

Notes for Contributors

The *Marburg Journal of Religion* was founded by Michael Pye in 1996 as the first online journal in the academic study of religions. The journal was based on the principle of open-access publishing from its inception. It offers a scholarly forum for international research in the historical and empirical study of religions and on questions of theory, method, and the history of scholarship in the discipline. There are no restrictions on the particular historical or contemporary fields which may be considered. Contributions are refereed and have to substantially advance their chosen field. The journal aims to facilitate international exchange in order to further the development of new perspectives on the primary data, comparative research, and theoretical innovation. While contributions may focus on any period of the history of religions, they should be written to be intelligible to a broader audience in the discipline of comparative religion (in the sense of *Religionswissenschaft*), and should situate their material in broader academic discourses in the field. The journal does not publish contributions to theological discussions within the frame of reference of any one religion, nor does it promote any particular religion.

The journal publishes both research articles and book reviews. Manuscripts are submitted via the online submission portal <https://archiv.ub.uni-marburg.de/ep/0004/about/submissions>. No articles may be submitted for publication in MJR that have already been published or are under review elsewhere. By submitting an article or review for MJR, the authors agree that they will not submit this article or review for publication in another venue until MJR has made a decision about accepting the article or review.

Bibliographical references

Bibliographical references should follow the author-date style as defined by the Chicago Manual of Style and be listed accordingly at the end. For a summary of the Chicago Manual of Style definition of the author-date style see https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html, and for a more detailed version see <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/book/ed17/part3/ch15/toc.html>. It is the responsibility of the authors to ensure that their submission is correctly formatted previous to submission; submissions whose references are not formatted in accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style will be rejected automatically.

Structure of articles

The article should be preceded by an abstract in English of no more than 250 words in length, a list of keywords, and the name and affiliation of the author(s).

The hierarchy of headings should be made clear by using a numbering system (1. ...; 1.1.; 1.1.1.; etc.).

Language

It is the responsibility of authors to ensure that the language of their submission is grammatically correct and stylistically adequate for an academic venue. Non-native speakers of English are kindly requested to have their contribution checked by a native speaker. This language-check does not have to be done pre-submission, but can be done after an article has been accepted for publication.

Technical requirements

Contributions should be written using a current text processing software and submitted in either .docx or .rtf format using the font Gentium Plus (available for free download at <https://software.sil.org/gentium/>), 12 pt. size, 1.0 line spacing, page format A4, with page numbers on the bottom right-hand corner. Word division by syllables at the ends of lines should not be used, as it causes major problems in the production process.

Illustrations

Illustrations should be embedded in the text file at the correct place as well as sent as separate high-resolution image files (.TIFF or .JPG). A caption that includes a copyright notice is placed directly below every illustration. Authors have to ensure that they have permission to use any illustrations they want to include and are solely liable to cover any costs arising from them.

Quotations

Quotations are set in single quotation marks, in the English style; quotations within quotations are set in double quotation marks. Quotations more than two lines in length are presented as indented block quotations. Indentation should be 0.7 cm.

Notes

Endnotes are not used. Footnotes can be used, but should be used sparingly if the subject matter allows so.

Books for review

The journal publishes reviews of academic books on theory, method, and history in the field of the study of religions. Book reviews should be submitted through the same online portal as research articles. Books for review should be sent to:

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The journal does not guarantee that a book sent to the journal will also be reviewed. Books sent for review cannot be returned. By sending books to the journal, the sender agrees that books for which a reviewer is not found are donated to the library of the Institut für Sozialanthropologie und Religionswissenschaft.

Review Process

Research articles for publication in the journal are peer reviewed, that is, they are anonymously and critically considered by academics with appropriate expertise. Editorial suggestions may then be made relating to content, style, and language. Responsibility for the final text remains with the author. The final decision about publication rests with the editorial team, i.e. the Editor in consultation with the Co-Editors. The peer review policy did not apply to a small number of early articles, and it does not apply to editorials or reviews. A decision on the publication of book reviews is made by the editor and the editorial board.

Authors are requested to suggest three possible academic reviewers for their submission, who must be acknowledged specialists in the pertinent field of research.

Open Access Policy

The journal provides immediate Open Access to its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge.

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The Origins and Development of *Marburg Journal of Religion*

Marburg Journal of Religion was founded in 1996 as the first journal for the study of religions published entirely, and only, in digital form. It was conceived by its founding editor, Michael Pye, and technical assistance at the time was given by Richard Boehme, a student assistant in Marburg. In later years such assistance was provided by Doreen Wohlraab, who had also studied in Marburg. Editorial support was initially broadened by Peter Antes (Hannover) and Andreas Grünshloß (Göttingen), both professors of *Religionswissenschaft* at their respective universities. Step by step, an editorial advisory group was established and occasionally modified. Michael Pye retired as general editor in 2020. The editorship, led by Professor Edith Franke (Professor of *Religionswissenschaft*), remained in Marburg, as did the site of publication. The team has recently been strengthened by the addition of a Managing Editor, Matthias Egeler (München).

Academically, the concept of the journal was that it should be devoted centrally to the study of religions (*Religionswissenschaft*) in any cultural areas. Around this core discipline, with its various contributory strands, some flexibility has been permitted to allow for more widely ranging debate and interaction. On the other hand, religious or theological statements and arguments as such lay outside the envisioned scope. From the beginning, full account was taken of the advantages of an open-source journal which exists only in cyberspace and is not commercially driven. These advantages were above all as follows: no need to maintain a subscriber list for income, no printing or dispatch deadlines, no limitations of language, no obligatory prescription for the size of an issue. In these ways many of the constraints for commercial print publishing were avoided. On the other hand,

the characteristics of a “journal” have been maintained insofar as the typical genres published are *articles* and *reviews*, and except in unusual instances the articles are peer-reviewed. A particular situation gave rise to the concept of “responses from the religions” which permit representatives of a religion to comment non-academically on descriptions or analyses that do not accord with their self-understanding. These are published at the discretion of the editors.

It should be recognized that the publication of *Marburg Journal of Religion* as an open-source, non-profit journal has been made possible throughout by publicly funded academic work and technical support in the university context. Thanks are due to all who have helped to make it a success throughout its first quarter of a century.

(Overview by Michael Pye 2021)