

**The Journal of Interreligious Studies**

*A Collaboration Between Hebrew College and Boston University School of Theology*

**Issue 20**

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### ***From the Editor-in-Chief***

As the new editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Interreligious Studies*, I am excited to see this issue published, the 20<sup>th</sup> since the founding of the journal in 2009 but the first since many recent transitions. Indeed, on account of the latest changes and future plans, the *JIRS* is poised to remain the leading publication in the field of interreligious studies and dialogue, featuring articles that increase religious literacy, contribute to the field of interreligious hermeneutics, and address issues surrounding interreligious relations, dialogue, theology, and communication.

Firstly, Boston University School of Theology and Hebrew College—two leading institutions training both scholars and religious leaders—have joined together to co-publish the journal moving forward. This partnership means the *JIRS* will continue to have institutional sponsorship, permitting it to remain a premiere resource for innovative ideas, methodologies, and pedagogies pertaining to interreligious work, thereby ensuring that best practices are shared and replicated as widely as possible through the journal's website (which will be undergoing extensive re-construction over the course of the next year).

Secondly, under this new leadership, I was happy to be brought on as the new editor-in-chief. In close partnership with Boston University, Hebrew College, and other institutions and organizations, I foresee the *JIRS* continuing to grow by publishing quality articles in the field of interreligious studies. While I plan on maintaining a robust rolling submissions process, there will also be noteworthy special issues drawing from various colloquia, fellowships, and working groups. I also intend to work closely with scholars from various fields to publish annually at least one guest-edited issue.

In this issue, I am pleased to see four articles that are versions of presentations delivered in the Interreligious and Interfaith Studies unit of the 2015 conference of the American Academy of Religion. The authors of these articles include Russell Arnold, Rachel Heath, Christopher Denny, and Jeanine Hill Fletcher; among the topics discussed are classroom pedagogy, the intersection of feminist thought and multiple religious belonging in multifaith, university chaplaincies, a novel application of *Nostra Aetate*, and the ways in which inter-ritual practices inform theory and theology.

This issue also includes three articles from our rolling submissions process, one by Pablito Baybado, another by Nancy Klancher, and another by Melanie Barbato. The first is an exploration of the impact the history of colonization has on interreligious dialogue in the Philippines; it suggests that history cannot be forgotten or ignored, but needs to be engaged and addressed if interreligious relations are to flourish positively. The second is a substantial and constructive contribution to the ways in which interfaith leaders are to be formed for successful leadership in the public sphere. The third proffers insights into pain and pain management from a Hindu-Christian interreligious discussion. These three articles are representative of the journal's focus on both theory and practice.

The issue would not have come together without the editorial excellence of Silvia Glick, the new Assistant Editor here at the journal. I am grateful to have her on the team. Finally, on behalf of Silvia, the publishers, members of the board, reviewers, and myself, I would like to thank all of our readers for their continued support and interest in the *JIRS*. We continue to grow and we look ahead to even more success.

With best wishes,  
Axel M. Oaks Takács, Editor-in-Chief