



World, Indigenous and New Religions 2011

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Cover Illustration: Aboriginal Dreamtime

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FORTHCOMING

African Pilgrimage

Ritual Travel in South Africa's Christianity of Zion

Retief Muller, Keimyung University, Republic of Korea

'African Pilgrimage takes you deep inside another world, that of South Africa's Zion Christian Church (ZCC), a flourishing variety of African-initiated Christianity that few scholars of World Christianity will ever know as intimately as Müller does. ... You experience participant-observer field research and all its confusion, comic awkwardness, and clarity. Altogether, a memorable contribution, methodologically, to the study of World and African Christianity.'

Richard Fox Young, Princeton Theological Seminary, USA

This book describes a South Africa that is made up of a number of different fragmented worlds. The focus is on the Zion Christian Church, one of the largest religious movements in southern Africa and a good example of indigenized African Christianity. This book tells the story of how the enduring ritual of pilgrimage is transforming African religion, along with the lives of ordinary South Africans.

October 2011	c. 240 pages	
Hardback	978-1-4094-3082-7	c. £50.00
ebook	978-1-4094-3083-4	

www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409430827

NEW

Dalit Theology and Christian Anarchism

Keith Hebden, Gloucester Diocese, Church of England, UK

New Critical Thinking in Religion, Theology and Biblical Studies

'Dalit Theology and Christian Anarchism is an excellent contribution to the field of Dalit theology, especially in the area of political theology. It convincingly and artfully moves Dalit Studies stridently, creatively and meaningfully forward into new avenues of interrogation and articulation. No scholar interested in constructive, contextual, political, and liberation theology in India can afford to miss this substantial work by Hebden.'

Sathianathan Clarke, Wesley Theological Seminary, USA

A second generation of emerging Dalit theology texts is re-shaping the way we think of Indian theology and liberation theology. This book is a vital part of that conversation.

Taking post-colonial criticism to its logical end of criticism of statism, Hebden looks at the way the emergence of India as a nation state shapes political and religious ideas. Hebden draws on historical trends, Christian anarchist voices and the religious experiences of indigenous Indians.

June 2011	186 pages	
Hardback	978-1-4094-2439-0	£50.00
ebook	978-1-4094-2440-6	

www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409424390

ASHGATE

Crafting Contemporary Pagan Identities in a Catholic Society

Kathryn Rountree, Massey University, New Zealand

'The book gives a clear and vivid account of the activities of the Pagans who were central to the author's research, describing their rituals, their views, and their backgrounds. ... an intriguing account and leaves one with a desire to know more about these young people living a secret life and their participation in the very different society in which they have been brought up.'

Journal of Contemporary Religion

Most studies of contemporary Paganism have been conducted in societies which are predominantly Protestant and increasingly secular. The ways in which Pagan identities are constructed in these contexts have tended to be taken implicitly as normative. This book challenges that position by offering an intimate portrait of Paganism in a very different context, the Mediterranean society of Malta. Showing what it is like being Pagan in a society where the vast majority of the population is Roman Catholic and Catholicism permeates every sphere of public and domestic, social and political life, Rountree reveals that Paganism here is a unique brew of indigenous and global influences. The book explores the intersections of religious and cultural identity, the global and local, Paganism and Christianity, with insights grounded in rich ethnographic detail based on long-term fieldwork.

January 2010	206 pages	
Hardback	978-0-7546-6973-9	£50.00
ebook	978-0-7546-9791-6	

www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754669739

Critical Buddhism

Engaging with Modern Japanese Buddhist Thought

James Mark Shields, Bucknell University, USA

'A valuable appraisal and critique of the Critical Buddhism movement. This book will be of interest to anyone with an interest in contemporary Zen and Japanese thought.'

Damien Keown, University of London, UK

This is the first book-length treatment of Critical Buddhism as both a philosophical and religious movement, where the lines between scholarship and practice blur. Providing a critical and constructive analysis of Critical Buddhism, particularly the epistemological categories of *critica* and *topica*, this book examines contemporary theories of knowledge and ethics in order to situate Critical Buddhism within modern Japanese and Buddhist thought as well as in relation to current trends in contemporary Western thought.

March 2011	216 pages	
Hardback	978-1-4094-1798-9	£50.00
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www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409417989

The Centrality of Religion in Social Life

Essays in Honour of James A. Beckford

Edited by Eileen Barker, London School of Economics, UK

'... a collection of the themes that are important for today's sociology of religion [...] illustrates the versatility of Beckford's contribution to this field. ... This volume is essential for anyone interested in religion's place in contemporary society – it answers many questions and raises many new ones.'

Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review

This book is a collection of essays written in Beckford's honour, drawing on a number of religious themes that have been central to Beckford's interests, whilst also offering a significant contribution to our understanding of the wider society. A central theme is modernity (and its relation to the post-modern) and how religion affects and is affected by the dynamics of contemporary society, with the primary focus of many of the chapters being a concern with how society copes with the minority religions that have become visible with the globalising tendencies of contemporary society.

April 2010	260 pages	
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SERIES ASHGATE-INFORM SERIES ON MINORITY RELIGIONS AND SPIRITUAL MOVEMENTS

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London School of Economics, UK

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Inform is an independent charity that collects and disseminates accurate, balanced and up-to-date information about minority religious and spiritual movements. The new Ashgate-Inform book series addresses themes related to new religions, many of which have been the topics of Inform seminars. The series editorial board consists of internationally renowned scholars in the field. Books in the series will attract both an academic and interested general readership, particularly in the areas of Religious Studies, and the Sociology of Religion and Theology.

SERIES VITALITY OF INDIGENOUS RELIGIONS

Series Editors: **Graham Harvey**, Open University, UK, **Afeosemime Adogame**, The University of Edinburgh, UK and **Ines Talamantez**, University of California, USA

This series explores the development of contemporary indigenous religions from traditional, ancestral precursors, but the characteristic contribution of the series is its focus on their living and current manifestations. Devoted to the contemporary expression, experience and understanding of particular indigenous peoples and their religions, books address key issues which include: the sacredness of land, exile from lands, diasporic survival and diversification, the indigenization of Christianity and other missionary religions, sacred language and re-vitalization movements. Proving of particular value to academics, graduates, postgraduates and higher level undergraduate readers worldwide, this series holds obvious attraction to scholars of Native American studies, Maori studies, African studies and offers invaluable contributions to religious studies, sociology, anthropology, geography and other related subject areas.

Aboriginal Environmental Knowledge Rational Reverence

Catherine Laudine, University of Newcastle, Australia

April 2009 200 pages
Hardback 978-0-7546-6430-7 £45.00
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www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754664307

Aboriginal Religions in Australia An Anthology of Recent Writings

Edited by **Max Charlesworth**, University of Melbourne and Deakin University, Australia, **Françoise Dussart**, University of Connecticut, USA and **Howard Morphy**, Australian National University

March 2005 342 pages
Hardback 978-0-7546-5128-4 £65.00
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Caribbean Diaspora in the USA Diversity of Caribbean Religions in New York City

Bettina Schmidt, University of Wales, UK

August 2008 208 pages
Hardback 978-0-7546-6365-2 £50.00
ebook 978-0-7546-9232-4
www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754663652

Blackfoot Religion and the Consequences of Cultural Commodification

Kenneth Hayes Lokensgard

'Kenneth Lokensgard's careful, descriptive, and informative study of Blackfoot Medicine Bundles shows how the commodification of the exchange order eroded the culture of the Blackfoot and offers the opportunity for a critical pause that allows us to raise different and alternate understandings of the nature of exchanges, intimacies, and society.'

Charles H. Long, University of California, USA

This book explores the exchange of Blackfoot 'medicine bundles' within contemporary Blackfoot culture and between the Blackfoot Peoples and Euro-Americans. Representing a valuable study of contemporary Blackfoot religion as well as the repatriation movement, Lokensgard also contributes to the studies of material culture and exchange. Central to his investigation is the critical examination and reapplication of the interpretative terms 'gift' and 'commodity,' helping scholars appreciate how different peoples perceive the worlds they inhabit.

October 2010 212 pages
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From Primitive to Indigenous The Academic Study of Indigenous Religions

James L. Cox, University of Edinburgh, UK

September 2007 206 pages
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www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754655695

Indigenous Diasporas and Dislocations

Edited by **Graham Harvey**, Open University, UK and **Charles D. Thompson Jr**, Duke University, USA

September 2005 210 pages
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www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754639060

Indigenous Peoples' Wisdom and Power Affirming Our Knowledge Through Narratives

Edited by **Nomalungelo I. Goduka**, Central Michigan University, USA and **Julian E. Kunnie**, University of Arizona, USA

August 2006 310 pages
Hardback 978-0-7546-1597-2 £65.00
www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754615972

For more information on this series, visit www.ashgate.com/vitalityofindigenousreligions

Indigenous Symbols and Practices in the Catholic Church

Visual Culture, Missionization and Appropriation

Edited by **Kathleen J. Martin**,
California Polytechnic State University, USA

This book explores the experiences of Indigenous Peoples whose lives have been impacted by multiple forces—Christian missionaries, governmental policies, immigration and colonization, education, assimilation and acculturation. Contributors explore current contexts and complex areas of conflict regarding missionization, appropriation and colonizing practices through the voices of Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars, and provide interpretations and possibilities for the future.

February 2010	300 pages	
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Karanga Indigenous Religion in Zimbabwe

Health and Well-Being

Tabona Shoko, University of Zimbabwe

August 2007	172 pages	
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Korean Shamanism

The Cultural Paradox

Chongho Kim

September 2003	270 pages	
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Maya Identities and the Violence of Place

Borders Bleed

Charles D. Thompson, Jr, Duke University, USA

February 2001	206 pages	
Hardback	978-0-7546-1377-0	£50.00
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Mi'kmaq Landscapes

From Animism to Sacred Ecology

Anne-Christine Hornborg,
Linköping University, Sweden

May 2008	214 pages	
Hardback	978-0-7546-6371-3	£50.00
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www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754663713		

Mobility, Markets and Indigenous Socialities

Contemporary Migration in the Peruvian Andes

Cecilie Vindal Ødegaard, University of Bergen, Norway

'This book beautifully captures the fluidity of urban Andean life, through the focus on migration, mobility, progress, gender, the circulation of goods, and reciprocity. Based on ethnographic work of remarkable depth and insight, it is an important contribution to anthropology of the Andes and to urban anthropology more widely.'

Sian Lazar, University of Cambridge, UK

Exploring how people from Andean communities seek progress and social mobility by moving to the cities, Ødegaard demonstrates the changing significance of kinship, reciprocity and ritual in an urban context. The making and un-making of notions of the Indigenous, communal work and gender is central in this analysis, and is discussed against the historical backdrop of the land occupations in Peruvian cities since the 1930s.

November 2010	254 pages	
Hardback	978-1-4094-0454-5	£55.00
ebook	978-1-4094-0455-2	
www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409404545		

Native Christians

Modes and Effects of Christianity among Indigenous Peoples of the Americas

Edited by **Aparecida Vilaça**, Museu Nacional, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and **Robin M Wright**, University of Florida, USA

Includes 7 b&w illustrations and 2 maps

February 2009	266 pages	
Hardback	978-0-7546-6355-3	£55.00
ebook	978-0-7546-9647-6	
www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754663553		

Sacred Landscapes and Cultural Politics

Planting a Tree

Edited by **Philip P. Arnold** and **Ann Grodzins Gold**, Syracuse University, USA

September 2001	224 pages	
Hardback	978-0-7546-1569-9	£50.00
www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754615699		

The Vitality of Karamojong Religion

Dying Tradition or Living Faith?

Ben Knighton, Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, UK

Includes 15 b&w illustrations and 2 maps

July 2005	366 pages	
Hardback	978-0-7546-0383-2	£65.00
www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754603832		

The Death of Sacred Texts

Ritual Disposal and Renovation of Texts in World Religions

Edited by Kristina Myrvold, Lund University, Sweden

The Death of Sacred Texts draws attention to a much neglected topic in the study of sacred texts: the religious and ritual attitudes towards texts which have become old and damaged and can no longer be used for reading practices and in religious worship. This book approaches religious texts and scriptures by focusing on their physical properties and the dynamic interactions of devices and habits that lie beneath and within a given text.

May 2010 182 pages
 Hardback 978-0-7546-6918-0 £45.00
 ebook 978-0-7546-9621-6
www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754669180

Dalit Theology and Dalit Liberation

Problems, Paradigms and Possibilities

Peniel Rajkumar, The United Theological College, India

New Critical Thinking in Religion, Theology and Biblical Studies

'This is a wonderfully fresh, creative and intelligent contribution to Dalit Theology. There is wisdom on every page.'

Robin Gill, University of Kent, UK

In fulfilling the long-awaited need for a constructive and critical rethinking of Dalit theology, this book offers and explores the synoptic healing stories as a relevant biblical paradigm for Dalit theology in order to help redress the lacuna between Dalit theology and the social practice of the Indian Church. Rajkumar's starting point is that the growing influence of Dalit theology in academic circles is incompatible with the praxis of the Indian Church which continues to be passive in its attitude towards the oppression of the Dalits both within and outside the Church.

February 2010 218 pages
 Hardback 978-0-7546-6513-7 £50.00
 ebook 978-0-7546-9777-0
www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754665137

Divination

Perspectives for a New Millennium

Edited by Patrick Curry

'The book is unique in academia in that, next to putting forward a strong and currently revitalising case of cultural diversity, it provocatively presages for the new millennium a trans-cultural and trans-disciplinary mode of cross-fertilising local knowledge systems and Western-born globalising sciences.'

René Devisch, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium

This interdisciplinary collection by leading scholars in the field is dedicated to fascinating new insights into divination and oracles arising from recent work in anthropology, religious studies, history and classical studies. Central importance is given to the practical and theoretical perspectives of diviners as well as scholars of divination; several contributors are both.

October 2010 304 pages
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 ebook 978-1-4094-0556-6
www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409405559

NEW

Dharma and Ecology of Hindu Communities

Sustenance and Sustainability

Pankaj Jain, University of North Texas, USA

New Critical Thinking in Religion, Theology and Biblical Studies

'This new book is a major contribution to the growing literature on issues related to religion and ecology in India. His thoughtful treatment of three different groups helps us understand how the religious actions and beliefs of certain communities can contribute to environmental protection without ever calling it that. The book is rich in detail and places before the reader materials that will prove useful in reflecting further on the particular nature of cultural resources available in India today for resisting environmental degradation.'

David Haberman, Indiana University, USA

In Indic religious traditions, a number of rituals and myths exist in which the environment is revered. Despite this, India's natural resources are under heavy pressure with its growing economy and exploding population. Presenting the texts of Bishnois, their environmental history, and their contemporary activism; investigating the Swadhyaya movement from an ecological perspective; and exploring the Bhil communities and their Sacred Groves, this book applies a non-Western hermeneutical model to interpret the religious traditions of Indic communities.

May 2011 228 pages
 Hardback 978-1-4094-0591-7 £50.00
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Exploring the *Bhagavad Gita*

Philosophy, Structure and Meaning

Ithamar Theodor, University of Haifa, Israel

'This is potentially one of the most significant books to emerge in recent times on how to read the Gita, for it provides a clear way forward to make coherent sense of one of the most important yet methodologically intractable texts of religious Hinduism. I found this book an illuminating experience.'

Julius Lipner, University of Cambridge, UK

This careful study of the *Bhagavad Gita* approaches the ancient text with a modern mind and offers a unifying structure which is of a universal relevance. Combining the philosophical-theoretical with the ethical-practical, Ithamar Theodor locates his study within comparative theology and identifies the various layers of meaning. The full text of the *Bhagavad Gita* is presented in new translation, divided into sections, and accompanied by depth commentary. This book makes the *Bhagavad Gita* accessible to a wide variety of readers, helping to make sense of this great spiritual classic which is one of the most important texts of religious Hinduism.

July 2010	172 pages	
Hardback	978-0-7546-6658-5	£45.00
ebook	978-1-4094-0260-2	

www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754666585

Indigenous Religions

Stephen Hunt, University of the West of England, UK

July 2010	172 pages	
Hardback	978-0-7546-2960-3	£130.00

www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754629603

In Search of the Folk Daoists of North China

Stephen Jones, SOAS, UK

'Stephen Jones' twenty years of fieldwork with Daoists and musicians in north China come to full blossom with this superb book. Its comparative project is admirably ambitious, looking at key rituals done very differently across an area as wide as Europe; yet the writing always remains lively, witty and focused on actual people and performance rather than theories.'

Vincent Goossaert, author of *The Taoists of Peking*

Largely unstudied by scholars of religion, folk Daoist ritual in north China has been a constant theme of Chinese music scholars. Jones places lay Daoists within the wider context of folk religious practices. Jones offers details on occupational hereditary lay Daoists, temple-dwelling priests, and even amateur ritual groups. Stressing performance, Jones observes the changing ritual scene in this poor countryside, both since the 1980s and through all the tribulations of 20th-century warfare and political campaigns.

November 2010	312 pages	
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NEW

An Introduction to Said Nursi

Life, Thought, and Writings

Ian Markham, Virginia Theological Seminary, USA,
Suendam Birinci Pirim, The Muslim World Journal,
USA and Turkey

'This invaluable and important book should increase Western understanding of Islam considerably, and enable readers to study a modern Muslim theologian at first hand.'

Keith Ward, University of Oxford, UK

Markham and Birinci Pirim introduce to the English-speaking world the leading modern Islamic thinker Said Nursi (1878-1960) - who has some nine million followers in modern day Turkey and around the world. After an opening chapter that provides an overview of his life, the next four chapters outline the theology of Nursi on God, the Qur'an, the West and Politics. The final section provides an invaluable resource of readings from Nursi's most important writings.

April 2011	206 pages	
Paperback	978-1-4094-0771-3	£17.99
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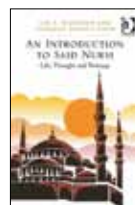
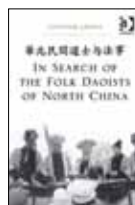
FORTHCOMING

Islam, Europe and Emerging Legal Issues

W. Cole Durham Jr., David M. Kirkham and
Christine Scott, all at Brigham Young University, USA
and Rik Torfs, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium

This book brings together vital and thoughtful essays analyzing the challenges that Europe poses for an expanding Islam and that Islam poses for Europe, within their ever-evolving religious, legal and social environments. The purpose of the book is to gather in one place some of the best thinking affecting current and contested issues that can no longer be ignored. Contributors include well-known experts who are working at the heart of this generation's law and religion questions in Europe and across the world. The result is a work that places most salient issues in the ever lengthening chain of decisions involving Islamic issues in rich relief within their broader cultural and social context.

December 2011	c. 288 pages	
Hardback	978-1-4094-3444-3	c. £60.00
ebook	978-1-4094-3445-0	



Islam and Global Dialogue

Religious Pluralism and the Pursuit of Peace

Edited by Roger Boase, University of London, UK

Foreword by HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal

'If there were ever a time that a book on religious pluralism and peace ought to be required reading for politicians, public intellectuals, policymakers, and the media, as well as a general audience, that time is now. Conceived as a response to the excoriation of Islam after 9/11, Roger Boase has put together a remarkable book on the need for interreligious dialogue as the only way to "lay the foundations for a more peaceful world." It makes for very powerful reading. Dealing with religious pluralism, a topic that touches the most important facets of life, the book has a depth to it that is profound and moving.'

The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences

'This essential book conclusively disposes of the vicious mythology that the religious faiths are doomed to fight each other.'

Dan Plesch, Birkbeck College and the United Services Institute, UK

In this important and timely book, twenty internationally acclaimed scholars and leading religious thinkers respond to contemporary challenges in different ways. Some discuss the idea of a dialogue of civilisations; others explore the interfaith principles and ethical resources of their own spiritual traditions. All of them reject the notion that any single religion can claim a monopoly of wisdom; all are committed to the ideal of a just and peaceful society in which people of different religions and cultures can happily coexist. More space is here given to Islam than to Judaism and Christianity because, as a result of negative stereotypes, it is the most misunderstood of the major world religions.

May 2010 336 pages
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Islamophobia

Chris Allen, University of Birmingham, UK

'Christopher Allen has been a dominant voice in debates on "Islamophobia". His book is both timely and relevant and provides the depth of enquiry and investigation needed to deal with a highly contested phenomenon.'

Ron Geaves, Liverpool Hope University, UK and Chair of the Muslims in Britain Research Network

'The author explores the genealogy of the term [Islamophobia], the extent to which it captures the phenomenon of anti-Muslimness, and whether there is empirical proof of such systemic prejudice. On each of these topics, Chris Allen has interesting things to say.'
Church Times

Despite numerous sources suggesting that Islamophobia is becoming both increasingly prevalent and societally acceptable in the contemporary world, there remains a lack of textual sources that consider either the phenomenon itself, or its manifestations and consequences. Allen traces the historical evolution of Islamophobia to the present day, before trying to understand and comprehend a wider conception of the phenomenon. A series of investigations thematically consider the role of the media, the contemporary positioning of Muslims throughout the world, and whether Islamophobia can be seen to be a continuum of historical anti-Muslimism, or whether it is an entirely modern concept.

November 2010 218 pages
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Islamic and Comparative Religious Studies

Selected Writings

William A. Graham and Murray A. Alpertson,
both at Harvard University, USA

Ashgate Contemporary Thinkers on Religion: Collected Works

'William Graham's meticulous and wide-ranging researches constitute a landmark contribution to Islamic studies and a clear demonstration of how to carry out fully grounded comparative studies of religion. This outstanding collection will be welcomed by students and specialists across the field of religious studies.'

Carl W. Ernst, University of North Carolina, USA

Graham's work in Islamic studies focuses largely on the analysis and interpretation of the religious dimensions of ritual action, scriptural piety, textual authority/revelation, tradition, and major concepts, such as grace and transcendence. This invaluable resource will be of primary interest to students of the Islamic tradition, especially as regards Qur'anic piety, Muslim "ritual" practice, and fundamental structures of Islamic thought, and to students of the comparative history of religion, especially as regards the phenomenon of "scripture" and its analogs.

July 2010 336 pages
Hardback 978-1-4094-0025-7 £65.00
www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409400257

Joseph Smith, Jesus, and Satanic Opposition

Atonement, Evil and the Mormon Vision

Douglas J. Davies, University of Durham, UK

'Davies is already the author of several excellent studies of Mormonism. His new book combines scrupulous neutrality with genuine intellectual curiosity. He approaches Mormonism as a set of beliefs, but beliefs shaped by secular factors like organization, and examines the distinctive kind of evil that preoccupies Mormons - apostasy. Overall, he approaches Mormonism as a living, changing enterprise.'

Robert A. Segal, University of Aberdeen, UK

Joseph Smith, Jesus, and Satanic Opposition explores Mormon theology in new ways from a scholarly non-Mormon perspective. Bringing Jesus and Satan into relationship with Joseph Smith the founding prophet, Davies shows how the Mormon 'Plan of Salvation' can be equated with mainstream Christianity's doctrine of the Trinity as a driving force of the faith. Exploring how Jesus has been understood by Mormons, his many Mormon identities are described in this book: he is the Jehovah of the Bible, our Elder Brother and Father, probably also a husband, he visited the dead and is also the antagonist of Satan-Lucifer.

October 2010	292 pages	
Paperback	978-1-4094-0670-9	£16.99
Hardback	978-1-4094-0649-5	£55.00
ebook	978-1-4094-0830-7	

www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409406709

Jataka Stories in Theravada Buddhism

Narrating the Bodhisatta Path

Naomi Appleton, Cardiff University, UK

'Comparatively few scholars have seriously examined Jataka literature itself as a particular genre, with its own religious preoccupations and implications. In this masterful work by a leading new voice in Jataka studies, Naomi Appleton does just that. Focusing on the major collections of Pali tales, she shows us what these stories can tell us about Theravada understandings not only of the figure of the Buddha but of the bodhisattva path, and of the connection of the Jatakas to contemporary religious practice. This is a pivotal book, which should serve not only to review past scholarship on the Jatakas, but to push it in new directions.'

John Strong, Bates College, USA

Jataka stories (stories about the previous births of the Buddha) are very popular in Theravada Buddhist countries, where they are commonly used in sermons, children's books, plays, poetry, temple illustrations, rituals and festivals. Buddhist tradition tells us that the stories illustrate the gradual path to perfection exemplified by the Buddha in his previous births, when he was a bodhisattva (buddha-to-be). This book explores the shifting role of the stories in Buddhist doctrine, practice and creative expression, finally placing this integral Buddhist genre back in the centre of scholarly understandings of the religion.

December 2010	186 pages	
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FORTHCOMING

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Edited by Knut A. Jacobsen, University of Bergen, Norway and Kristina Myrvold, Lund University, Sweden

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Studies in past decades have focused on the history, culture and religious practices of Sikhs in North America and the UK, but few have focused on Sikhs in continental Europe. This book fills this gap, offering new empirical data and theoretical analyses of Sikhs in eleven European countries. Focusing on patterns of migration, transmission of traditions, identity construction and cultural representations from the perspective of local Sikh communities in Europe, the authors explore general patterns of settlement, institution building and cultural transmission among the European Sikhs.

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The Case of Said Nursi

Edited by Ibrahim M. Abu-Rabi, University of Alberta, Canada

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Marcia Hermansen, Loyola University, USA

Theodicy and Justice in Modern Islamic Thought explores the theology and philosophy of the distinguished modern Muslim scholar and theologian Bediuzzaman Said Nursi [d.1960]. Nursi is the founder of a 'faith movement' in contemporary Turkey with millions of followers worldwide. This book presents an invaluable resource for studies in comparative religion, philosophy and Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies.

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Postmodernity and Popular Culture in a Suicide Group

Edited by **George D. Chryssides**,
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The Heaven's Gate suicides were part of a series of major violent incidents involving New Religions in the 1990s. Despite the major attention that Heaven's Gate attracted, there have been few scholarly studies. This anthology on Heaven's Gate includes a combination of articles previously published in academic journals, some new writings from experts in the field, and some original Heaven's Gate documents. All the material is expertly brought together under the editorship of George Chryssides.

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Carole M. Cusack, University of Sydney, Australia

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Michael York, Bath Spa University, UK

This book deals with immensely popular subject matter: Jediism developed from George Lucas' *Star Wars* films; the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, founded by 26-year-old student Bobby Henderson in 2005 as a protest against the teaching of Intelligent Design in schools; Discordianism and the Church of the Sub-Genius which retain strong followings and participation rates among college students. The Church of All Worlds' focus on Gaia theology and environmental issues makes it a popular focus of attention. The continued success of these groups of Invented Religions provide a unique opportunity to explore the nature of late/post-modern religious forms, including the use of fiction as part of a bricolage for spirituality, identity-formation and personal orientation.

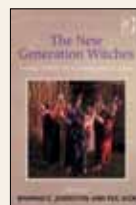
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The New Generation Witches

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Edited by **Hannah E. Johnston** and **Peg Aloï**,
both at Emerson College, USA

November 2007 188 pages
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The Nuwaubian Nation

Black Spirituality and State Control

Susan Palmer,

Dawson College and Concordia University, Canada

'Susan Palmer's book, The Nuwaubian Nation: Black Spirituality and State Control, is a fascinating, well-written and informative study of one of the most interesting and complex Afro-American New Religious Movements in the United States, the Nuwaubian nation. ... All in all the critical approach and thorough methodology adopted by Palmer makes this book a strong academic publication that has the potential to become a reference work in the fields of religious studies, ethnography, anthropology, Afro-American history and religion, and law.'

Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review

Presenting fresh and important insights into racialist spirituality and the social control of unconventional religions in America, *The Nuwaubian Nation* follows the extraordinary career of Dwight York, who in his teens started out in a New York street gang, but converted to Islam in prison. Emerging as a Black messiah, York proceeded to break the Paleman's "spell of Kingu" and to guide his people through a series of racial/religious identities that demanded dramatic changes in costume, gender roles and lifestyle. Referring to theories in the sociology of deviance and media studies, the author tracks the escalating hostilities against the group that climaxed in a Waco-style FBI raid on the Nuwaubian "compound" in 2002.

August 2010	218 pages	
Hardback	978-0-7546-6255-6	£50.00
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The Order of the Solar Temple

The Temple of Death

Edited by James R. Lewis, University of Wisconsin, USA

December 2006	242 pages	
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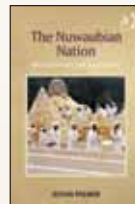
Yearning to Belong

Discovering a New Religious Movement

John Paul Healy, Charles Sturt University, Australia.

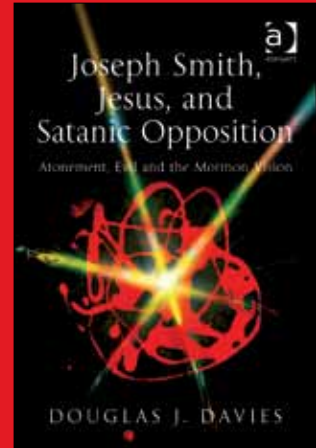
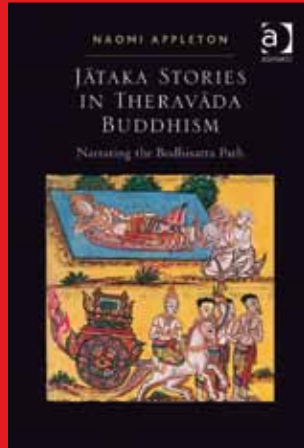
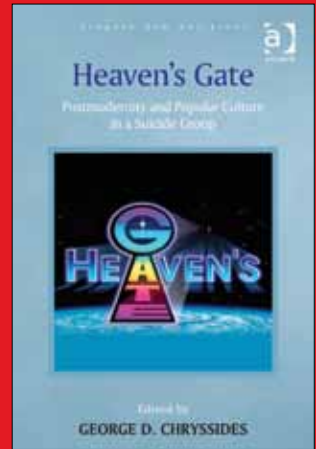
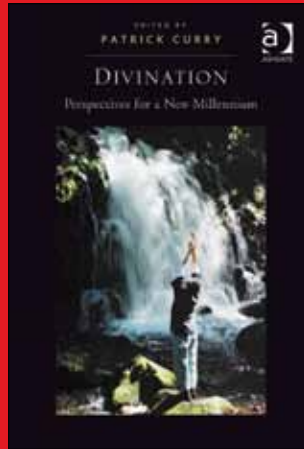
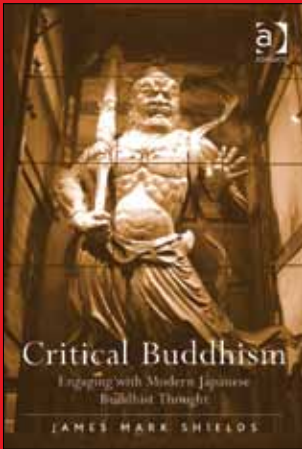
Cutting across three areas of interest within New Religious Movements - insider perspectives, sociology of religion and the helping professions - Yearning to Belong explores insiders' experience of the Indian Guru-disciple Yogic tradition. Authored by a former member of that tradition and highlighting the rich spiritual experience of devotees, this book also adds considerably to knowledge of conversion to New Religious Movements and to issues of affiliation and disengagement. Exploring participants' experience of attraction, affiliation and disengagement, these themes highlight individuals' personal experience of Guru-disciple Yoga Practice.

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