
Editors' Introduction

With this issue we are happy to introduce the *JSRNC*'s twelfth volume of publication. Since the journal's inception, the editors and staff at the *JSRNC* have worked to bring together interdisciplinary and international scholars to present some of the most novel and diverse research related to the religion/nature/culture academic nexus. This issue remains fully in line with that mission, presenting a wide range of issues and perspectives that scholars working within the ever-changing religion and nature milieu should find engaging and informative.

The issue begins with an investigation by Till Markus, Bhikku Vivekānanda, and Mark Lawrence into Buddhist ethical responses to geoengineering—a set of technical proposals for manipulating the chemistry of earth's climate to remediate some of the negative consequences of climate change. By proposing substantial human interventions in global climate systems, geoengineering thus engages many ethical considerations. The authors provide a unique perspective on this issue, adding analysis that will be useful to scholars of Buddhist ethics as well as others working on the ethical and religious dimensions of climate change. Sticking with the theme of climate change and energy ethics, the next article discusses eco-spiritual motivations among lead actors within the energy transition movement in the town of Emden, Germany. Employing Bron Taylor's research on Dark Green Religion, Jens Koehrsen explores the religious motivations of professional energy transition actors through several in-depth interviews. While religious motivations are certainly present, Koehrsen also finds that many of these environmental professionals (who are often more politically moderate than some of the radical environmentalists studied by Taylor) also stop short of certain key features of Dark Green Religion, including eco-centric values. Koehrsen's work provides important insights into the appeal and reach of certain spiritual and ethical values in mainstream environmental communities.

The third article of this issue, by Justin Klassen, explores the potential influence of Danish philosopher and theologian Søren Kierkegaard on contemporary eco-theology. While some eco-theologians have found

Kierkegaard's work to be too anthropocentric to offer effective tools for constructive eco-theologies, Klassen argues that Kierkegaard's work nonetheless has surprising affinities with certain emerging insights from evolutionary science. Klassen makes a compelling case for eco-theologians to revisit the work of Kierkegaard in light of these emerging parallels with evolutionary science. Our final featured article is Rune Flikke's ethnographic and historical account of healing ceremonies within a Zulu Zionist congregation in Durban, South Africa. As an African Independent Church (AIC), the Zulu Zionists merge both Christian and traditional Zulu practices and beliefs. Employing anthropologist Tim Ingold's concept of the 'weather-world', Flikke examines how members of this Zulu Zionist congregation understand wind, weather, and healing in an otherwise polluted environment in South Africa. The result is an intriguing investigation into concepts of embodiment and healing that challenge Western intellectual dichotomies between humans and nature, and health and pollution.

This issue concludes with several book reviews covering a wide range of topics and approaches in the religion/nature/culture scholarly nexus, including issues related to climate change and the proposed Anthropocene era. These include John Foster's review of Roy Scranton's *Learning to Die in the Anthropocene* (2015), Tatiana Prorokova's review of Adam Trexler's *Anthropocene Fictions* (2015), Arthur M. Shapiro's review of Amitav Ghosh's *The Great Derangement* (2016), and Christiana Zenner Peppard's review of Michael Northcott's *A Political Theology of Climate Change* (2013). Together, these reviews bring perspectives from philosophy, theology, eco-criticism, and literature to bear on climate change and the influence of humans on earth's natural systems. The next two reviews—Martha Dowsley's review of Michael Englehard's *Ice Bear* (2016) and Tyler M. Tully's review of Brianne Donaldson's *Creaturely Cosmologies* (2015)—engage multi-disciplinary scholarship related to animal ethics. Next, Michael York reviews Ronald Hutton's history of global animosity toward witchcraft in *The Witch* (2017), and the issue concludes with Michael S. Allen's review of Pankaj Jain's, *Science and Socio-Religious Revolution in India* (2017).

Finally, with the start of this twelfth volume we are also glad to introduce two new core members of the JSRNC editorial team. First, we welcome Dr. Martin Schönfeld, Professor of Philosophy at the University of South Florida, as an Associate Editor with the journal. Dr. Schönfeld has developed an impressive record of scholarship on environmental ethics, climate change, and Chinese philosophies and religions. As an Associate Editor, Dr. Schönfeld will help to increase our international focus by bringing more scholarship about (and scholars from) China and

East Asia to the *JSRNC*. Second, we are happy to welcome Amanda Nichols from the University of Florida as our new Managing Editor. Many readers who attended the *ISSRNC* conferences in Gainesville, Florida in 2016 and New York City in 2017 will remember Ms. Nichols's leadership at both events. With Nichols's and Schönfeld's contributions, the *JSRNC* promises to diversify, grow, and continue to be a leading venue for international and interdisciplinary scholarship related to religions, nature, and cultures.

Lucas Johnston and Joseph Witt
Co-Editors