This issue of the *Bulletin* brings together a panel of papers on Dana Logan’s recent study of American consumer culture, where ascetic accumulation (the elimination of excess) enhances the accumulation of capital. Dana Logan explores this cultural practice of accumulation through renunciation as demonstrated through celebrity Gwyneth Paltrow’s *goop* brand. We are delighted to facilitate a forum for a broader discussion of this study in the pages of the *Bulletin*. In addition to Travis Cooper and L. Benjamin Rolksy’s responses to this important study, Logan continues the conversation in her reply. Our hope is that this exchange will encourage further theoretical engagement with cultural data by extending our data and our theoretical maps beyond what often is treated under the taxon “religion.”

We are also pleased to include several reviews that have been prepared for the *Bulletin* under the able and enthusiastic editorship of Adam Miller, our book review editor. Normally reviews will appear online rather than in the journal, except for review essays or panels on significant books. However, we thought it would be good to highlight several of these reviews in printed form to encourage scholars to contribute to this new aspect of the *Bulletin*. Given the focus on book reviews, this issue also includes an Editor’s Corner focused on book reviews. This slightly revised piece, which originally appeared on the *Bulletin*’s blog in three parts a few years ago, offers advice on how to write reviews as well as insights into the function and pedagogical value of the book review as scholarly device. Online discussions between a few scholars have challenged the value of the book review, arguing that the review is a defunct or useless mode of scholarly communication. I disagree with these views and it is my hope that this Editor’s Corner will help renew the review as one among many devices used by scholars and teachers. It is also hoped that this piece will serve as a resource for those asking students to prepare reviews as class assignments. In addition to this panel on Dana Logan’s research and these reviews, we are also delighted to include a Tips for Teaching piece by Joseph Laycock and Natasha Mikles. The *Bulletin* is committed to enhancing our profession with a focus on theory, method, pedagogy, and reflections on the profession.

Beyond introducing the articles in this issue, it is also my pleasure to introduce readers to a significant editorial shift. Although both our editors for the *Bulletin*’s blog have stepped down, leaving the blog in a state of ambiguity in recent months, we will likely be reconceptualizing the blog and its service to Equinox and to the field of religious studies while focusing on developing the journal. I wish to express my appreciation to both Matt and Stacie for their service to the *Bulletin* and, as both their editor and friend, to wish them the greatest of success as they continue to build their academic careers. In all the years that I’ve been affiliated with the *Bulletin*—as a reader, an author, and eventually its editor—I have long admired how we have been able to encourage talented scholars who are entering the field. It has been a delight working with such talented scholars and a pleasure to see them flourish as they find their place in academia.

I am also pleased to let readers know that beginning in 2019 we will have a new editor joining our ranks. Robert Segal is no stranger to those in the field. He has long been a strong voice for engaging method and theory in the study of religion. I have had the pleasure of knowing Robert for nearly twenty years, first as a young doctoral student publishing a short article in *Religion*, a prestigious journal that he then edited. I had known of his work for years, of course, especially his work on Carl Jung’s engagement with Gnosticism and his seminal contributions to the raging debates over reductionism and social scientific methods back in those days. My work with Robert has also included having him as a contributor to a book I co-edited with Bryan Rennie (*Religion, Terror and Violence*) and being invited by him to contribute an entry on “Violence” for the *Vocabulary for the Study of Religion*. Over the years, I have come to consider Robert a friend and not just a colleague or mentor.

With Robert coming on board as the new editor, we continue to pursue the dynamic and cutting-edge agenda that has typified the *Bulletin* and set it apart as unique from other journals in our field. My hope is that Robert—as both a major theorist in the field and as a senior scholar who has seen many changes in our field—will continue the work we have been doing, yet pushing the journal even further in facilitating debates over theoretical and methodological challenges in the study of religion, rattling the cages of the profession as a reflexive mirror, and giving a broader range of critical analysis than what often passes for “theory” in the field, especially here in North America. With the first issue of 2019, Robert will join me as co-editor and we will work together for the next year in order to effectively transition the journal into his able editorial hands. My motivation in wanting to step down from the editorship is that I’m at a point in my own career where I need to focus on other things, especially dedicating my time to my own research (especially on ancient religions and...
cultures). I’ve been editing the Bulletin for over seven years, my tenure being one of the longest if not longest stints as editor of the Bulletin. I’ve tried to build something that creates spaces for discussion, debate, and reflection for a range of scholarly voices in theoretical and methodological research on religious data (including “religion” as data). The past seven or eight years have been exciting for me, allowing me to meet brilliant scholars, see emerging research trends, and to have my own perspective on the study of religion challenged and mature. When Craig Martin invited me to join him as co-editor in the spring of 2011, I was given a chance to jump back into one of my great passions: theorizing the field of religious studies. Joining the Bulletin’s editorial staff also gave me a much-needed community during some of the most difficult years in my life, both personally and professionally. I am appreciative to Craig for his friendship and especially for his ability to look beyond the neoliberal pressures that have shattered so many careers in our field. I’m not sure I would have remained in academia if not for his kind invitation especially when other senior scholars look at those of us building careers via contractual appointments as nothing more than “hobbyists” (one scholar’s description of my professional status) and as I faced a major personal loss in my life. Editing the Bulletin has been a joy and the people I have worked with have been wonderful colleagues.

As we move into 2019, I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with Robert as my new co-editor. He will bring fresh ideas and new directions to the journal, along with years of experience and insight into the profession. I’m looking forward to our collaboration in the upcoming year.

Philip L. Tite
Editor