



Political Violence, Religion and the Secular

Guest Editor:

Dr. Stacey Gutkowski

Department of War Studies,
King's College London, London
WC2R 2LS, UK

Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (31 October 2023)

Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The Special Issue invites us to use the concept of violence to rethink the terms of the secular. Preliminary questions include, but are not limited to:

- How do different religious traditions conceive violence? In which traditions and case studies are questions about the secular relevant or irrelevant?
- What are the strengths and limitations of using the idea of “the secular” as a conceptual framework for understanding and analyzing what happens in instances of violence, particularly political violence?
- How might we conceptualize, problematize and interrogate empirically such matters in case studies that elude any religious–secular binary, outside and also within the West?
- How do different forms of violence in the public and private sphere shape what questions are possible to ask about “the secular”?
- Of what importance is the significance of the strength of religious tradition within a particular society and the ways in which such strength intersects with various forms of power, including political, economic, social, spiritual, and military?





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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.

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Religions Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
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