Special Issue

Religion and International Relations: What do we know and how do we know it?

Message from the Guest Editor

Twenty years after 9/11 the study of religion and international relations is in flux. Some see the key issue to be the impact of religion on international conflicts. Others stress the multiple roles of both state and nonstate actors in relation to international co-operation, focused on collective efforts to tackle pressing global problems, including: the climate emergency, improving the position of females, religious freedom and, more generally, and human rights. In short, the range of concerns which could be included under the rubric of religion and international relations are numerous. In addition, what is the appropriate position of the topic in international relations theory? To understand and account for the roles of religion in international relations, do we need a new theory or can we incorporate the relevant concerns within existing theoretical frameworks? More generally, how today can we hope to understand the myriad potential components in the complex mosaic of religion and international relations?

Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Jeffrey Haynes

School of Social Sciences, London Metropolitan University, London N7 8DB, UK

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Religions Editorial Office MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5 4052 Basel, Switzerland Tel: +41 61 683 77 34 religions@mdpi.com

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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.

Religions is inviting innovative and comparative contributions. Please consider Religions as an exceptional, exciting enterprise ready to reward your trust, attention, and participation.

Editors-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Arndt Büssing

Professorship Quality of Life, Spirituality and Coping, Faculty of Health, Witten/Herdecke University, Gerhard-Kienle-Weg 4, 58313 Herdecke, Germany

Prof. Dr. Klaus Baumann

Caritaswissenschaft und Christliche Sozialarbeit, Theologische Fakultät, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Platz der Universität 3, D-79098 Freiburg, Germany

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