

The Journal of Interreligious Studies

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**Issue 39: Beyond Resistance: Building, Making, and Creating Sanctuary
May 2023**

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From the Editor-in-Chief

Issue 39 is a special issue guest edited by Preeta Banerjee, Sheron Fraser-Burgess, and Anya Phillips Thomas on the topics of sanctuary and spiritual caregiving and in conversation with the thought of Bayo Akomolafe. These articles respond to what the co-editors term “the democratization of suffering,” a flexible phrase used to describe the deep and complicated crises of the Anthropocene: environmental destruction, the neoliberal, corporate state, the absolute value of capital over human dignity, axiologies that view humanity not as sacred but as things that provide financial profit or loss, and the many marginalizing ideologies and structures of kyriarchy that, for so many, render life precarious at best and oppressive at worst.

Amidst “the democratization of suffering,” is there a place for sanctuary? A safe, affirming space in which we can flourish? The articles in this special issue reflect on this question in unique ways. The co-editors introduce the issue and so there is no need to dwell on the topic further. After their introduction, five articles within the special issue follow. The sixth article comes from our rolling submissions. The issue closes with one book review.

Gratitude

This issue would not have come together without the exceptional work of Lucinda Mosher (Senior Editor) and Joshua Neuberger (Research Fellow).

To scholars and our other readers, thank you for your continued support and interest in the *Journal of Interreligious Studies*. We have more issues lined up for 2023-2024. For now, I am sure you will learn and grow from this one.

Axel M. Oaks Takacs, Th.D.
Editor-in-Chief
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