Editorial Note

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Welcome to the Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion! This issue consists of two sections. The first is a special issue by scholars from Finland, Denmark, and Sweden within the context of the Nordic Network for the Cognitive Science of Religion (NNCSR). This section was guest edited by Ingela Visuri, who is Senior Lecturer at Dalarna University, Sweden. As co-chair of the NNCSR, Dr. Visuri invited papers from speakers and participants and skillfully guided them through the peer review and editorial process. In her guest editorial, she explains the contexts of this special issue and introduces the authors and their articles.

The second section consists of an article by Mary Harmon-Vukić and M. Afzal Upal on counterintuitive concepts. Although not a part of the NNCSR issue, this article fits quite well in the context of the many methodological and theoretical problems addressed by our Nordic colleagues. In their article, Harmon-Vukić and Upal present the results of three experiments on inferential processing and counterintuitive ideas. They specifically address how contextual information influences memory for minimally counterintuitive (MCI) and maximally counterintuitive (MXCI) stories. Intriguingly, they found that in the right inferential contexts, MXCI narratives are more easily remembered than MCI narratives.

I hope that these articles clearly demonstrate and address the continual need for theoretical and methodological reflection and testing in the cognitive science of religion.