



## Religion, Ritual, and Political Leader Cults

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### Message from the Guest Editor

This special issue of *Religions* on Religion, Ritual, and Political Leader Cults addresses the question of the relationship between religious phenomena and political leader cults. This issue aims both to re-focus scholarly attention on cult practices (including rituals and other forms of “cult communication”) and cult reception (including counter-rituals) rather than cult artifacts or top-down cult production, as well as to broaden the geographical focus of the study of leader cults. We thus welcome both theoretical studies and case studies of leader cults from a wide variety of regions, on topics including the emergence of practices of “leader worship”; the boundaries between cult and non-cult phenomena, and the usefulness of religious concepts to understand practices of leader worship; the distinction between practices of worship or charismatic construction from other forms of political followership and admiration; political leader cult reception and “cult communication” at the grassroots level; and any other topic reflecting on the use of religious concepts in the study of leader cults.





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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.

*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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