



Religion and Gender: Online Journal for the Systematic Study of Religion and Gender in an Interdisciplinary Perspective

Call for Papers

Forthcoming Volume

Masculinities and Religion: Continuities and Change

Guest-Editors: Stephen Hunt (Sociology) and Björn Krondorfer (Religious Studies)

As guest editors for this special edition of *Religion and Gender* we are issuing a formal call for papers on the theme of 'Masculinities and Religion: Continuities and Change'. Alongside specially commissioned contributions, we are inviting authors who are at the cutting edge of research in the area of religion and masculinities, reflecting a wide international outlook. Echoing the remit of the journal, we are seeking contributions that are truly interdisciplinary, providing a space in which voices from sociology, religious studies, men's studies, anthropology, theology and other specialised fields are heard.

In recent years the broad theme of religion and masculinities has proved to be of vital interest to an emergent scholarship. This special edition will attempt to explore various dimensions of this crucial topic from a critical perspective. In the challenges wrought throughout a globalised world traditional masculinities are being challenged, defended and re-imagined in numerous religious traditions and contexts. This special edition of *Religion and Gender* will endeavour to gauge the extent of continuity and change. We are seeking to engage with the contestations encountered by various religious traditions, alongside the trajectories of new expressions of religiosity and spirituality. While 'continuity and change' is a broad theme, it suggests that neither masculinity nor religion are stable categories but are embedded in cultural, historical, social, and political structures, no matter how fluid those structures are proving to be. Particularly welcomed would be papers that offer a theoretical component to religion and masculinity – an element which has hitherto tended to be a neglected area of concern.

We propose that contributions may wish to address the following questions but are by no means limited to them:

- How do the more established religious traditions seek to defend hegemonic visions of masculinity in a changing world?
- How do sacred textual sources define or prescribe ideals of masculinity? Are these ideals in conflict with lived experiences?
- In which ways are sacred textual sources and established religious authorities defining or prescribing ideals of masculinity challenged in the contemporary world?
- How are masculinities re-imagined in fresh expressions of religiosity and spirituality?
- What is the relationship between masculinities and sexuality in both innovating and more conventional forms of religiosity?
- How do non-heterosexual men negotiate life choices within the context of religiously prescribed and conventional masculinities?

This list of questions is not meant to be exhaustive. It merely indicates a direction. Whatever focus your contribution may have (historical, theological, textual, sociological, ethical, ethnographic, etc), please keep in mind the contemporary relevance of any topic chosen. We are seeking longer papers of between 6-8000 words (excluding footnotes and references) and shorter papers of 3-4000 words in which the authors present their views on one specific issue.

Please submit a one-page proposal and short biographical statement (electronic submission preferred) to both:

Björn Krondorfer, Chair
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and

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Proposals should be submitted by **1st October, 2010**. Once accepted, full papers should be submitted by **30th April, 2011**.

About the Editors

Björn Krondorfer is professor of religious studies at St. Mary's College of Maryland, and currently chair of the department of philosophy and religious studies. His field of expertise is religion and culture, with an emphasis on gender studies, cultural studies, and Holocaust studies. In the area of gender and religion, he has published *Male Confessions: Intimate Revelations and the Religious Imagination* (Stanford University Press, 2010), *Men and Masculinities in Christianity and Judaism: A Critical Reader* (SCM, 2009), and *Men's Bodies, Men's Gods: Male Identities in a (Post-) Christian Culture* (New York University Press, 1996). He serves on the editorial boards of *The Journal of Men, Masculinities and Spirituality*, *Religion and Gender*, *theologie-geschichte*, and *CrossCurrents*. He had been appointed series editor of the *Cultural Criticism Series* of Oxford University Press/AAR and had served as co-chair for the *Men's Studies in Religion Group* of the American Academy of Religion.

Stephen Hunt is reader in the sociology of religion at the University of the West of England, Bristol. His specialised interests include sociology and theology, religion and sexuality, and religion and political mobilisation. Among his publications are *A History of the Charismatic Movement in Britain and the United States of America: The Pentecostal Transformation of Christianity* (2 volumes) (Edwin Mellen, 2009); *Religion in Everyday Life* (Routledge, 2006); *Alternative Religion: A Sociological Introduction* (Ashgate, 2003), and the edited volumes *Contemporary Christianity and LGBT Sexualities* (Ashgate, 2009) and *Christian Millenarianism* (New York University Press, 2001). Forthcoming publications include *Religion and Sexuality: A Research Companion* (edited with A. Yip) (Ashgate) and 5 volumes of the compilation *The Ashgate Library of Essays on Sexuality and Religion* (Ashgate). He serves

on the editorial boards of *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, *The International Politics and Religion Journal*, *Journal of Sociological Research*, and *Religion and Gender*.

The Scope and Focus of *Religion and Gender*

Religion and Gender is the first online international journal for the systematic study of gender and religion in an interdisciplinary perspective. The journal explores the relation, confrontation and intersection of gender and religion, taking into account the multiple and changing manifestations of religion in diverse social and cultural contexts. It analyses and reflects critically on gender in its interpretative and imaginative dimensions and as a fundamental principle of social ordering. It seeks to investigate gender at the intersection of feminist, sexuality, queer, masculinity and diversity studies. As an academic journal, *Religion and Gender* aims to publish high level contributions from the humanities and from qualitative and conceptual studies in the social sciences. It wants to focus in particular on contemporary debates and topics of emerging interest. Albeit international in scope, the journal takes seriously that it is situated in contemporary Europe. It seeks to reflect on this position, particularly from postmodern, postcolonial, and post secular perspectives.

See www.religionandgender.org