

The Journal of Interreligious Studies

A Collaboration Between Hebrew College and Boston University School of Theology

Issue 26

March 2019

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Interreligious/Interfaith Studies: Defining a New Field Edited by Eboo Patel, Jennifer Howe Peace, and
Noah J. Silverman

Reviewed by Kate Yanina DeConinck

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From the Managing Editor

In the midst of special issues and collaborative projects with conferences and colloquia, the *Journal of Interreligious Studies* continues to receive rolling submissions, and among them were the four articles published in this present issue.

In the first article, “Teaching Torah and Testament: On the Pedagogy of Sacred Texts in the Liberal Arts Curriculum,” co-authors Michael Dobkowski and Richard Salter share their experiences of co-teaching a course entitled “Torah and Testament” at a small, nondenominational and secular liberal arts institution. One a specialist in Judaism and the other in Christianity, they share their constructive, pedagogical insights into weaving difference and dialogue into the fabric of the course curriculum.

In “The Catholic Church and the Non-Christian World: Teaching *Lumen Gentium* §16 and *Nostra Aetate*,” Edward T. Ulrich, teaching at a small, Catholic liberal arts institution, offers his own strategies for examining in the classroom two seminal Vatican II texts regarding the Catholic Church’s conciliar theology of religions. While these texts are now nearly fifty-five years old, he notes that students lacking the historical and theological background precipitously assume that these documents are either capitulations to modernity (for conservatives) or disingenuous departures from the Church’s pre-Vatican II position (for liberals).

Paul D. Numrich, in “How Important Is Religion in Interreligious Relationships? Interreligious Space-Sharing as a Case Study,” explores both religious and nonreligious factors in cultivating interreligious relationships. Through his field research at two space-sharing arrangements, Genesis of Ann Arbor (Michigan) and the interfaith centers in Columbia, Maryland, he offers insight into how nonreligious factors impact interreligious relationships. Religious community leaders who endeavor to foster interreligious partnerships will undoubtedly find this article helpful.

Finally, Deena Grant, in “How to Love God: Deuteronomy, Early Rabbinic Literature, and Gospel Texts,” gives this issue a theological and hermeneutical turn. She engages early rabbinic and early Christian interpretations of Deuteronomy 6:5, through Midrash and Mishnah of the first few centuries CE, and through the Gospel texts. In her article, she explains how these sources conceptualized the relationship between God’s love for humanity and humanity’s love for God.

Closing this issue are six book reviews:

- Katie Mahowski Mylroie reviews Francis X. Clooney’s *Learning Interreligiously: In the Text, In the World*.
- Philip J. Halikias reviews Christine Mangala Frost’s *The Human Icon: A Comparative Study of Hindu and Orthodox Christian Beliefs*.
- Yoknyam Dabale reviews Agbonkhanmeghe E. Orobator’s *Religion and Faith in Africa: Confessions of an Animist*.

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- Kate Yanina DeConinck reviews *Interreligious/Interfaith Studies: Defining a New Field*, edited by Eboo Patel, Jennifer Howe Peace, and Noah J. Silverman.

This issue could not have come together without the expertise and attention to detail of our Associate Managing Editor, Silvia Glick. In addition, our current Research Fellow, Hyunwoo Koo, assisted tremendously in bringing this issue to publication.

Thank you for your continued interest in the *Journal of Interreligious Studies*.

Axel M. Oaks Takacs
Managing Editor