

**The Journal of Interreligious Studies**

*Published by Hebrew College, Boston University School of Theology, & Hartford International University for Religion and Peace*

**Issue 42 – 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Engaging Particularities Conference (Boston College Theology Department)  
July 2024**

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***We remain grateful to Dr. Stephanie Varnon-Hughes and Rabbi Joshua M. Z. Stanton for their vision and commitment to interreligious engagement by founding the Journal under its original title, the Journal of Interreligious Dialogue, in 2009.***

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## From the Editor-in-Chief



**Axel Marc Oaks Takacs**

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Issue 42 is a special issue dedicated to the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Engaging Particularities Conference hosted by the Boston College Theology Department. The issue is guest edited by Yujia (Sam) Zhai, one of the organizers of the conference that gathered in April 2022.

As usual, the editorial team, publishers, and staff at the *Journal of Interreligious Studies* are pleased to continue our partnership with the “longest-running, student-run conference dedicated to theology/religious studies in the Northeastern sector of the United States.”<sup>1</sup> Indeed, the conference has gathered nearly uninterrupted for twenty years and this issue marks the fourth publication of a number of select presentations that were transformed into peer-reviewed articles. The *JIRS* has another special issue in the works for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (2023). Finally, the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Engaging Particularities Conference is gathering this September (2024); another special issue will likely follow.<sup>2</sup>

Yujia (Sam) Zhai offers an introduction to the four articles in the pages that follow. These articles are followed by four book reviews:

- *Within Judaism? Interpretive Trajectories in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam from the First to the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Karin Hedner Zetterholm and Anders Runesson (reviewed by Steven Leonard Jacobs)
- *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Comparative Theology: A Festschrift in Honor of Francis X. Clooney, SJ*, edited by Axel M. Oaks Takacs and Joseph L. Kimmel (reviewed by Thomas Cattoi)
- *Trauma Talks in the Hebrew Bible: Speech Act Theory and Trauma Hermeneutics*, by Alexiana Fry (reviewed by Mariah T. Cushing)

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about the conference, visit [www.engagingparticularities.com/about-us](http://www.engagingparticularities.com/about-us).

<sup>2</sup> To learn more about the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Engaging Particularities Conference, see [www.engagingparticularities.com](http://www.engagingparticularities.com).

- *Atheists Finding God: Unlikely Stories of Conversions to Christianity in the Contemporary West*, by Jana S. Harmon (reviewed by Linda Mercadante).

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the *Journal of Interreligious Studies*. We look forward to publishing two more issues before the end of 2024.

Axel M. Oaks Takacs, Th.D.  
Editor-in-Chief  
*Journal of Interreligious Studies*

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