EDITORIAL NOTE

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Welcome to Volume 4, Issue 2 of the *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion*. This issue marks an editorial change. Ryan McKay has chosen to move on to other more pressing matters and other research fields. It has been an honour and pleasure working with Ryan for the past seven years. His conscientious editorial work has ensured the excellence of the journal. Ryan was one of the founding editors of this journal, and at the time, he represented the experimental movement in the cognitive science of religion, having published, as he did, groundbreaking experimental work with some of the major founders of the Cognitive Science of Religion (CSR). We are grateful to him for his dedication and continued efforts to promote the CSR and this journal.

Valerie van Mulukom has graciously agreed to step in as fellow editor. She holds a degree in Psychology from the University of Auckland and has worked on memory, imagination, and linguistics in the field of cognitive neuroscience. She has held research positions at the Religion, Cognition and Culture research unit, Aarhus University, and the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology, University of Oxford. She is currently Research Fellow at the Faculty Research Centre for Advances in Behavioural Science, Coventry University. She is well-versed in experimental design and has published on religious beliefs, religious rituals and meditation, memory, and imagination. We warmly welcome Valerie to the team and look forward to our collaboration.

This issue presents two major articles that even though they are both concerned with evolution, never-the-less represent different approaches and methodologies in the CSR. The first, by Leonardo Ambasciano titled “Wines, Brains, and Snakes,” was pre-published on our website. The article combines evolutionary theories in the CSR and evolutionary psychology in an attempt to analyze various themes in the ancient Roman cult of Bona Dea. Thus, it is an example of the burgeoning field of cognitive historiography that promises to make a crucial impact on history, the classics, Biblical studies, classical archaeology, and the history of religions. Leonardo Ambasciano is

managing editor of the *Journal of Cognitive Historiography*. The second article, by Katherine M. O'Lone and Ryan T. McKay, titled "Divine Forgiveness and Human Support for State-Sanctioned Punishment," presents the results of a large-scale analysis of Amazon Mechanical Turk workers in discerning whether beliefs in powerful gods reduce or enhance people's endorsement of state-sanctioned punishment. Thus, the article is experimental, but also is part of the growing use of large data.

The articles are followed by a new discussion section titled "Discussion: Negotiating Marian Apparitions." The section consists of a detailed review of Agnieszka Halemba's book *Negotiating Marian Apparitions* (Budapest: CEU Press, 2015) by Konrad Talmont-Kaminski in which he discusses the possible avenues of cooperation between CSR scholars and anthropologists. Halemba's response takes on Talmont-Kaminski's challenge and discusses the pros and cons of such a collaborative endeavor.

This issue ends with two book reviews dealing with evolutionary theories of religion and the relationship between the CSR and the philosophy of religion.

We hope that you will enjoy this issue!