have a specific relevance for the theology of today, possibly by opening perspectives that have been neglected for some time, possibly by showing dimensions that are not explored today. While on the one hand mystical theology enjoys attention from historical or literary scholars who may overlook the theological dimensions, and on the other hand theologians may refer to mystical topics without taking into consideration the specific historical contexts and sources, the real dialogue of these disciplines is still at its very beginning. In this Special Issue, we want to engage in that specific dialogue. We seek contributions that either develop a case study of a specific mystical topic (in its historical context) which has special relevance for today's theological reflection, or that investigate the methodological aspects of such a dialogue.

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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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