
Editorial

In this final issue of our second volume, the editors are pleased to present four articles, a review essay, and several book reviews, all of which attest to the great diversity and quality of scholarship now emerging from the growing field of the study of religion, nature, and culture.

In the first article, Kocku von Stuckrad, a keynote speaker at the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, and the Society's President-Elect, examines how deeply entrenched esoteric and religious influences have shaped contemporary scientific discourse. While the biological sciences are gaining normative power in Western society, he argues, many of their basic semantic foundations are rooted in ideas with long philosophical histories. Stuckrad challenges us to examine the philosophical foundations of biological science. After this, Joy Greenberg explores mythopoetical elements and pastoral themes found within the writings of Theocritus, Virgil, and Thoreau, Oliver Smith examines the ecotheological perspective of Russian philosopher and mystic Vladimir Solov'ev, and Curtis Coats analyzes spiritual tourism in Sedona, Arizona.

Along with the above articles, this issue includes a review essay by Matt Gers and a review forum on Lee Silver's *Challenging Nature*. In his essay, Gers surveys works by Daniel Dennett and Richard Dawkins, arguing that the mimetics of each author has so far failed to achieve its full explanatory potential. He concludes that more work on the evolutionary basis of cultural change is needed. In the review forum, Evelyne Shuster and Susan Blackmore critically examine Lee Silver's arguments regarding the evolution of religious morality and its implications for contemporary society and science. Silver then responds.

Completing the issue are book reviews by Norman Wirzba, Albertina Nugteren, Susan Power Bratton, and Matthew Tennant. From environmental aesthetics, to Hindu perceptions of pollution in the Yamuna River, to biblical accounts of animals and ecotheology, these reviews further demonstrate the rich scholarship emerging from interdisciplinary inquiry. Finally, following the tradition established in the first volume, we include the names of those scholars who have served as peer review-

ers during our last publication year in recognition of their contributions. As we look forward to our third volume, we are pleased to note that the many excellent contributions to this volume speak to the growing interest in exploring, from multiple perspectives, the religion, nature, culture nexus.

Joseph Witt
Managing Editor