



Interreligious Dialogue: Theology and Practice

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Message from the Guest Editor

In my 35-year-long experience in the field of interfaith dialogue, I have encountered outstanding scholars from different parts of the world, who, on one side, specialized in different religions, at times even focused on a very specific aspect of one tradition. Yet, on the other, some of them had very little knowledge and acquaintance with the daily life, the ethos and practice of the people following that specific tradition. In the same way, many of the people I met in this context were simply practitioners of dialogue. The result is that, often, those who confined their interest to academics risked limiting themselves to hermeneutical issues. On the contrary, confining one's commitment only to experience and practice of dialogue—means to deprive the academic world of material, stories and narratives.

Almost 60 years after the Vatican Council, which marked, for the Catholic Church, a way of no return on interreligious dialogue, it may be enriching to pause and reflect on these two dimensions of the dialogical effort: life experience and intellectual reflection. That is why I am grateful to colleagues who wish to contribute to this Special Issue of *Religions*.





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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.

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