



Religion and Medicine: Expanding Understandings of Human Flourishing

Guest Editors:

Dr. Anne Vallely

Classics and Religious Studies,
Faculty of Arts, University of
Ottawa, 75 Laurier Ave E, Ottawa,
ON K1N 6N5, Canada

Prof. Dr. Monnica T. Williams

Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON
K1N 6N5, Canada

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Message from the Guest Editors

The understanding of religion and medicine as fundamentally incompatible, if not antagonistic, domains of exploration and of human experience has been, until recently, widely shared. Today, however, this view is being challenged from diverse quarters. Medicine's relative powerlessness to cure chronic illnesses and its lack of a coherent language with which to conceptualize and cope with human suffering has undermined confidence in its purely materialist frame. In addition, its narrow conceptualization of health as the absence of disease is giving way to a more holistic understanding, inclusive of such markers as positive connections with others, with nature, with space, to purpose, and to meaning.

We seek submissions from those whose work contributes to understanding “medicine” in its broadest terms, inclusive of physical, mental, communal, and ecological well-being, and which recognizes healing as inescapably a total experience—at once physiological, psychological, and spiritual/existential. The scope of this Special Issue will, as a necessity, be broad and seek to include diverse understandings of human flourishing, both historically and contemporarily.





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Editors-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Arndt Büssing

Professorship Quality of Life,
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of Health, Witten/Herdecke
University, Gerhard-Kienle-Weg 4,
58313 Herdecke, Germany

Prof. Dr. Klaus Baumann

Caritaswissenschaft und
Christliche Sozialarbeit,
Theologische Fakultät, Albert-
Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg,
Platz der Universität 3, D-79098
Freiburg, Germany

Message from the Editorial Board

Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community - disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

Religions is inviting innovative and comparative contributions. Please consider Religions as an exceptional, exciting enterprise ready to reward your trust, attention, and participation.

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Religions Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
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