

The Journal of Interreligious Studies

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**Issue 30
August 2020**

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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.

The views, opinions, and positions expressed in all articles published by the *Journal of Interreligious Studies (JIRS)* are the authors' own and do not reflect or represent those of the *JIRS* staff, the *JIRS* Board of Advisors, the *JIRS* Board of Reviewers, Boston University, Hebrew College, or Hartford Seminary.

From the Editor-in-Chief

I am pleased to witness the publication of Issue 30, which is a special issue in collaboration with the Russell Berrie Fellowship program in Interreligious Studies at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, Italy. The articles herein were originally presented at an international conference celebrating the tenth anniversary of the fellowship at the John Paul II Center for Interreligious Dialogue.

The editorial and publishing team worked closely with Adam Afterman, who is the co-director of the John Paul II Center for Interreligious Dialogue and Chair of the Department of Jewish Philosophy and Talmud at Tel Aviv University, and Taras Dzyubansky, who teaches at Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine, and is the coordinator of the international group of alumni of the John Paul II Center for Interreligious Dialogue. Together they offer an overview of the program and the articles in the Introduction that follows.

Closing this issue are six book reviews:

- Celene Ibrahim reviews *Critical Religious Pluralism in Higher Education: A Social Justice Framework to Support Religious Diversity*, by Jenny L. Small (2020).
- James Shelton Nalley reviews *Muhammad Reconsidered: A Christian Perspective on Islamic Prophecy*, by Anna Bonta Moreland (2020).
- Ryan Ramsey reviews *Heathen, Hindoo, Hindu: American Representation of India, 1721-1893*, by Michael J. Altman (2017).
- David Grafton reviews *A History of Christian-Muslim Relations*, 2nd ed., by Hugh Goddard (2020).
- Gad Isay reviews *Chinese Biblical Anthropology: Persons and Ideas in the Old Testament and in Modern Chinese Literature*, by Cao Jian. Eugene (2019).
- Chava Bahle reviews *Rabbi on the Ganges: A Jewish-Hindu Encounter*, by Alan Brill (2020).

The *JIRS* has seen a number of noteworthy changes in the past year. Dr. Joel Lohr, President of Hartford Seminary and Professor of Bible and Interreligious Dialogue, joined the *JIRS* publishing team and Board of Advisors. Lucinda Mosher, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Studies at Hartford Seminary, joined the *JIRS* editorial team as Senior Editor with responsibilities including Book Review Editor, Copyeditor, and Editorial Advisor for special issues and print projects.

The publishing and editorial teams are in the midst of editing a volume of essays commemorating the tenth anniversary of the *Journal of Interreligious Studies*. This edited volume is entitled *Deep Understanding in Divisive Times* and is scheduled for print publication before the end of November in time for the virtual AAR/SBL conference. Eboo Patel is writing the Foreword and Diana Eck is offering the Afterword. Between these two pieces will be a series of essays penned by more than 30 scholars, activists, educators, experts, and organizers from the fields of interreligious studies, dialogue, and theology. A virtual event celebrating this milestone will be announced through our various collaborating institutions (Boston University School of Theology, Hebrew College, and Hartford Seminary) and the *JIRS* website. Please, stay tuned!

Additionally, Seton Hall University's Institute for Communication and Religion is partnering with the *JIRS* to produce a podcast series tentatively entitled *Inter/Sections*. Episodes will feature discussions with scholars, activists, and educators in the field of interreligious studies, dialogue, and theology. The premiere episode will present a conversation with the founders of the *JIRS*, Stephanie Varnon-Hughes and Joshua Stanton, and Or Rose, current member of the publishing team. Details will follow, and so please, once again stay tuned!

Finally, I am delighted to announce our most recent CFP: "Interreligious Perspectives on Contemporary US Politics: (Inter)Religion in Social Movements, Political Organizing, and the Ballot Box." Please, navigate to our website (irstudies.org) for details.

I would like to thank Catherine Osborne and Lucinda Mosher for their unparalleled copyediting skills in producing this issue. I remain grateful to Dr. Osborne, who completed her time with us as copyeditor to move on to other amazing projects, and to Dr. Mosher, who takes her place as current copyeditor in her role as Senior Editor. Hyunwoo Koo has completed his tenure as Research Fellow for the *JIRS*; he did a phenomenal job during his time with the *JIRS* and I am sure he will do fantastic work as he continues his academic career. The editorial and publishing team welcomes Taylor Thomas, a Ph.D. candidate at Boston University School of Theology, and Server Koray Er, a Ph.D. candidate at Hartford Seminary, as our new Research Fellows.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the *Journal of Interreligious Studies*. Enjoy this issue!

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