

Guidelines for Contributors

Please follow these guidelines when you first submit your article for consideration by the editors and when you prepare the final version of your article following acceptance for publication.

General Points

The *International Journal for the Study of New Religions* considers submissions from both established scholars and research students from all over the world. Articles should be written for a general scholarly audience. All articles accepted by the editors are then peer-reviewed. *International Journal for the Study of New Religions* is published biannually in May and November. Each issue includes articles and a number of book reviews. The journal is published simultaneously in print and online. The language of publication is English, and submissions should be English.

The editor will not consider manuscripts that are under consideration by other publishers. It is assumed that once submitted to IJSNR articles will not be sent to other publishers until a decision about inclusion has been reached. Material must not have been previously published in exactly the same format.

IJSNR is published in cooperation between The International Society for the Study of New Religions (ISSNR) and Equinox. The term 'New Religions' can be defined in several ways. ISSNR and IJSNR has chosen to adopt a broad definition. In the narrow sense, 'New Religions' is a term applied especially to religious phenomena that emerged in the West after the mid-1900s. More widely understood, the term can also include older religious movements or organizations that are 'new' in a specific historical context. The term encompasses organized groups as well as less organized movements or observable trends. Many of these groups and movements are international and can be found in numerous countries. There are also new religious movements that are specific to a particular country or to a particular area of the world. In recent decades, new religions or new religious movements outside of the Western context have attracted attention. Additionally, the concept of New Religions includes less organized phenomena, such as the so-called New Age and alternative spirituality, as well as new expressions within established religions. The journal is interested in representing a wide range of manifestations of religiosity in the modern world and multidisciplinary approaches to the study of religion. It prides itself on being a platform for the publication of empirical and theoretical research, analysis, and discussion that contributes original insights to this emerging field from etic and objective perspectives.

Articles

Articles are to be 5,000–8,000 words in length and should be accompanied by a bibliography and may be accompanied by notes (see below). Submissions must adhere to the house style of presentation, spelling, and referencing, details of which are given below.

Book Reviews

Always check with the Book Review Editor before submitting a review in case the book you are interested in reviewing has already been assigned. Book reviews are to be 400-1,400 words in length, and as much as possible refrain from the use of notes and references.

Review Process

All submissions are evaluated through a double-blind review process, and may include review both by editorial board members and external reviewers. The Editors will make every effort to have all submissions evaluated in a timely manner. You will be able to track the progress of your submission through the system when you log in as an author.

Permissions

You will need to clear copyright for any copyrighted material that you use or quote, including artwork. Please contact journals@equinoxpub.com if you have any questions.

Online submissions

Please submit your article through our website <https://journal.equinoxpub.com/IJSNR/about/submissions> and refer to our submission checklist. You may submit articles or book reviews, but in the case of book reviews please check in advance with the Book Review Editor to ensure that the book you want to review has not already been assigned. If it is not possible for you to submit online, please email journals@equinoxpub.com for assistance.

Once you have begun the online submission process, you will be prompted to supply various types of information (metadata) along with your actual article, including a 150-word abstract (book reviews do not require abstracts) and three to five keywords, a short biographical statement, contact details and appropriate Library of Congress subject classification codes, among other things. This metadata is important because it facilitates the indexing of your article once it is published, leading to more citations and greater readership.

You will be asked to upload your article. Your submission should be in Microsoft Word. If using another word processor, convert the final file into Rich Text Format (RTF). Manuscripts should be formatted using single-spacing and numbered consecutively throughout.

PDFs are not acceptable for submission of articles, but you can upload a PDF through the system as a supplementary file following submission of the Word file if you wish to bring to the attention of the Editors any particular features that will be required at the layout stage or to clarify font usage, and it is advisable to upload a supplementary PDF file if your submission includes characters outside the usual Western character set. There is a separate step in the process for this, or to upload any other supplementary material such as (a) research instruments (b) data sets (c) sources that would otherwise be unavailable to readers or (d) audio/video material. If you intend these to become an official part of the journal, please indicate in a note to the Editors. Some material may be suitable only for the electronic version of the journal.

Ensuring a Blind Peer Review

All articles are reviewed. To ensure the integrity of the blind peer-review we need to make every effort to preserve the anonymity of authors and reviewers. Therefore, when preparing your article for submission please take the following steps:

- Remove your name entirely from the text. If you cite your own publications, be sure to substitute the word “author” for your own personal details and for the actual title of the work cited.
- With Microsoft Office documents, author identification should also be removed from the properties for the file (see under File in Word), by clicking on the following, beginning with File on the main menu of the Microsoft application: File > Save As > Tools (or Options with a Mac) > Security > Remove personal information from the file properties on save > Save.
- On any PDF uploaded, remove the author names from Document Properties found under File on Adobe.

Journal Style Guidelines

It is essential that the following guidelines are observed. We may ask you to revise your article if it is not supplied in house style.

- Manuscripts should be formatted using single-line spacing, uses a 12-point font; employs italics, rather than underlining (except with URL addresses) and numbered consecutively throughout. Margins of approximately 2.5 cm (top, bottom, left and right) should be used.
- Quotations of more than four lines should normally be indented, without quotation marks.
- Quotations of up to four lines should form part of the text, and should be indicated by single quotation marks. Double quotation marks should be used only for quotations within quotations.
- In general, foreign words and phrases should be italicized, both in main text and footnotes. Greek and Hebrew should be transliterated.
- -ize spellings should be used (recognize, emphasize, organization, etc. BUT analyse, exercise, etc.).
- Contributors from North America may use North American spelling and punctuation.
- Headings: Please mark-up heading levels 1.1, 1.2, 1.2.1 etc. These will be removed later, but are helpful to the typesetter to assign heading styles.
- Social Science referencing is the preferred format. Works should be cited in the text by the name/date system: that is, give the author’s surname and year of publication. If the citation refers to a direct quote, page numbers should be specified, e.g. (Jones 1998: 64).
- For dates, please use BCE (before common era) and CE (common era). Note that you need not use ‘CE’ if this is understood in the text.
- Full dates should be given in the order of day, month, year, without punctuation, e.g.

5 March 2003

Sir Laurens Jan van der Post was born in the Orange Free State of South Africa on 13 December 1906 and died shortly after his ninetieth birthday in London.

- Where a gender-inclusive alternative is possible, it is preferred (e.g., ‘humanity’ rather than ‘man’). When personal pronouns are used, alternating genders, using both male and female, or the neutral ‘they/their’ is preferred.

Artwork/Figures/Tables/Alt-text

Please ensure that any artwork submitted follows these guidelines and that all permissions have been cleared if necessary. There are two main kinds of digital artwork used in publications: vector and bitmap. This section provides advice as to when each format is most appropriate and guidance as to what to do and what to avoid when preparing your artwork. We will scale down the artwork, if necessary, to fit the page dimensions. Artwork which is wider than the width of the text column in the printed page will in most cases be scaled to 114mm. This will reduce the size of any text in the artwork and you should take this into account when creating it.

- All figures must be supplied separately from the manuscript, in an appropriate digital format. Each figure will be reproduced exactly as you have created it.
- Artwork can be supplied in colour as the online version will in colour but the print version will be in b/w. **You must ensure any colour artwork will also convert to b/w.** You must ensure that any tints used (e.g. in graphs or bar charts) are sufficiently distinct. Do not use tints below 20% or above 80% and ensure that any tints used differ by at least 20%.
- Do not embed any artwork in the Word files containing the manuscript or supply artwork in Word format. Any such artwork will be lost in the conversion process. Each figure must be supplied as a separate file in PDF, AI (Illustrator), EPS (Encapsulated Postscript), TIFF, or JPEG format. JPEG should be used only for photographs and should be compressed with a ‘High Quality’ setting. Never use JPEG format for figures containing lines and/or text.
- Each artwork file should be named according to its figure number. Where a piece of unnumbered artwork is needed, name the file using roman numerals (e.g. Figure v) and use this number when showing where the figure is to appear in the manuscript (see below).
- All photographs should be supplied at a resolution which will allow reproduction at 300 DPI at the final size.
- Do not use screen shots to create artwork except for illustrations of what a screen looks like (e.g. in research on ‘E-Religion’). The resolution of a screen shot is typically 72 DPI and is too low for normal reproduction in print.
- Where possible avoid bitmap format for figures containing text or lines. Where such a figure must be submitted in bitmap format (e.g. because it has been scanned from another work), it should be supplied at a minimum of 600 DPI in TIFF format.
- Never use drop shadow effects on artwork.

Figures:

- Each figure is supplied as a separate file named after the figure number.
- Figure artwork is supplied in colour or greyscale.
- Artwork files do NOT contain captions or any extraneous text (e.g. page numbers).
- Line artwork is, wherever possible, supplied in vector format.
- Any bitmap formats (e.g. BMP, JPEG, TIFF) are supplied at a minimum of 300 DPI resolution.
- Any artwork created in MS Word or Powerpoint has been converted to PDF, with fonts embedded.
- The place of each figure in the manuscript is shown by a line in the format: [Figure X-Y near here] where X is the chapter number and Y the figure number.
- Figure captions are included in the manuscript after this line.

Tables:

- All tables are left in place in the manuscript and will appear as they are supplied.
- Table captions are inserted before the table.
- Tables do not contain tints in cells.

Alt-text:

Below each figure/artwork caption, please also include a brief alternative description of the image (alt text). This is essential for the accessibility of your published paper. The alt text should be no more than 125 characters in length, and should describe, succinctly, what information is conveyed by the image, if that information is not already provided by the caption. Please do not repeat the caption, or start the alt text with 'Image of'. For example, the following Figure has the caption 'Suwa, a traditional Ethiopian beer essential to social gatherings'. Appropriate alt text could be: 'A plastic cup, filled with a dark-brown liquid, is being held by a person standing outside a house, in a group.' The alt text will be coded into your paper, and is intended to be read out by a screen-reader. It will not be visible on the final proof.

**Citations and Reference Lists**

Every work quoted from or mentioned in the text must be included in the references section. The references section should be located immediately after the body of the article.

Please double-check to be certain that all dates given in parenthetical citations and in the references section are identical.

Bibliographic references should conform to the following order: author surname, author first name, date of publication, title, place of publication, name of publisher, URL/DOI of reference. Please ensure that the bibliographical references are consistent.

Reference and bibliographical lists should always be arranged in alphabetical order by author. Where there are two or more works by the same author in the same year, they should be distinguished as 1997a, 1997b, etc. Works should be listed from earliest to most recent date of publication.

Book examples:

Cobb, Gemma. 2020. *Negotiating Thinness Online: The Cultural Politics of Pro-Anorexia*. Abingdon: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429491795>.

Levine, John, and Michael Hogg. 2010. "Cults." In *Encyclopedia of Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
<https://doi.org/10.4135/9781412972017>

Journal examples:

Dignon, Andrée, Angela Beardsmore, Sean Spain, and Ann Kuan. 2006. "'Why I Won't Eat': Patient Testimony from 15 Anorexics Concerning the Causes of Their Disorder." *Journal of Health Psychology* 11(6): 942–956.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1359105306069097>.

Howells, Richard. 2011. "Heroes, Saints and Celebrities: The Photograph as Holy Relic." *Celebrity Studies* 2(2): 112–130.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19392397.2011.574866>

For more detailed information, please refer to the Chicago Manual of Style.
https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html

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Equinox does not accept text, images, graphics or translations generated by Artificial Intelligence, or by AI-powered tools, as the originality of such content cannot be guaranteed. Authors of Equinox publications must be accountable for their work, and accountability cannot be effectively applied to Artificial Intelligence at this stage. If Artificial Intelligence is the subject of a paper, then examples of AI-generated content must be clearly marked and attributed in the text, and the express permission of the editors secured.

Preprint Manuscripts

Equinox does not accept manuscripts that have already been submitted to preprint repositories, such as SSRN. However, an author may deposit their accepted *postprint* manuscript in their Institutional Repository (only), with due acknowledgement to Equinox Publishing and an embargo period of 24 months. Please see <https://www.equinoxpub.com/home/open-access-policy/> for more information.