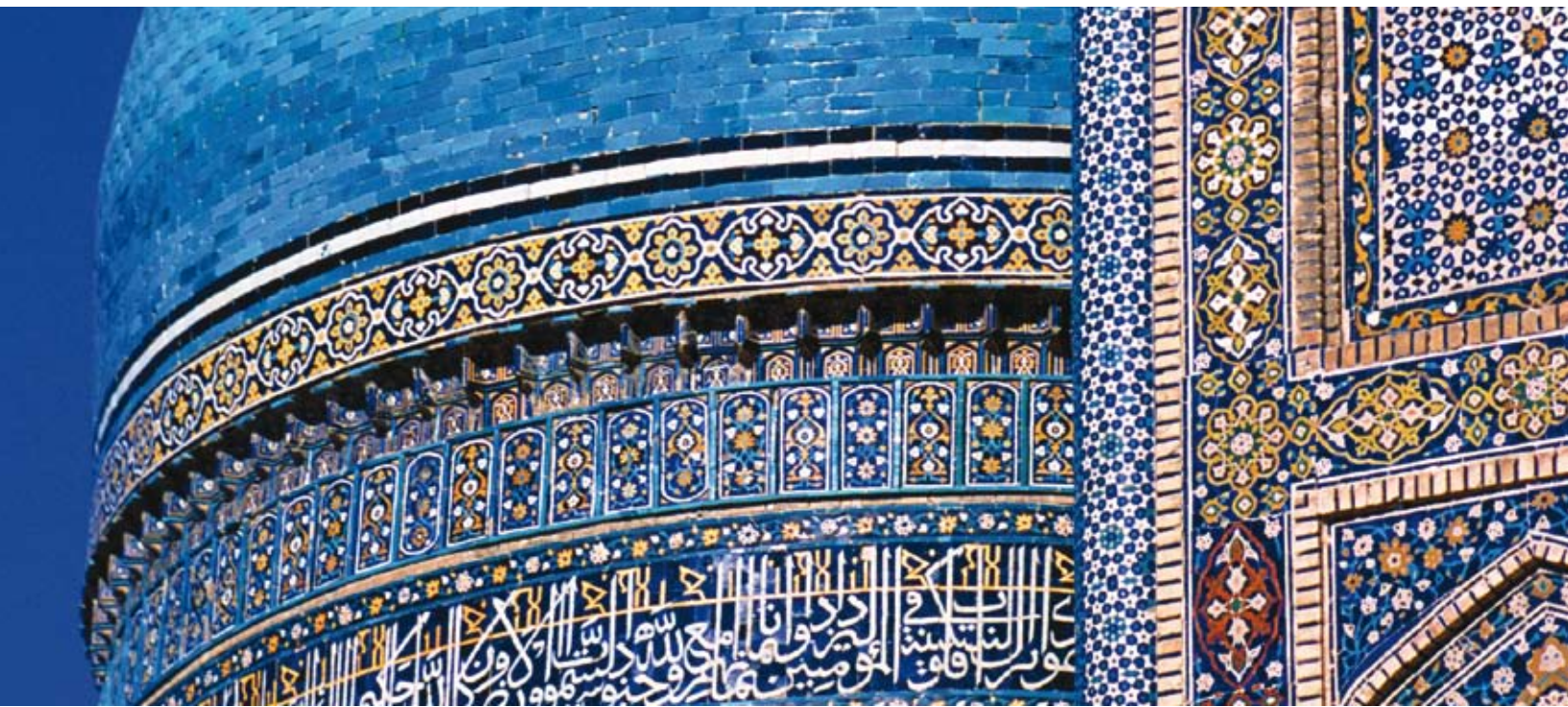
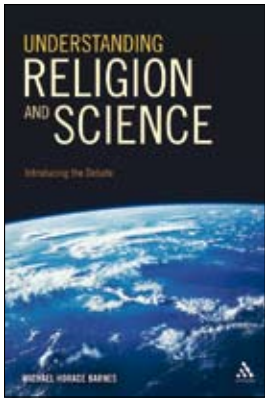


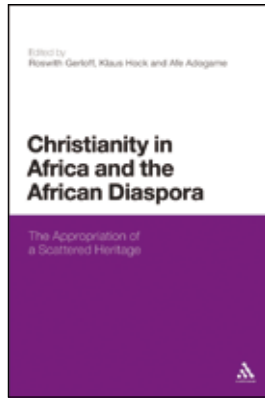
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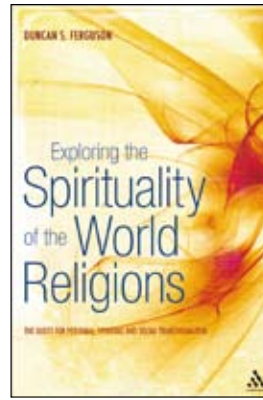




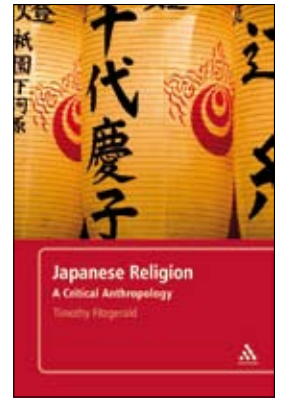
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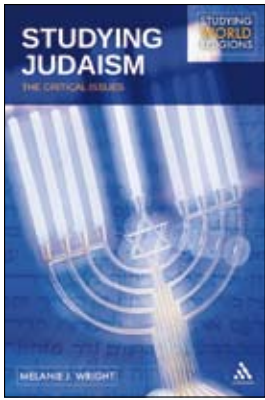
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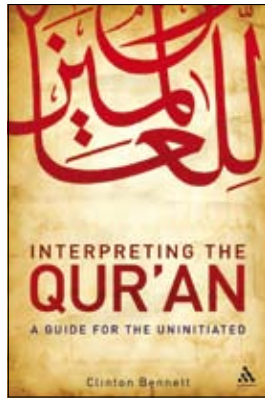
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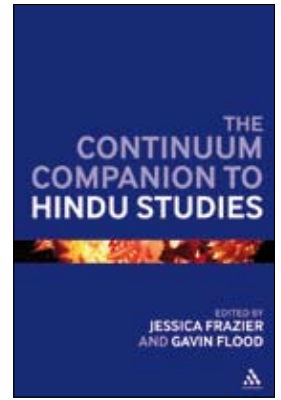
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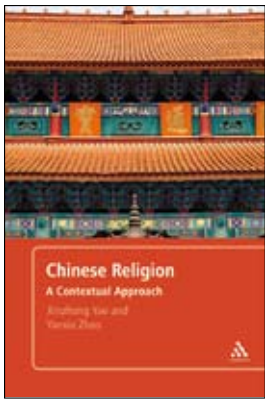
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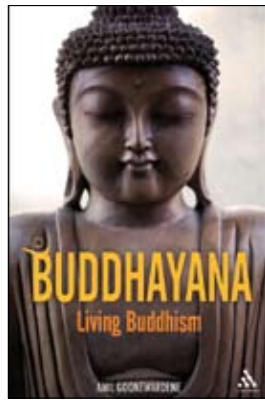
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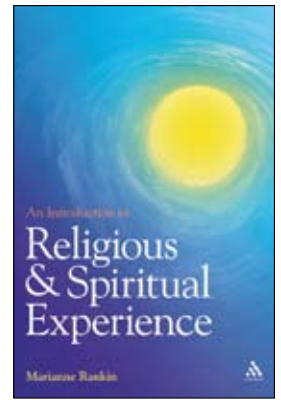
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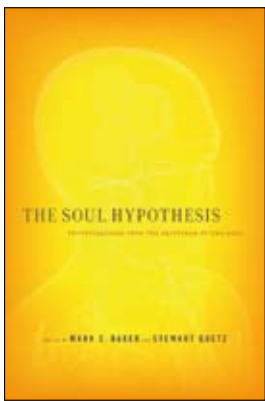
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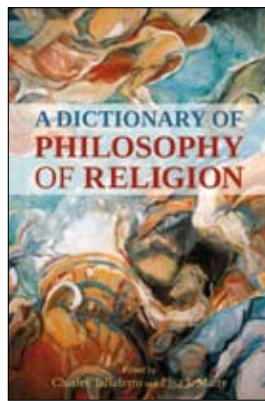
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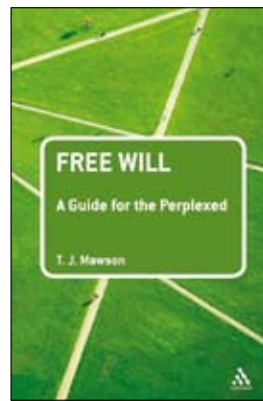
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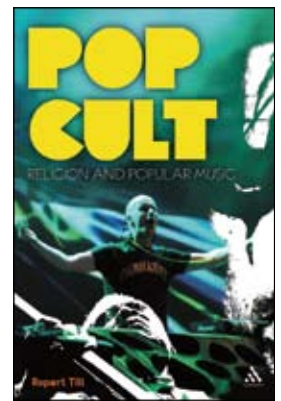
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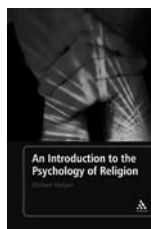
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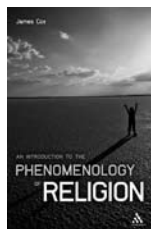
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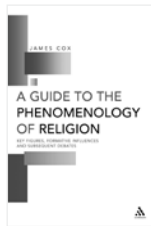
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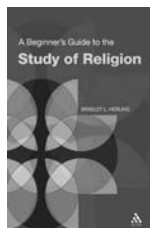
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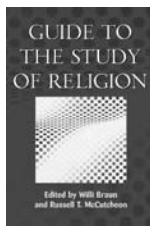
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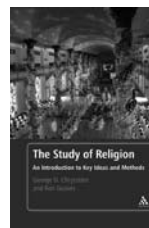
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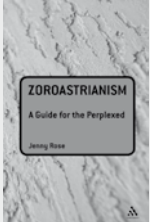
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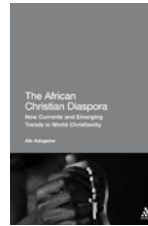
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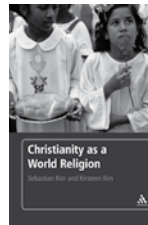
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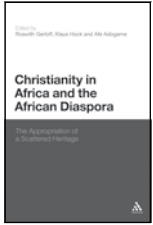
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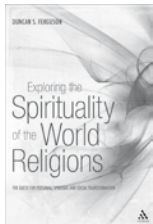
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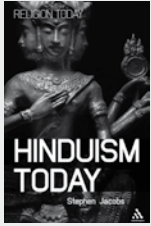
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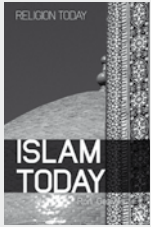
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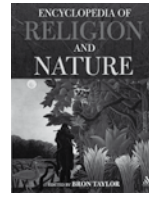
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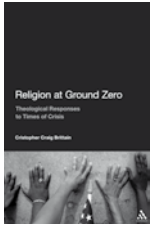
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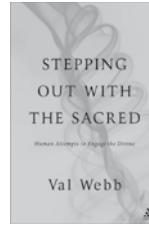
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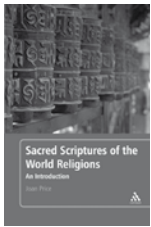
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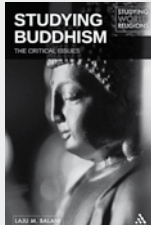
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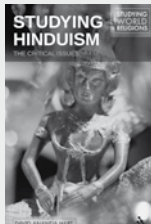
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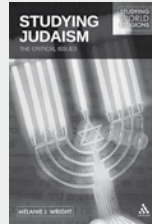
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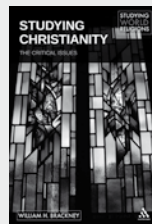
studies as an academic discipline.' **Andrew Rippin, University of Victoria, Canada**

CLINTON BENNETT teaches Religious Studies at the State University of New York at New Paltz, and at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY, USA.

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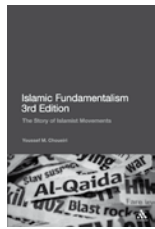
How did Muslims deal with new concepts and institutions thrown up or developed by modernity, and how are they dealing with them now? Youssef Choueiri's new study explores how this ancient faith dealt with the challenges modernity presented from the turn of the nineteenth century up to the present day, from oppressive manifestations of European colonialism, to nationalism, political independence, secularism and democracy. This study shows how these various political, cultural, social and economic challenges gave rise to a range of responses: some Muslims adopting modernity wholeheartedly; others choosing to be more selective and creating an eclectic approach considered more suited to the needs of non-western societies; yet others taking the opportunity to re-establish Islam itself as an authentic religion capable of meeting the modern world. The book ends by posing the question: has Islam had its reformation movement, and if not, what should be done to bring about such an outcome?

*YOUSSEF M CHOEIRI is Reader in Islamic Studies at the University of Manchester, UK.*

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*'This is a carefully conceived work, sensitive to Muslim perspectives on the Qur'an, although as a matter of principle Bennett always offers his independent judgment when questions of interpretation are involved. This volume can be commended especially to newcomers to the Qur'an and to those who have found it a difficult text. Summing Up: Highly recommended.'* **CHOICE**

Bennett's introduction takes a fresh approach to studying the Qur'an. By reordering parts of the Qur'an, placing its chapters and verses into a continuous narrative, the author creates a framework that untangles and elucidates its seemingly unconnected content.

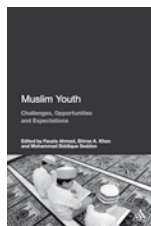
*CLINTON BENNETT teaches Religious Studies at the State University of New York at New Paltz, and at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY, USA.*

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MOHAMMAD SIDDIQUE SEDDON is Director of the Centre for Applied Muslim Youth and Community Studies at the University of Chester, UK.

FAUZIA AHMAD is Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship at Bristol University, UK.

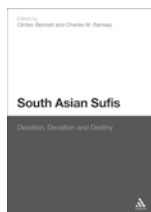
SHIRAZ A. KHAN is Publications Manager at the International Institute of Islamic Thought, London, UK.

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CLINTON BENNETT teaches Religious Studies at the State University of New York at New Paltz, and at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY, USA.

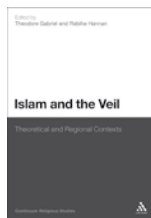
CHARLES M. RAMSEY is Director of University Institute Center for Islamic Studies, New Delhi, India.

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## Islam and the Veil



Theoretical and Regional Contexts



**Edited by Theodore Gabriel and Rabiha Hannan**

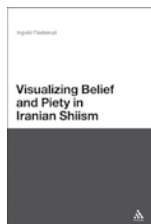
The issue of veiling has been intensively debated in Western society and has implications for religious liberty, inter-communal relationships and cultural interaction. The subject has inflamed passions and generated heated debate in the media in recent years. *Islam and the Veil* seeks to generate open and objective discussion of this highly important, though controversial, subject, with contributions from distinguished scholars and academics, including female practitioners of Islam. This book aims to look at the historical background, and theological and social factors underlying the veiling of women in Islam. Such discussion will provide the reader with a well-balanced and unbiased analysis of this important aspect of Islamic practice.

THEODORE GABRIEL is Associate Senior Lecturer and Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Gloucestershire, UK.

RABIHA HANNAN is Vice Chair of SACRE, Leicester, UK, and Co-Director of Community Relations Initiative, UK.

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## Visualizing Belief and Piety in Iranian Shiism



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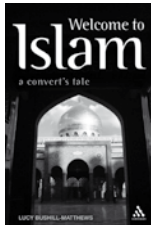
*Visualizing Belief and Piety in Iranian Shiism* offers new understanding of Islamic iconography and Muslim perspectives on the use of imageries in ritual contexts and devotional life. This book presents the argument that images and decorative programmes have stimulating qualities to mentally evoke the saints in the minds of devotees and inspire their recollection, transforming emotions and stimulating cultic behaviours.

INGVILD FLASKERUD is Post-doctoral Fellow at Uni Global, the University of Bergen, Norway.

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A Convert's Tale



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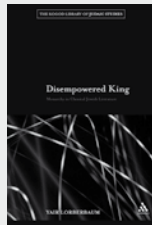
*LUCY BUSHILL-MATTHEWS* has been a Muslim for 16 years and is now married with 3 children under the age of 10. She has run a Muslim madrasah for many years, spoken about Islam with children at primary and secondary schools and those visiting the mosque, and trained teachers, police and other groups of adults about understanding Islam and Muslims.

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*YAIR LORBERBAUM* is Professor at Bar-Ilan University, Israel.

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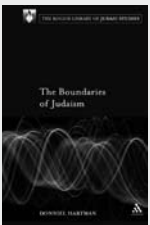
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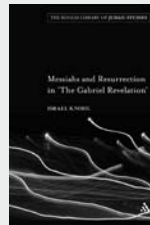
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Institute of Religion

AVI SAGI is Professor of Philosophy, and Founder and Director of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Hermeneutics and Cultural Studies, at Bar-Ilan University, Israel.

December 2007 • 240 Pages  
PB 978 0 8264 96706 • £18.99  
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## Turbulent Times

The British Jewish Community Today




**KEITH KAHN-HARRIS AND BEN GIDLEY**

*'There is a paradox at the centre of Jewish life in modern Britain. On the one hand Jews are arguably the most successfully integrated ethnic minority in Britain today. On the other, they feel marginalized and - still - unwelcome. Drs. Kahn-Harris and Gidley offer us the first scholarly dissection of this paradox. Their conclusions - based on the exhaustive*

*examination of written and oral sources - will surprise many. But these conclusions could also offer the blueprint for a renewed engagement between Britain's Jews and the British state.'* **Geoffrey Alderman, Michael Gross Professor of Politics & Contemporary History, University of Buckingham, UK**

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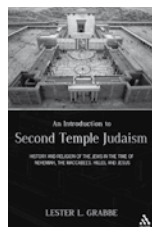
*KEITH KAHN-HARRIS is Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for Religion and Contemporary Society at Birkbeck College, University of London, UK, and the convenor of New Jewish Thought ([www.newjewishthought.org](http://www.newjewishthought.org)).*

*BEN GIDLEY is Senior Researcher at the COMPAS Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, University of Oxford, UK.*

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This book will be a core text for courses on the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, as well as Qumran, Intertestamental Literature and Early Judaism.

*LESTER L. GRABBE is Professor of Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism at the University of Hull, UK.*

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From Ideology to History




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In recent years the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has been a constant theme on television and in newspapers. Yet there is considerable misunderstanding about the origins and ideology of the Zionist movement.

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Dan Cohn-Sherbok explores how, in the early stages of Zionism, a number of Jewish thinkers including religious Zionists, spiritual Zionists and secular Zionists formulated various theories about the need for a Jewish homeland. Illustrating the history of the Zionist movement up to the creation of Israel in 1948, the author also provides an extensive explanation of the various forms of anti-Zionism which emerged in the early history of the Zionist movement.

*RABBI DAN COHN-SHERBOK is currently Visiting Professor at St Mary's University College, London, UK, and was the first Professor of Judaism at the University of Wales, UK.*

**June 2011 • 208 Pages**  
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A Guide for the Perplexed



**PINCHAS GILLER**

*Kabbalah: A Guide for the Perplexed* is a concise and accessible introduction to the major elements of the prevalent metaphysical system of Judaism, Kabbalah. The book covers the historical and theoretical essence of Kabbalah, offering a clear definition of the term and the limitations of what Kabbalah is and is not. Pinchas Giller provides an overview of the history of the movement, reflecting the sweep of Jewish history as a whole, and examines its metaphysical system, the advanced mythos of early and later Luria, doctrines of the soul, and the mysteries of Jewish religious practice and law. The book concludes with a summary of the contemporary Kabbalistic phenomena, particularly in light of the notoriety of some modern purveyors of Kabbalah. As cogent and objective as possible, this is the ideal companion for those wishing to gain a sound understanding of this often perplexing mystical aspect of Judaism.

*PINCHAS GILLER is Associate Professor of Medieval Jewish Thought at the American Jewish University, Los Angeles, USA.*

**October 2011 • 224 Pages**  
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Of God, Community and Self



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WILLIAM KOLBRENER is Associate Professor of Literature and Philosophy at Bar Ilan University, Israel.

March 2011 • 176 Pages  
PB 978 1 4411 18660 • £13.99

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ZIONY ZEVIT is Distinguished Professor of Bible Northwest Semitic Languages at the American Jewish University, USA.

June 2003 • 848 Pages  
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What Really Happens When Prophecy Fails?



### SIMON DEIN

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Messiah and those who fervently hold that he is the Messiah, that he will be resurrected. How might we account for this unique phenomenon in contemporary Judaism? Using ethnographic data obtained by the author through fifteen years of fieldwork in the UK and in the USA, *Lubavitcher Messianism* presents a socio-psychological account of Lubavitcher Messianism, including perspectives from theology, sociology of religion and psychology. There are clear parallels between the events surrounding the Rebbe's death and the death of Jesus Christ. By comparing this 'second coming Judaism' with early Christianity, this book provides a comprehensive perspective for examining Messianism generally and more specifically how religious groups deal with failure of prophecy.

SIMON DEIN is Senior Lecturer in Anthropology and Medicine at University College London, UK.

January 2011 • 208 Pages  
HB 978 1 4411 12231 • £65.00  
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## A New Physiognomy of Jewish Thinking

Critical Theory After Adorno as Applied to Jewish Thought



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This book is a search for authenticity that combines critical thinking with a yearning for heartfelt poetics, because returning to religion with the hope of achieving some kind of redemption still needs to remain possible. This book explores how Adorno's ruminations on the essence of music can lead to an understanding of how the metaphysics of music temporality can redeem thinking and thus religion. The author demonstrates that the return to authenticity can inform an integrated praxis of Critical Judaism. By scrutinizing one of the most important critical junctures in modern intellectual history, with Adorno and the Frankfurt School, Glazer formulates new spiritual and intellectual guidelines for a new Jewish thinking.

AUBREY L. GLAZER received his PhD in Hebrew Hermeneutics from the University of Toronto, Canada. He is Senior Rabbi of the Jewish Community Center of Harrison, NY, USA.

April 2011 • 176 Pages  
HB 978 1 4411 33984 • £65.00  
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## Exile and Restoration in Jewish Thought

An Essay In Interpretation

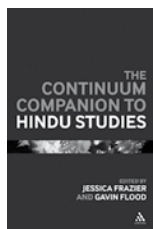


### RALPH KEEN

September 2009 • 182 Pages  
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Edited by Jessica Frazier and Gavin Flood

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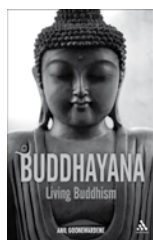
JESSICA FRAZIER is Research Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, UK.

GAVIN FLOOD is Academic Director of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, UK.

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ANIL GOONEWARDENE

*'Written by a Buddhist scholar, brought up in a living Buddhist community, this book outlines with great clarity the fundamental unity of the various schools and traditions of Buddhism and is of equal use to both the Buddhist and the interested reader. It vividly portrays Buddhism's crucial role as a civilizing force.'* Dr Desmond Biddulph, Vice-President, The Buddhist Society, London, UK; Chairman, The Buddhist Society Council; Editor, *The Middle Way Journal*

**Society Council; Editor, *The Middle Way Journal***

This long awaited book, from leading expert Anil Goonewardene, is an insightful, lively and readable account of Buddhism. Drawing on over twenty years of teaching experience, Anil sets out to demonstrate that the three key traditions of Buddhism (Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana) are all rooted in the same foundations and that the central teachings of these different schools are the same. This unique book presents Buddhism as a living, practical religion, giving readers an enlightening insight into an often mystifying tradition.

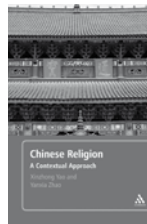
Divided into five parts, covering all aspects of Buddhism – from the lives of the Buddha to the various sections of the Buddhist community – the book also includes two appendices focusing on the Buddhist view of death, and a case study of Buddhist rebirth.

ANIL GOONEWARDENE, Attorney-at-Law (SL), Barrister, has taught for over twenty years at the London Buddhist Vihara's Dhamma School, as well as at the Buddhist Society, London, UK.

June 2010 • 320 Pages  
PB 978 1 4411 87956 • £16.99  
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## Chinese Religion

A Contextual Approach



XINZHONG YAO AND YANXIA ZHAO

*'With interest in China and things Chinese growing at an unprecedented rate, this wide-ranging, informative and readable introduction to Chinese religion by Xinzhong Yao and Yanxia Zhao is both timely and welcome. Based on twenty years experience of teaching a course in Chinese religion and culture, the authors provide a first-rate account of Han Chinese religion in its social and historical context, aimed at students and the general reader. Highly recommended!'* Professor Brian Bocking, University College Cork, Ireland

XINZHONG YAO is Professor of Chinese Religion at King's College London, UK.

YANXIA ZHAO is Lecturer in Chinese Studies at the University of Wales, Lampeter, UK.

March 2010 • 256 Pages  
PB 978 1 8470 64769 • £22.99  
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## A History of Modern Yoga

e

Patanjali and Western Esotericism



ELIZABETH DE MICHELIS

*'carefully researched and closely-argued . . . Far more than a reconstruction of the history of Modern Yoga, the book is an important contribution to the history of Orientalism, the Brahma Samaj, and Neo-Vedanta.'* Professor David Gordon White, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA

*A History of Modern Yoga* traces the roots of Modern Yoga back to the spread of western esoteric ideas in 18th century Bengal's intellectual circles. With regard to 20th century developments, this book proposes a four-fold typology of Modern Yoga comprising Modern Psychosomatic, Modern Meditational, Modern Postural and Modern Denominational forms. Iyengar Yoga, one of the most influential schools of Modern Postural Yoga, is then analyzed in the light of this framework, while the conclusion shows how a typical Modern Postural Yoga session may be interpreted to reveal the forms and contents of a healing ritual of secular religion.

ELIZABETH DE MICHELIS was Gordon Milburn Junior Research Fellow at Oriel College, University of Oxford, UK.

December 2005 • 304 Pages  
PB 978 0 8264 87728 • £24.99  
EB 978 0 8264 39734 • £80.00 [PDF]

## New Religious Movements

A Guide for the Perplexed

**PAUL OLIVER**

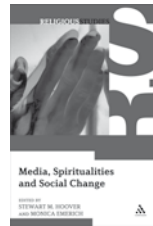
*New Religious Movements: A Guide for the Perplexed* examines the phenomenon of new faiths and alternative spiritualities, which has become a feature of the contemporary world. Those interested in the spiritual dimension to life are no longer limited to the major world faiths, but can draw upon a rapidly-expanding range of new religions. Some of these are derived from the major religions, some are a re-working of ancient traditions, while others signify a completely new departure in spiritual experience. This book analyzes the concepts we use to discuss new religions, and surveys a range of different movements which were established in the second half of the 20th century. Paul Oliver explores the organization of the movements, and the psychological aspects of life within them; the distribution of power and authority within movements; the position of women in relation to such organizations, and finally, the nature of the evolution and expansion of such movements in relation to post-modern society.

PAUL OLIVER is Principal Lecturer in the School of Education and Professional Development at the University of Huddersfield, UK.

October 2011 • 192 Pages  
PB 978 1 4411 01976 • £14.99  
HB 978 1 4411 25538 • £45.00



## Media, Spiritualities and Social Change



Edited by Stewart M. Hoover and Monica Emerich

This book maps emergent global practices and discourses of mediated, spiritualized social change. The authors explore how 'spiritualities' express themselves through and with media – from television to Internet, from fashion to art murals – as socially transforming voices and practices. The very fluidity of the meaning of spirituality is part of its appeal: it can serve as easily as a reference to a perceived common essence of humanness as it can work to legitimate market-based practices. While the involvement of spiritual life with social transformation is certainly not peculiar to contemporary societies, what has changed is the upsurge of media in these matters. In the specific case of religion, globalization has unleashed a cascade of unexpected and unpredictable implications, many of which are consequences of the media. The authors here show ways in which media and spiritualities are engaged around the world in efforts to restructure paradigms, institutions, beliefs and practices to affect social change.

STEWART M. HOOVER is Professor of Media Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder, USA, where he directs the Center for Media, Religion and Culture.

MONICA EMERICH is Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Media, Religion and Culture at the University of Colorado, Boulder, USA.

November 2010 • 288 Pages  
HB 978 1 4411 45550 • £65.00  
EB 978 1 4411 89134 • £65.00 [PDF]



## Secularization and Its Discontents



**ROB WARNER**

'Professor Warner's overview of the sociological disagreements on the nature and extent of the secularization thesis is a major contribution to the debate. Clearly on the side of what he calls (following Freud) the 'discontents' of the theories he does not attempt to win others over to his view of things. This is not a book about mission

or apologetics; it is a work of intellectual clarification and moral candour that looks for synthesis of opposing ideas where others see only contradictions.' **Andrew Walker, King's College London, UK**

*Secularization and Its Discontents* provides an illuminating overview of major current debates in the sociology of religion, exploring changing patterns of religious practice in the West during the past 150 years. This book provides a clear and penetrating overview of theoretical frameworks and develops a new theoretical synthesis derived from fresh examination of empirical data, and will be of interest to academics and students in religious studies, practical theology and the sociology of religion.

ROB WARNER is Professor of Religion, Culture and Society, and Head of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Chester, UK.

October 2010 • 240 Pages  
PB 978 1 4411 27853 • £19.99  
HB 978 1 4411 55436 • £65.00



## Young, British and Muslim



**PHILIP LEWIS**

Foreword by Jon Snow

'much needed, well informed insight on a subject, Muslims in Britain, which usually attracts the opposite. If you want to have a better understanding of the vital debates around Islam in this country, start here.' **Madeleine Bunting, The Guardian**

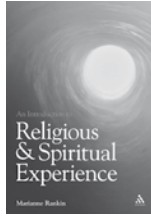
'Drawing on his long personal experiences and careful research, Philip Lewis in this well argued and well written book provides a fascinating and insightful account of the way in which young Muslims struggle to evolve a coherent sense of themselves and their place in British society. The book is timely and full of much practical good sense.' **Bhikhu Parekh, Professor at University of Westminster and House of Lords**

'Every politician and policy-maker should read it.' **Paul Vallely, The Independent**

PHILIP LEWIS lectures in the Department for Peace Studies, a world leading research center in peace and conflict studies at the University of Bradford, UK. He is the Inter-Faith Adviser to the Bishop of Bradford and sits on the Commission of British Muslims and Islamophobia.

December 2007 • 192 Pages  
PB 978 0 8264 97307 • £13.99  
HB 978 0 8264 97291 • £60.00

## An Introduction to Religious and Spiritual Experience



**MARIANNE RANKIN**

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**of Divinity at Gresham College, London, UK**

*'Marianne Rankin's book on religious and spiritual experience is so comprehensive as almost to merit the adjective, "encyclopedic".'* **Hal French, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of South Carolina, USA**

*'This is a clearly written text . . . covering a wide range of material relevant to the study of spiritual and religious experiences in a way that should be useful for teachers and students alike and provides further references for those general readers who wish to extend their study.'* **Peggy Morgan, University of Oxford, UK**

MARIANNE RANKIN is former Chair of the Alister Hardy Society, affiliated to the Religious Experience Research Centre, University of Wales, Lampeter, UK.

December 2008 • 304 Pages  
PB 978 0 8264 98212 • £24.99  
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## Key Thinkers in the Sociology of Religion

**RICHARD K. FENN**

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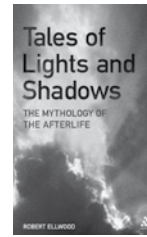
From the groundbreaking work of Max Weber, right up to that of contemporary writers such as Peter Berger and Niklas Luhmann, this volume is an essential companion for the student of sociology of religion.

RICHARD K. FENN is Maxwell M. Upson Professor of Christianity and Society, Princeton Theological Seminary, USA.

April 2009 • 256 Pages  
PB 978 0 8264 99424 • £19.99  
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## Tales of Lights and Shadows

Mythology of the Afterlife



**ROBERT ELLWOOD**

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**Dr. Karen Ralls, author of Music and the Celtic Otherworld and The Templars and the Grail**

*Tales of Lights and Shadows* offers a fresh approach to the traditional mythology and literature of the afterlife, centering on tensions and polarities in the afterlife concepts: bright vs. dismal, heaven vs. reincarnation, theocentric vs. anthropocentric heaven, etc. Presenting examples from virtually all the world's religious cultures past and present, this fascinating book puts the concepts clearly in the context of the worldview and social issues of that society.

ROBERT ELLWOOD was Professor of Religion at the University of Southern California from 1967 until his retirement in 1997.

September 2010 • 176 Pages  
PB 978 1 4411 43976 • £14.99  
HB 978 1 4411 70033 • £45.00  
EB 978 1 4411 00054 • £14.99

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The Mythology of Evil



**ROBERT ELLWOOD**

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ROBERT ELLWOOD was Professor of Religion at the University of Southern California, USA, from 1967 until his retirement in 1997.

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## Mysticism

A Guide for the Perplexed



**PAUL OLIVER**

Mysticism has, over the centuries, inspired many of the leading figures in different faiths to seek a sense of union with God or with the spiritual forces in the universe, and is increasingly part of the spiritual mainstream.

Including a detailed survey of mystical trends within all the main world religions, and case studies of the lives of important mystics, *Mysticism: A Guide for*

*the Perplexed* also examines the nature of the mystical lifestyle, and examines the extent to which ordinary people can develop a sense of personal mysticism.

*PAUL OLIVER* is Principal Lecturer in the School of Education and Professional Development at the University of Huddersfield, UK.

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Key Concepts in Religion



**ROBERT ELLWOOD**

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**Alabama/Tuscaloosa, USA**

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*ROBERT ELLWOOD* was Professor of Religion at the University of Southern California from 1967 until his retirement in 1997.

**December 2008 • 184 Pages**  
**PB 978 1 8470 62352 • £12.99**  
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The Ethics of Reciprocity in World Religions



**Edited by Jacob Neusner and Bruce D. Chilton**

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Freshly examining the Golden Rule in broad comparative context provides a fascinating account of its uses and meaning, and allows us to assess if, how and why it matters in human cultures and societies.

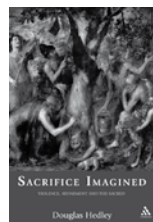
*JACOB NEUSNER* is the author or editor of over 700 books including *The Incarnation of God: The Character of Divinity in Formative Judaism*.

*BRUCE CHILTON* is Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Religion at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, USA.

**November 2008 • 192 Pages**  
**PB 978 1 8470 62963 • £19.99**  
**HB 978 1 8470 62956 • £65.00**

## Sacrifice Imagined

Violence, Atonement and the Sacred



**DOUGLAS HEDLEY**

*Sacrifice Imagined* is an original exploration of the idea of sacrifice by one of the world's preeminent philosophers of religion.

Despisers of religion have poured scorn upon the idea of sacrifice as an index of the irrational and wicked in religious practice. Nor does its secularised form seem much more appealing. One need only think of the appalling cult of sacrifice in numerous totalitarian regimes of the twentieth century. Yet sacrifice remains a part of our cultural and intellectual 'imaginary'. Hedley proposes good reasons to think that issues of global conflict, problems of terrorism within states, and the ecological crisis highlight the continuing relevance of the topic of sacrifice for contemporary culture.

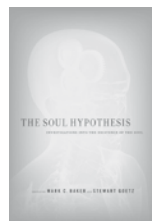
The subject of sacrifice has been decisively influenced by two thinkers Girard and Burkert. Both offer theories of sacrifice as violence. Hedley's book challenges both of these highly influential theories and presents a theory of sacrifice as renunciation of the will.

DOUGLAS HEDLEY is Reader in the Philosophy of Religion, University of Cambridge, UK.

April 2011 • 320 Pages  
PB 978 1 4411 94459 • £19.99  
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## The Soul Hypothesis

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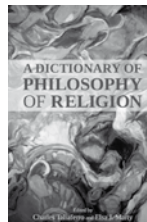
*The Soul Hypothesis* presents views from a range of sciences and the resulting big picture shows, more clearly than one author could with one area of expertise, that there is room for a soul hypothesis.

MARK C. BAKER is a Professor of Linguistics and Cognitive Science at Rutgers University, USA.

STEWART GOETZ is Chair and Professor of Philosophy at Ursinus College, USA.

February 2011 • 272 Pages  
PB 978 1 4411 52244 • £12.99  
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## A Dictionary of Philosophy of Religion



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CHARLES TALIAFERRO is Professor of Philosophy at St. Olaf College, USA, and has lectured at Oxford, Cambridge, NYU, Columbia, Princeton, and St. Andrews University.

ELSA J. MARTY is a graduate student in theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School, USA.

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## Hosting the Stranger: Between Religions



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*Hosting the Stranger* features ten powerful meditations on the theme of interreligious hospitality by eminent scholars and practitioners from the five different wisdom traditions: Jewish, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic. By gathering thinkers from different religious traditions around the same timely topic of what it means to "host

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RICHARD KEARNEY holds the Charles B. Seelig Chair of Philosophy at Boston College, USA, and has served as a Visiting Professor at University College Dublin, the University of Paris (Sorbonne) and the University of Nice, France.

JAMES TAYLOR is a teaching fellow in the Philosophy Department at Boston College, USA.

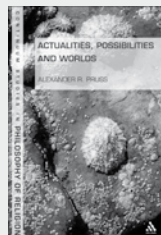
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# Continuum Studies in Philosophy of Religion

Series Editor: Stewart Goetz (Ursinus College)

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## Actualities, Possibilities and Worlds



**ALEXANDER R. PRUSS**

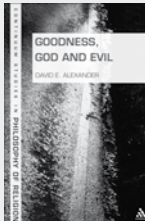
*Actualities, Possibilities, and Worlds* is an exploration of the Aristotelian account that sees possibilities as grounded in causal powers. On his way to that account, Pruss surveys a number of historical approaches and argues that logicist approaches to possibility are implausible.

The notion of possible worlds appears to be useful for many purposes, such as the analysis of counterfactuals or elucidating the nature of propositions and properties. This usefulness of possible worlds makes for a second general question: Are there any possible worlds and, if so, what are they? Are they concrete universes as David Lewis thinks, Platonic abstracta as per Robert M. Adams and Alvin Plantinga, or maybe linguistic or mathematical constructs such as Heller thinks? Or is perhaps Leibniz right in thinking that possibilities are not on par with actualities and that abstracta can only exist in a mind, so that possible worlds are ideas in the mind of God?

ALEXANDER R. PRUSS is Associate Professor of Philosophy, Baylor University, USA.

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## Goodness, God and Evil



**DAVID E. ALEXANDER**

Most contemporary versions of moral realism are beset with difficulties ranging from widespread ethical disagreement to the place of moral properties in a natural world. Most of these difficulties arise because of a faulty conception of the nature of goodness. *Goodness, God and Evil* lays out and defends a new version of moral realism that re-conceives that nature of goodness.

Alexander argues that the adjective 'good' is best thought of as an attributive adjective and not as a predicative one. From the claim that the predicative use of 'good' is mistaken a number of fascinating implications can be drawn. The convertibility of being and goodness, the privation theory of evil, a denial of the fact-value distinction, human nature as the ground of human morality and even a novel argument for the existence of God are some of the implications of the account of goodness that Alexander offers.

DAVID E. ALEXANDER, Huntington University, Indiana, USA.

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## The Image in Mind

Theism, Naturalism, and the Imagination

**CHARLES TALIAFERRO AND JIL EVANS**



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A philosophical inquiry into the strengths and weaknesses of theism and naturalism in accounting for the emergence of

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CHARLES TALIAFERRO is Professor of Philosophy at St. Olaf College, USA.

JIL EVANS has exhibited her paintings and prints in Minnesota, Chicago, New York City, Michigan, Memphis, Washington D.C., California, Paris, and Rome.

January 2011 • 224 Pages  
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A Defense of Integrated Empiricism



**KAI-MAN KWAN**

The question of whether religious experience can be trusted has been hotly debated in epistemology and philosophy of religion in recent years. Kwan surveys this contemporary philosophical debate, provides in-depth analysis of the crucial issues, and offer arguments for an affirmative answer to the above question.

Kwan first argues against traditional empiricist epistemologies and defends Swinburne's Principle of Credulity which holds that we should trust our experiences unless there are special considerations to the contrary. The Principle of Credulity is renamed the Principle of Critical Trust to highlight the need for balance between trust and criticism and is used as the foundation for a new approach to epistemology, the Critical Trust Approach (CTA), which maintains an emphasis on experience but attempts to break loose of the straightjacket of traditional empiricism by broadening the evidential base of experience. Kwan then widens his focus by looking at theistic experience in the contemporary multicultural context.

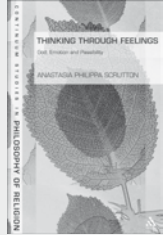
KAI-MAN KWAN is Associate Professor in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Hong Kong Baptist University.

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## CONTINUUM STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

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God, Emotion and Passibility

**ANASTASIA PHILIPPA SCRUTTON**

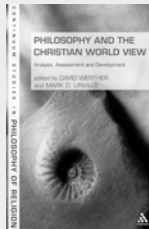
*Thinking Through Feelings* examines some of the primary questions for the impassibility debate through the lens of contemporary philosophy of emotion: is the property of being able to experience emotions a susceptibility and a weakness, or a capacity and a strength? What does it mean to experience emotions, and what sort of being is able to experience them? In examining these questions, it explores the relationship between emotions, body, will and intelligence, addressing questions concerning whether emotions are essentially physiological or cognitive, whether emotions detract from intelligence or may actually contribute towards it, and whether (and to what extent) emotions can be controlled and/or cultivated. Scrutton moves away from some of the artificially extreme accounts of emotion towards a more subtle account that sees most emotions as on a spectrum between cognitive and physiological, voluntary and non-voluntary.

ANASTASIA PHILIPPA SCRUTTON is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University, UK.

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United by the argument that the core claims of religion have metaphysical, epistemic and moral entailments, these essays represent a state of the art discussion in contemporary philosophy of religion.

DAVID WERTHER is a Philosophy Instructor and Faculty Associate in the Department of Liberal Studies and the Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

MARK D. LINVILLE is Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at Brenau University, Clayton State University, and Savannah College of Art and Design, USA.

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'This book provides not only a sustained presentation of one non-causal libertarian view, but also a detailed engagement with objections to it, and an excellent introduction to a substantial body of the current literature on the topic of free will. It makes a significant contribution to that literature and would make an excellent text for a graduate seminar.' **Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews**

STEWART GOETZ is Chair and Professor of Philosophy at Ursinus College, USA.

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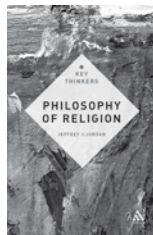
**Key Terms in Philosophy of Religion****RAYMOND J. VANARRAGON**

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RAYMOND J. VANARRAGON is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Bethel University, USA.

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## Philosophy of Religion: The Key Thinkers



Edited by Jeffrey J. Jordan

'A wise and seasoned guide, Duncan Ferguson leads readers through the dense and often confusing thicket of the world's religions into spaces of understanding and appreciation. With unparalleled clarity and insight, this work lays bare the life-affirming and the life-denying potential of the world's great religious traditions.' **Rev. Dr. Gordon S. Mikoski, Assistant Professor of Christian Education,**

**Princeton Theological Seminary, USA, and President, Association of Practical Theology**

Arguments concerning the existence and nature of God have been a staple of western philosophy for over 2,000 years. *Philosophy of Religion: The Key Thinkers* offers a comprehensive historical overview of this fascinating field. Nine specially commissioned essays introduce and explore the contributions of those philosophers who have shaped the subject and the central issues and arguments therein.

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A Philosophical Analysis, Interpretation and Defense



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WILLIAM LAD SESSIONS is the Ballengee Professor of Philosophy at Washington and Lee University, USA.

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## One God Of All?



Probing Pluralist Identities



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'One God of All? is a remarkable achievement that brings needed clarity, religiously sensitive and philosophically incisive, to the debates surrounding today's religious diversity. With Wittgenstein as his ally and John Hick his major debating partner, Hallett offers specific and penetrating insights into how we experience diversity and put it into

words, and shows how we can sensibly think it through, without surrendering to fideism or relativism. This book should be a necessary reference for all those wishing to philosophize the meaning of today's pluralism.' **Francis X. Clooney, Harvard Divinity School, USA**

The claim has repeatedly been made, and has often been contested, that a single transcendent being is present or active in all of the world's major religions. Absent from the debate and here provided is a serious study of such claims in the light of the most pertinent philosophical literature, namely that concerning questions of identity and individuation.

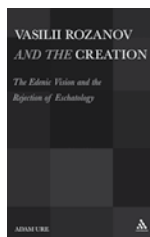
GARTH HALLETT was formerly the Dean of the College of Philosophy and Letters at Saint Louis University, USA.

December 2010 • 160 Pages  
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## Vasilii Rozanov and the Creation



The Edenic Vision and the Rejection of Eschatology



**ADAM URE**

This book provides the first detailed study in English of the philosophy of Vasilii Rozanov, one of the most influential and controversial thinkers of Russia's Silver Age. It examines his subversion of traditional Russian Orthodoxy, including his reverence for the Creation, his focus on the family, and his worship of sex.

Rozanov is one of the towering figures of Russian culture, a major influence on thinkers and writers such as Bakhtin, Maiakovskii, and Mandel'shtam, as well as many European writers. He critiqued Orthodox theology, and wrote extensively on philosophy, literature, and politics, and helped reform marriage and divorce laws.

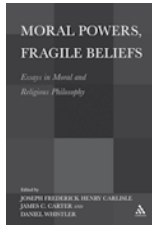
His enormous contribution to Russian thought has been largely neglected, and much of his work has been misunderstood. This book addresses this by examining the basis of Rozanov's religious philosophy, the Creation of the Earth and the Book of Genesis.

ADAM URE completed his PhD at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London, in 2009, on the religious philosophy of Vasilii Rozanov.

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## Moral Powers, Fragile Beliefs

Essays in Moral and Religious Philosophy



**Edited by Daniel Whistler, James C. Carter, and Joseph Frederick Henry Carlisle**

*Moral Powers, Fragile Beliefs* suggests new ways of thinking about moral philosophy in its under-explored but potentially very fruitful encounter with philosophy of religion. The contributors undertake this project through a variety of novel approaches, via literature, psychoanalysis, history of philosophy, continental and feminist thought, as well as by means of analytic philosophy.

The volume includes essays by both highly regarded academics who have already made significant contributions in the fields of moral and/or religious philosophy as well as and a select number of young, up-and-coming researchers, who will add fresh voices to the debate.

*JAMES C. CARTER* is Tutor in Philosophy and Theology at Regent's Park College, University of Oxford, UK.

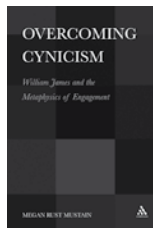
*DANIEL WHISTLER* is a Doctoral Candidate at Worcester College, University of Oxford.

*JOSEPH CARLISLE* is a Doctoral Candidate at Pembroke College, University of Oxford, UK.

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Mustain first uses two historical versions of cynicism — ancient Greek and Victorian — to describe competing currents within the cynical attitude. She brings this historical discussion to bear upon two

contemporary sources of cynicism: Christian fundamentalism and scientism. Christian fundamentalism, with its location of possibilities in an otherworldly realm, pronounces worldly amelioration impossible, and scientism's reduction of all phenomena to their most basic material components renders worldly change at once inevitable and meaningless. Mustain offers an alternative path which seeks to confront the real problems we encounter in our experiences of relations without either explaining those problems away or making them fundamental.

*MEGAN RUST MUSTAIN* is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, USA.

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*J. ANGELO CORLETT* is Professor of Philosophy and Ethics at San Diego State University, USA, and Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Ethics: An International Philosophical Review*.

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*MICHAEL MACK* is Reader in Medical Humanities and English Literature at Durham University, UK.

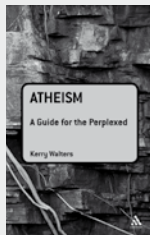
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## Guides for the Perplexed

### Atheism



A Guide for the Perplexed



**KERRY WALTERS**

*'Kerry Walters's fine book contributes fairly and substantively to the contemporary discussion of atheism. It is a model of significant and informed intellectual exchange. Highly recommended.'*

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*Atheism: A Guide for the Perplexed* moves beyond the polemics to present an overview of atheism that is rigorous but still accessible to the educated layperson as well as to the undergraduate student in philosophy and theology. After a preliminary investigation of what atheists mean when they use the words "atheism" and "God," it explores the differences and similarities between "old" and "new" atheism; places atheism of either variety in context by examining the naturalistic worldview that grounds it; provides a short historical sketch of atheism; examines a number of arguments against God-belief; investigates whether an atheist worldview is consistent with ethics and a sense of purposefulness; and concludes with a few suggestions for continued dialogue between believers and nonbelievers.

*KERRY WALTERS is William Bittinger Professor of Philosophy at Gettysburg College, USA, where he also co-founded the Peace and Justice Studies program.*

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### Evil



A Guide for the Perplexed



**CHAD V. MEISTER**

One of the most perplexing problems facing believers in God is the problem of evil. The words of Epicurus put the point concisely: "Either God wants to abolish evil, and cannot; or he can, but does not want to. If he wants to, but cannot, he is impotent. If he can, but does not want to, he is wicked. If God can abolish evil, and God really wants to do it, why is there evil in the world?" This is a difficult problem to unpick. And, indeed, the

problem of evil remains, as many surveys indicate, an issue that continues to concern people and inspire debate.

The problem of evil has taken a variety of forms over the centuries; in fact, there are numerous "problems" of evil—problems for theists but, perhaps surprisingly, problems for non-theists as well. *Evil: A Guide for the Perplexed* explores, in a rigorous but engaging way, central challenges to religious belief raised by evil and suffering in the world as well as significant responses to them from both theistic and non-theistic perspectives.

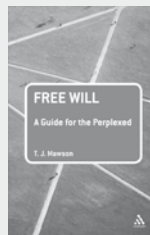
*CHAD V. MEISTER is Director of the Philosophy Program and Associate Professor of Philosophy, Bethel College, Indiana, USA.*

**July 2011 • 160 Pages**  
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### Free Will



A Guide for the Perplexed



**T. J. MAWSON**

*'An engagingly-written and thought-provoking introduction.'* **Professor Robert Kane, editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Free Will***

In everyday life, we often suppose ourselves to be free to choose between several courses of action. But if we examine further, we find that this view seems to rest on metaphysical and meta-ethical presuppositions almost all of which look problematic.

How can we be free if everything is determined by factors beyond our control, stretching back in time to the Big Bang and the laws of nature operating then? The only alternative to determinism is indeterminism, but is not indeterminism just there being a certain amount of randomness in the world? Does not randomness hinder you from being the author of your actions?

In exploring the arguments behind such questions and thoughts this book seeks to understand and answer the age-old question, 'What is free will and do we have it?'

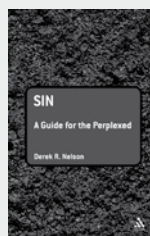
*T.J. MAWSON is Fellow and Tutor of Philosophy at the University of Oxford, UK.*

**March 2011 • 176 Pages**  
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### Sin



A Guide for the Perplexed



**DEREK R. NELSON**

Salvation implies something from which one must be saved, as reconciliation implies an estrangement and redemption a loss. The classical theological symbol naming the problem to which salvation is the solution is sin. Interpreting the meaning of sin, however, has become difficult for two reasons: sin has become a taboo subject in popular discourse, and has acquired an extremely broad meaning in

recent theology.

*Sin: A Guide for the Perplexed* is intended as a mid-level, comprehensive introduction to the notion of sin and its significance for Christian theology. Nelson situates and interprets biblical material on sin, and then offers a lucid history of the doctrine. He elucidates Augustine's conception of original sin and defends it against its many caricatures. Special attention is paid to sin as an ordinary, yet highly interruptive, phenomenon in the lives of individuals. This is supplemented by a careful look at the non-individualistic dimensions of sin, and an appreciation of how sin relates to other key theological commitments.

*DEREK R. NELSON is Assistant Professor of Religion and Co-Director of the Thiel Global Institute, Thiel College, Greenville, Pennsylvania, USA.*

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## Religion and Science: An Introduction



**BRENDAN SWEETMAN**

*'...a brilliant, lucid, fair and balanced introduction.'*  
**Charles Taliaferro, St. Olaf College, USA**

*'...a model of what an introduction to the topic of science and religion should be.'* **Brian Davies, Fordham University, USA**

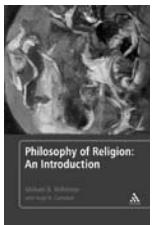
The relationship between religion and science is undoubtedly one of the key issues of our times. Many of the most puzzling, intriguing and thought-provoking questions that are the subject of often contentious discussion today, not just in intellectual circles, but in the culture at large, are related in some fundamental way to the religion and science debate.

*Religion and Science: An Introduction* is a comprehensive and easy to use textbook on these intriguing issues. It is a one-stop resource for undergraduate students examining the many complexities of the relationship between religion and science.

*BRENDAN SWEETMAN* is Professor and Chair in the Department of Philosophy at Rockhurst University, USA.

**February 2010 • 240 Pages**  
**PB 978 1 8470 60150 • £18.99**  
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## Philosophy of Religion: An Introduction



**MICHAEL B. WILKINSON  
WITH HUGH N. CAMPBELL**

*Philosophy of Religion: An Introduction* is a comprehensive textbook for students coming to philosophy of religion for the first time.

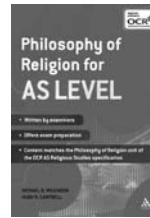
It sets traditional arguments such as the problem of evil or the concept of God within the contexts of contemporary debates. In addition to classical questions and issues, the textbook also covers more modern debates such as those on reformed epistemology, theological non-realism and foundationalism. A special feature of the textbook is a developed account of the question of the truth claims of other religions. The authors also explain the development of religious language, the challenge of modern science and afterlife beliefs.

*MICHAEL B. WILKINSON* lectures at Sussex Downs College, is a senior examiner for a major awarding body and a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Brighton, UK.

*HUGH N. CAMPBELL* is a principal examiner for a major awarding body and has been teaching philosophy of religion for 20 years.

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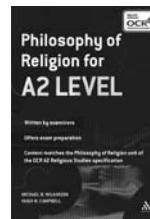
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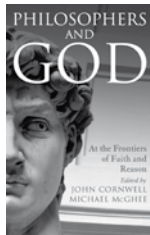
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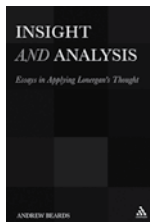
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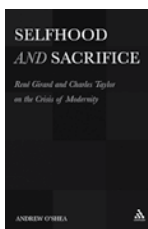
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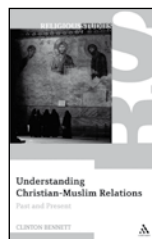
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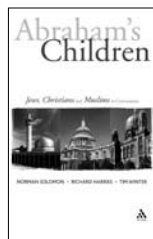
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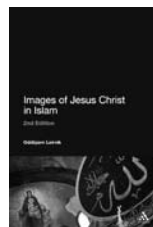
*RABBI DR NORMAN SOLOMON is a member of the Oxford University Unit for Teaching and Research in Hebrew and Jewish Studies, and was previously Director of the Centre for the Study of Judaism and Jewish-Christian Relations in Birmingham, UK.*

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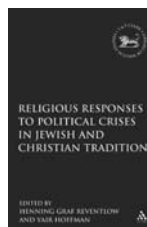
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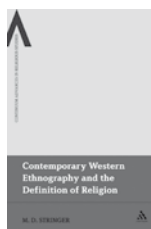
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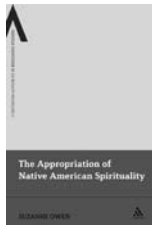
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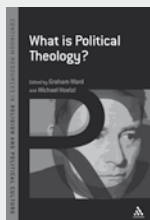
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*RAINER BUCHER* is Professor of Pastoral Theology and Head of the Department of Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Psychology at the University of Graz, Austria.

*MICHAEL HOELZL* is Lecturer in Philosophy of Religion at the University of Manchester, UK.

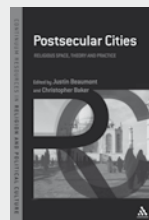
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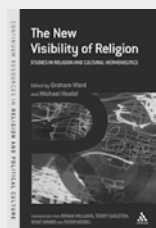
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Gender, Politics and Culture in Islam



**CLINTON BENNETT**

Five women have served as leaders of Muslim countries, namely Megawati Sukarnoputri (Vice President of Indonesia, 1991–2001 and President 2002–4), Benazir Bhutto (PM of Pakistan, 1988–90 and 1993–6), Sheikh Hasina (PM of Bangladesh, 1996–2001), Khaleda Zia (PM of Bangladesh, 1991–5 and 2001 to 2006) and Tansu Çiller (PM of Turkey, 1993–6). This is an extraordinary record and somewhat of a challenge to the widespread perception that Muslim women are oppressed.

Four of the women belonged to political families by birth or marriage, raising interesting questions about the extent to which this played a role alongside their skills and personal qualities in their rise to power. To what degree did culture rather than Islam aid and abet their roles, or indeed is it sustainable to distinguish Islam from culture?

This study of the role of these five powerful Muslim women uses their life and work to explore relevant issues, such as the role of culture, gender in Islam and the nature of the Islamic state.

*CLINTON BENNETT teaches Religious Studies at the State University of New York at New Paltz, and at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY, USA.*

**October 2010 • 224 Pages**  
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## Fundamentalism and Women in World Religions



**Edited by Arvind Sharma and Katherine K. Young**

This collection of essays by internationally renowned women scholars both contests the notion of fundamentalism and attempts to find places where it might converge with women's roles in the various world's religions. The essayists explore fundamentalism as a system or method of limiting women's religious roles and examine the ways that women embrace certain aspects of fundamentalism. The essays cover Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity.

The contributors investigate the ways that women "fight back" against fundamentalist conceptions of family, gender roles, doctrinal practices, ritual practices, and God or theistic constructs. The essays contain deep and powerful explorations of the intersections of culture, religion, and feminism.

*ARVIND SHARMA is Birks Professor of Comparative Religion at McGill University, Canada.*

*KATHERINE K. YOUNG is James McGill Professor at McGill University, Canada.*

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## Religion and Political Thought



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*'This is a stimulating collection, with good bibliographical pointers, that opens up major questions for readers at every level'*

**Theological Book Review**

This book provides an essential resource for studies in religion and politics. It is divided into five parts, beginning with an introduction outlining the contemporary relevance of reviewing the relationship between the two subject areas and the biblical and classical tradition; followed by a section on the classical texts. The third section looks at the legitimation of sovereign power, or divine right. The fourth and last sections examine political atheism and the contemporary debates respectively.

*MICHAEL HOELZL is Lecturer in Philosophy of Religion at the University of Manchester, UK.*

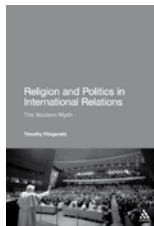
*GRAHAM WARD is Professor of Contextual Theology and Ethics at the University of Manchester, UK.*

**June 2006 • 304 Pages**  
**PB 978 0 8264 80064 • £24.99**  
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## Religion and Politics in International Relations



The Modern Myth



**TIMOTHY FITZGERALD**

Scholars in International Relations concerned with religion and its relations to world politics are rhetorically constructing a powerful modern myth. A component of this myth is that religion is inherently violent and irrational unless controlled by the secular state, which is inherently rational and only reluctantly violent. Timothy Fitzgerald discusses how, in this modern myth, 'religion' appears

as a force of nature which either assists or threatens the sacred secular order of things, and how religion is portrayed as a kind of universal essence which takes many forms, its recent most dangerous manifestation being 'Islamic terrorism'.

This book illustrates that the essential distinction between irrational religion and rational secular politics appears as an unquestioned preconception on the basis of which policy is conducted, countries invaded and wars fought. Arguing that this rhetorical construction of religion provides the foundation for faith in the rationality of modern liberal capitalism, Fitzgerald demonstrates how a historically contingent discourse has been transformed into a powerful set of global assumptions.

*TIMOTHY FITZGERALD is Reader in Religion at the University of Stirling, UK.*

January 2011 • 224 Pages  
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## Pop Cult



Religion and Popular Music



**RUPERT TILL**

At a time when fundamentalism is on the rise, traditional religions are in decline and postmodernity has challenged any system that claims to be all-defining, young people have left their traditional places of worship and set up their own, in clubs, at festivals and within music culture.

*Pop Cult* investigates the ways in which popular music and its surrounding culture have become a primary site for the location of meaning, belief and identity. It provides an introduction to the history of the interactions of vernacular music and religion, and the role of music in religious culture.

Rupert Till explores the cults of heavy metal, pop stars, club culture and virtual popular music worlds, investigating the sex, drug, local and death cults of the sacred popular, and their relationships with traditional religions. He concludes by discussing how and why popular music cultures have taken on many of the roles of traditional religions in contemporary society.

*RUPERT TILL is Senior Lecturer in Music at the University of Huddersfield, UK.*

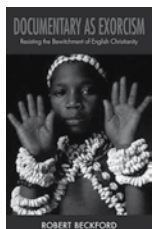
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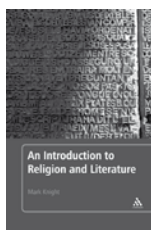
Robert Beckford is at the forefront of challenging documentary film making. For the first time he reflects on his art, and how he navigates between theology and visual culture as an academic, activist and practitioner.

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He explores the concept of exorcism, particularly as a transforming group social practice, demonstrating ways that visual culture (film, art, etc.) has been part of social exorcism in diaspora cultures and analyzing his own high-profile documentaries, *Black Messiah*, *God is Black*, *Empire Pays Back* and *Undersize Me*, in this context, both in terms of religions and social exorcism.

*ROBERT BECKFORD is Reader in Black Theology and Culture at Oxford Brookes University, Oxford. He has presented several documentaries for the BBC and Channel 4, gained a BAFTA in 2001 for diversity in educational broadcasting and is currently the presenter of the Sunday Morning Show on BBC West Midlands.*

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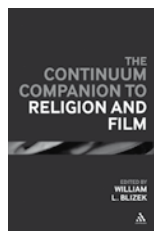
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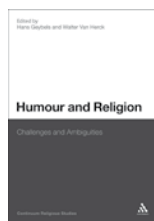
*WILLIAM L. BLIZEK is Professor of Philosophy and Religion and Chair of the Religious Studies Programme at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA, and Founding Editor of The Journal of Religion and Film.*

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*Humour and Religion* highlights the importance and functioning of humour in different world religions. Exploring the major religious cultures, the book looks at more constructive aspects to the relation between humour and religion, with humour seen as a pathway to spiritual wisdom.

Exploring how religions contain (implicit) references to the finitude and relativity of the human condition, and why humour and spirituality fit well together, contributors discuss what the meaning of humour in different religions is - Did it evolve historically? How does it function?

Looking at religions from an external perspective, the contributors then analyze the way religion interacts with humour in society. How does a religion respond to sarcasm and irony? Are there limits to mockery and making fun of believers? Does humour have a pacifying effect when societal tensions run high or does it intensify the sensitivities?

This volume will provide essays of value to scholars in the various religions and literatures covered.

*HANS GEYBELS is Associate Professor at the Department of Pastoral Theology in the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.*

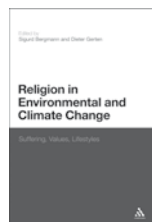
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## Religion in Environmental and Climate Change



Suffering, Values, Lifestyles



Edited by Dieter Gerten and Sigurd Bergmann

Religious worldviews inform the activities of a majority of the world population, suggesting that religion offers significant theoretical and practical contributions to mitigating, and adapting to, global climate change. But the respective functions of religion are ambiguous: some religious organizations are aiming to become 'greener',

screening their traditions for moral imperatives to respect the environment; however, some beliefs and religious practices may have fatalistic attitudes towards the impacts of climate change or may work against sustainable developments.

Charting the spread from regional case studies to global-scale syntheses, the book discusses these overarching questions: How are ongoing climatic changes and the scientific projection of its future changes perceived in different belief systems including indigenous worldviews? What can religion contribute to mitigate, and adapt to, anthropogenic climate change? What features of religion may, in turn, hamper such adaptation?

*DIETER GERTEN is Researcher at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Germany.*

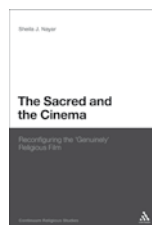
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## The Sacred and the Cinema



Reconfiguring the 'Genuinely' Religious Film



**SHEILA J. NAYAR**

For close to half a century now, scholars have debated over what comprises a 'genuinely' religious film, that is, a film that evinces an 'authentic' hierophany, or manifestation of the sacred. Often these scholars do so by pitting the films they consider to be successfully transcendental in style against those which they consider to be propagating an inauthentic sort of spiritual experience.

Providing a reassessment of religious spectaculars from around the world, the author argues that these films are patently contoured by decidedly oral norms of storytelling, and demonstrates how the very qualities that lead critics deem to call a film like *The Ten Commandments* 'kitsch' may in fact be the essential means by which transcendence is experienced by some viewers. The book provides a clear summation of the history of the religion and narrative cinema field, as well as bringing to light how it is that multiple modes of religious expression can exist, sometimes often contradictorily, within a single religious tradition.

*SHEILA J. NAYAR is Associate Professor of English and Communication Studies at Greensboro College, USA.*

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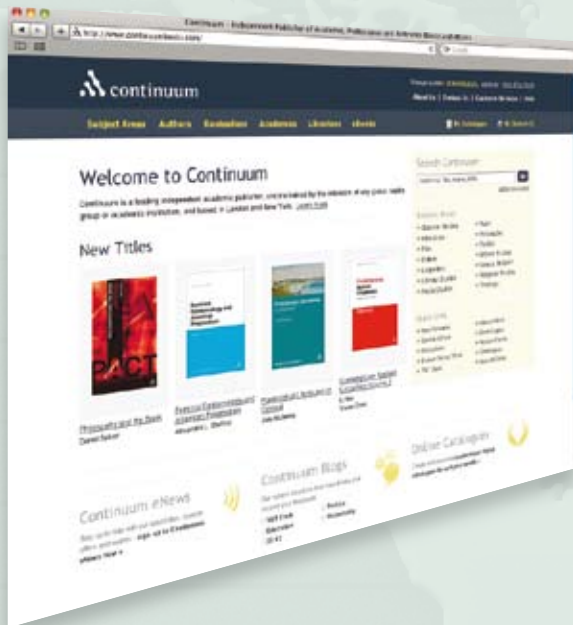
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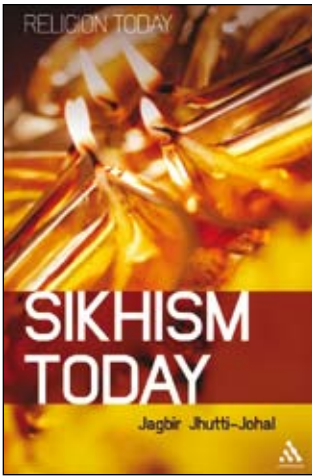
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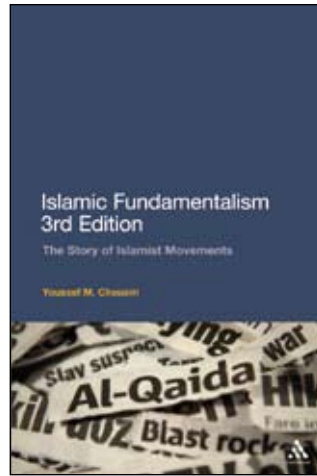
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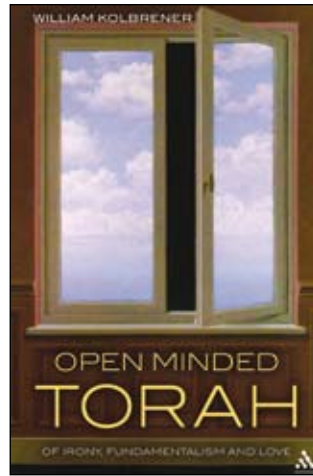
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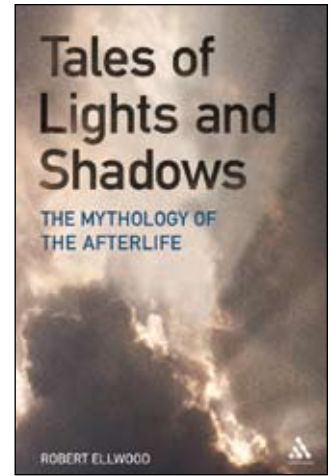
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