



# Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion

## Guidelines for Contributors

Updated January 2025

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

### General Points

The *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion* considers submissions from both established scholars and research students. Articles should be written for a general scholarly audience. All articles are blind reviewed. Each issue consists of 80–136 pages and includes articles, research reports, short reports and commentaries, and book reviews. The journal is published in print and online, and online publication of an article generally precedes print.

The editor will not consider manuscripts that are under consideration by other publishers. It is assumed that once submitted to the *JCSR*, articles will not be sent to other publishers until a decision about inclusion has been reached. Material must not have been previously published. Please contact the Managing Editor/Editor in Chief if you have questions about reprinting published materials.

For further information on publication ethics and malpractice policies, please see <https://journal.equinoxpub.com/JCSR/Ethics>.

The cognitive science of religion is a burgeoning field that finds itself in the centre of cross-disciplinary research. Cognition is understood in a variety of ways from bottom-up to top-down models and theories. New insights into cognition, culture, and religion are being discovered, new ways of doing research are being established, and new methodologies and technologies are being used in the cognitive science of religion. The number of scholars and scientists working in this exciting field are expanding exponentially, and the journal provides a cutting-edge publication channel for this field.

The *JCSR* seeks to publish the widest possible diversity of critical inquiry into the relationship between cognition, culture, and religion. Authors should not assume that readers share their own, specialized disciplinary background. Specialized jargon should be eliminated or explained immediately upon first use.

## Articles

Articles are original, empirical or theoretical research and/or systematic reviews and should be a maximum of 8,000 words in length (not including title, abstract, table and figure captions, or reference list). They must be accompanied by a complete reference list and may be accompanied by footnotes. Please note that shorter research reports can also be submitted. They must follow the article format but should be a maximum of 4,000 words.

## Short Reports

Should be a maximum of 2,500 words. In the interests of increased transparency and of drawing attention to previous study designs that other researchers can improve upon, the *JCSR* encourages authors to submit their “file drawer” manuscripts as short reports of a methodological nature. This includes unpublished findings, null-findings, research designs that did not work out as expected, research projects that were not completed to publication, etc. The reports should describe the studies conducted, and/or online available complete study designs, all relevant limitations, and suggestions for future improvements. Reports should also include a table of summary statistics, supplemented by links to preregistration materials and/or publicly available data. To ensure credibility, the peer review process for these reports will follow *JCSR* protocols but would also include an evaluation of whether all details, limitations, and recommendations are described in the report.

## Statistics

In the event an article includes statistics, it is strongly recommended that statistical analyses are accompanied by effect sizes, 95% confidence intervals, and exact *p*-values. Where relevant/appropriate, power analyses are encouraged, as are explanations regarding data exclusion (e.g., outliers).

## Commentaries and 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. *JCSR* publishes three types of reviews:

- 1) Book Reviews are to be 400–1,400 words in length, and as much as possible, refrain from the use of notes and references;
- 2) Book Review Essays are 1,400–2,000 words in length including notes and references. Such essays can be about several books but can also give reviewers a chance to expand their reviews when dealing with handbooks or large anthologies. Book Review Essays should have titles in which the subtitle is “A Review Essay of...”; and
- 3) Book Panels are invited commentaries by peers concerning a recently published book. Such commentaries can vary in length and can include notes and references. They should have titles, abstracts, and keywords.

## Language of Publication

The language of publication is English. The language of submission should be English.

### Review Process

All articles and reports are evaluated through a double-blind review process and may include review both by editorial board members and external reviewers. The General Editor 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 online system when you log in as an author. The possibility of a rebuttal exists.

### Permissions

You will need to clear copyright for any copyrighted material that you use or quote, including artwork. Please refer to our separate PDF (Permission Guidelines for Authors) which is available on this website.

### Online submissions

Please submit your article through our website here:

<https://journal.equinoxpub.com/JCSR/about/submissions>. If it is impossible for you to submit online, please contact the Editorial office for assistance.

Once you have begun the online submission, 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 (.doc, .docx). If using another word processor, convert the final file into Rich Text Format (RTF). Manuscripts should be formatted using one and a half line spacing.

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 Editor 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.

### Ensuring a Blind Peer Review

All articles are peer reviewed. To ensure the integrity of the blind peer-review for submission to this journal, every effort should be made to prevent the identities of the authors and reviewers from being known to each other. This involves the authors, editors, and reviewers (who upload documents as part of their review) checking to see if the following steps have been taken with regards to the text and the file properties:

1. The authors of the document have deleted their names from the text, with “Author” and year used in the references and footnotes, instead of the authors’ name, article title, etc. All references should be moved to the top of the references list.
2. 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 file properties on save > Save.

3. With PDFs, the authors' names should also be removed from Document Properties found under File on Adobe Acrobat's main menu

### 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.

1. Manuscripts should have 2.5 cm margins (top, bottom, left, and right); one and a half line spacing; Times Roman 12-point font; and pages numbered consecutively throughout. Please use italics rather than underlining for emphases. Please do not use unspaced en dashes. Please refrain from using stylized headings. Endnote or other reference coding must be converted to static text.
2. A list of 5–7 keywords and a short abstract of approximately 150 words must be supplied with your manuscript.
3. Quoted matter, if more than 40 words, should be indented, without quotation marks. Flush left, no indentation after quote.
4. The first paragraph after any new section heading should be left aligned, and any following paragraphs should be indented with a single tab.
5. Quotations of less than 40 words should form part of the text and should be indicated by double quotation marks. Single quotation marks should be used only for quotations within quotations.
6. In general, foreign words and phrases should be italicized, both in main text and footnotes. Ancient languages should be transliterated.
7. -ize spellings should be used (recognize, emphasize, organization, etc.); serial commas (religion, cognition, and culture); punctuation inside quotation marks; and double quotation marks.
8. The resource for spelling is the *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary* (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/>).
9. Headings

Level	Format
1	<b>Centered, Regular Bold, Heading-Style Capitalization</b>
2	<b>Flush Left, Regular Bold, Heading-Style Capitalization</b>
3	<b><i>Flush left, Bold Italic, Heading-Style Capitalization</i></b>
4	<b>Indented, Bold, Heading-Style Capitalization, Ending with a</b>

	<b>Period.</b> Text begins on the same line and continues as a regular paragraph.
5	<b><i>Indented, Bold Italic, Heading-Style Capitalization, Ending with a Period.</i></b> Text begins on the same line and continues as a regular paragraph.

10. 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.
11. Full dates should be given in the order of month, day, and year: October 3, 2023.
12. Where a gender-inclusive alternative is possible, it is preferred (e.g., “humanity” rather than “man”). When personal pronouns are used, alternating genders or using both is preferred.
13. Works should be cited *in the text* using the American Psychological Association citations system (APA 7<sup>th</sup> ed., 2020: <https://apastyle.apa.org/>). The references section should also use the APA citations system. See the concluding section on citations.
14. 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.

### Figures, Tables, and Artwork

Figures should be provided as separate, high-resolution files.

Every Figure must have a brief caption, correspondingly numbered, which will be printed beneath the Figure: do not include the caption on the actual Figure. Cite all illustrations as Figures (not plate, map, plan, illustration, etc.).

Indicate in the text where each Figure (or Table) should appear, by writing on a separate line ‘Insert Figure xx about here’ at the appropriate point. Figures and Tables should be numbered in the order of their first appearance in the text.

Below each Figure 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.



Create all Tables in Word, and provide the necessary captions. As noted above, Figures and Tables should be numbered in the order of their first appearance in the text.

### Citations and Reference Lists

In-text references must be included following a quote or paraphrase. The citations have the following order: author surname and date of publication. With direct quotes, the page number (p.) or number range (pp.) are included. Examples: Emma Cohen states ... (Cohen, 2007a, p. 3). For citing authors with multiple works in parentheses: (Cohen, 2007a, 2007b, 2013, pp. 7–12). For citing up to three authors: (McCauley & Lawson, 2002; Bergstrom, Moehlmann, & Boyer, 2006). For more than three authors: (Farias et al., 2017; Xygalatas et al., 2013).

### REFERENCE LIST EXAMPLES

#### *Publications by Multiple Authors*

The rule for multiauthor works in the reference list is that from 3-20 authors, all of the names are listed. For more than 20 authors, include the names of the first 19 and the last name separated by an ellipsis (...) to show that some authors have been omitted (do not use an ampersand &: e.g., author 19, ... last author).

#### *Publications by Same Author*

Taves, A. (2006). Where (fragmented) selves meet cultures: Theorizing spirit possession.

*Culture and Religion*, 7(2), 123–138. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14755610600975860>

———. (2015a). “Magical thinking” and the emergence of new social movements: Cognitive aspects of Reformation era debates over ritual efficacy. *Journal of Cognitive Historiography*, 1(2), 146–170. <https://doi.org/10.1558/jch.v1i2.17275>

———. (2015b). Reverse engineering complex cultural concepts: Identifying building blocks of “religion”. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 15, 191–216.

<https://psycnet.apa.org/doi/10.1163/15685373-12342146>

Taves, A., & Bender, C. (Eds.). (2012). *What matters: Ethnographies of value in the (not so) secular age*. New York: Columbia University Press.

#### *Book*

Author surname, Initial(s). (Year). *Title* (ed.). Publisher city: Publisher.

McCauley, R. N., & Lawson, E. T. (2002). *Bringing ritual to mind: Psychological foundations of cultural forms*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

*Edited book*

Author surname, initial(s). (Ed(s)). (Year). *Title* (ed.). Publisher city: Publisher.

Slone, D. J., & McCorkle, W. W., Jr. (Eds.). (2019). *The cognitive science of religion: A methodological introduction to key empirical studies*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

*Chapter in edited book*

Last name of the chapter author, initial(s). (Year). Chapter title. In editor initial(s), surname (Ed.), *Title* (pp. chapter page range).

Richert, R., Whitehouse, H., & Stewart, E. (2005). Memory and analogical thinking in high-arousal rituals. In H. Whitehouse, & R. N. McCauley (Eds.), *Mind and religion: Psychological and cognitive foundations of religiosity* (pp. 127–145). Tuscon: AltaMira Press.

*E-book*

Author surname, initial(s) (Ed(s)). (Year). *Title* (ed.). URL

Mitchell, J. A., Thomson, M., & Coyne, R. P. (2017). *A guide to citation*.

<https://www.mendeley.com/reference-management/reference-manager>

*Journal article*

Author surname, initial (s). (Year). Article title. *Journal Title*, *Volume*, *Number*(issue or part number, optional), page numbers. Full DOI (if available)

Xygalatas, D., Schjoedt, U., Bulbulia, J., Konvalinka, I., Jegindø, E.-M., Reddish, P., Geertz, A. W., & Roepstorff, A. (2013). Autobiographical memory in a fire-walking ritual. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, *13*(1), 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15685373-12342081>

*Encyclopedia or Dictionary article*

Author surname, initial(s). (Year). Article title. In editor initial(s), surname (Ed.).

*Encyclopedia or Dictionary title* (edition, Vol. number, pp. chapter page range). Publisher city: Publisher.

Geertz, A. W. (2015). Religious belief, Evolution of. In J. D. Wright (Ed.). *International encyclopedia of the social & behavioral sciences* (2nd ed. Vol. 20, 384–395). Oxford: Elsevier.

For articles with unnamed author: Title of article. (Year). In editor initial(s), surname (Ed.).

*Encyclopedia or Dictionary title* (edition, Vol. number, pp. chapter page range). Publisher city: Publisher.

Cognition. (1996). In *Webster's encyclopedic unabridged dictionary of the English language* (rev. ed., p. 287). New York: Gramercy Books.

*Newspaper article*

Author surname, initial(s). (Year, Month Day). Title. *Title of Newspaper*, column/section, p. or pp. URL (Only added if the article was retrieved online.)

Luhrmann, T. M. (2014, December 24). Religion without God. *The New York Times*, Opinion/Section A, p. 27. <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/25/opinion/religion-without-god.html>

*Magazine article*

Author surname, initial(s). (Year, month day). Title. *Title of the Magazine*, pp. URL (Only added if the article was retrieved online.)

Purzycki, B. G., & Watts, J. (2018, April-May). Reinvigorating the comparative, cooperative ethnographic sciences of religion. *Free Inquiry*, pp. 26–29.

*Audiovisual media and online media*

For details on referencing audiovisual and online media please consult the APA website (<https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/examples>).

### AI-Generated Content

Equinox does not accept text, images, graphics or translations generated directly by Artificial Intelligence, 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. It is acceptable to use the assistance of AI-powered tools in proof-reading, formatting, the visualisation of data, and in any other way that does not call into question the author's sole ownership of the content of the work. If Artificial Intelligence is the subject of an article, then examples of AI-generated content must be clearly marked and attributed in the text, and the express permission of Equinox secured.

### Preprint Manuscripts

The *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion* accepts manuscripts that have already been submitted to preprint repositories, such as SSRN. Once a paper has been published by JCSR, the author should update their preprint with the article DOI. A note should also be added to make it clear that the preprint is the original, unreviewed and unedited version of the officially published article.

An author may also 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.

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