

# Religion And Culture Contemporary Practices And Perspectives

**Americans would be shocked to understand just how their religious beliefs have been used against them in the political elites' efforts to engineer society and public policy. In this historical overview of key moments in American religious history, Gadsby demonstrates that what we are commonly-taught in our education systems, mass-media and the political world about religions' role in**

any number of events, is anything but. In the spirit of *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, *Religious Delusions, American Style* discusses eight areas in American history ranging from turn-of-the-nineteenth-century eugenics and the Scopes "Monkey" Trial, to the mind-control program known as Jonestown, to the implausible two-planes-three-buildings-straight-down operation called 9/11, we have been deceived in a big way about what has been done in the name of religion. This introductory text provides students with a 'toolbox' of approaches for analyzing

**religion and popular culture. It encourages readers to think critically about the ways in which popular cultural practices and products, especially those considered as forms of entertainment, are laden with religious ideas, themes, and values. The chapters feature lively and contemporary case study material and outline relevant theory and methods for analysis. Among the areas covered are religion and food, violence, music, television and videogames. Each entry is followed by a helpful summary, glossary,**

**bibliography, discussion  
questions and suggestions for  
further reading/viewing.  
Understanding Religion and  
Popular Culture offers a  
valuable entry point into an  
exciting and rapidly evolving  
field of study.**

**This is the first comprehensive  
survey in English of research  
methods in the field of  
religious studies. It is  
designed to enable non-  
specialists and students at  
upper undergraduate and  
graduate levels to understand  
the variety of research  
methods used in the field. The  
aim is to create awareness of**

**the relevant methods currently available and to stimulate an active interest in exploring unfamiliar methods, encouraging their use in research and enabling students and scholars to evaluate academic work with reference to methodological issues. A distinguished team of contributors cover a broad spectrum of topics, from research ethics, hermeneutics and interviewing, to Internet research and video-analysis. Each chapter covers practical issues and challenges, the theoretical basis of the respective method, and the**

**way it has been used in religious studies, illustrated by case studies.**

**Conversion has been an important issue for most of the universal religions - those usually associated with a founder, such as Christianity, Buddhism, Islam and Judaism - which have a mission to spread their message. Other religions have been less concerned with conversion except in so far as it has been a negative force for them to confront. This study explores how conversion has been understood by different religions during different eras,**

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**and includes a survey of the textual, legal, ritual, historic and experiential dimensions of the phenomenon of conversion.**

**Religion and Popular Culture in America, Third Edition**

**Digital Culture and Religion in Asia**

**The Routledge Handbook of Research Methods in the Study of Religion**

**Economy, Politics, Civil**

**Society, and Globalization**

**Religious Delusions, American Style**

**New Essays**

**As the landscape of marketing**

**knowledge changes, contemporary**

**buyers, be it individuals or organisations are now more informed, more demanding and crave value co-creation with marketers. This, coupled with technological and socio-cultural changes, provides robust evidence that the old perspectives, assumptions, and practices of marketing are no longer satisfactory. Contemporary Issues in Marketing is a comprehensive, up-to-date, and cutting edge resource that presents a coherent understanding of topical issues in marketing. Bringing together theory and practitioners' perspectives, it firmly addresses the prevailing challenges in the marketing world. Using vignettes on topics such as technology, ethics and practitioner viewpoints, this book explores the paradigm shift in marketing and developments in thoughts throughout the discipline.**



**Religion and culture in the space of politics - Ethics - Aesthetics - Religious ethics of capitalism - Death and dying - Religious ethics and tourism - Religious ethics and nature - Children - The Disney way of death.**

**From the local to the global level, religion is – more than ever – an important and hotly debated part of modern life in the twenty-first century. From silver rings to ringtones and from clubs to headscarves, we often find the cultural role and discussion of religion in unexpected ways. Now in its second edition, *Religion: The Basics* remains the best introduction to religion and contemporary culture available. The new edition has been fully revised and updated, and includes new discussions of: the study of religion and culture in the twenty-first century texts, films and rituals cognitive approaches to religion**

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**globalization and multiculturalism  
spirituality in the West popular  
religion. With new case studies, linking  
cultural theory to real world religious  
experience and practice, and guides to  
further reading, Religion: The Basics is  
an essential buy for students wanting to  
get to grips with this hotly debated  
topic.**

**Publisher description**

**RELIGION, CULTURE AND  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
-Volume I**

**Civility, Religious Pluralism and  
Education**

**Religion and Culture in Native America  
Blackfoot Religion and the  
Consequences of Cultural  
Commoditization**

**Drawing on Tradition**

**Religion: The Basics**

**This book critically analyses**

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the functions and interconnectedness between religion and digital media in a range of East Asian countries. It discusses both how religious organizations make use of new technologies, and also explores how new technologies are reshaping religion in novel and interesting ways. Based on extensive research, the book focuses in particular on Christianity in South Korea, Neo-Shintoism in Japan, Falun Gong in China and Islam in Southeast Asia. Offering a comparative perspective on a broad range of media

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practices including video gaming, virtual worship, social networking and online testimonials, the book also investigates the idea that use of technology in itself mirrors religious practices. With an analysis of the impact of religion and new technology on national consciousness in a range of geographical locations, the authors offer a broadening of the scope of the study of religion, culture and media.

This book focuses on the problem of religious diversity, civil dialogue, and religion education in public schools,

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exploring the ways in which atheists, secularists, fundamentalists, and mainstream religionists come together in the public sphere, examining how civil discourse about religion fit swithin the ideals of the American political and pedagogical systems and how religious studies education can help to foster civility and toleration.

Manga and anime (illustrated serial novels and animated films) are highly influential Japanese entertainment media that boast tremendous domestic consumption as well as worldwide distribution and

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an international audience.

Drawing on Tradition

examines religious aspects of the culture of manga and anime production and consumption through a methodological synthesis of narrative and visual analysis, history, and ethnography.

Rather than merely describing the incidence of religions such as Buddhism or Shinto in these media, Jolyon Baraka Thomas shows that authors and audiences create and re-create "religious frames of mind" through their imaginative and ritualized interactions with illustrated

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worlds. Manga and anime therefore not only contribute to familiarity with traditional religious doctrines and imagery, but also allow authors, directors, and audiences to modify and elaborate upon such traditional tropes, sometimes creating hitherto unforeseen religious ideas and practices. The book takes play seriously by highlighting these recursive relationships between recreation and religion, emphasizing throughout the double sense of play as entertainment and play as adulteration (i.e., the

whimsical or parodic representation of religious figures, doctrines, and imagery). Building on recent developments in academic studies of manga and anime—as well as on recent advances in the study of religion as related to art and film—Thomas demonstrates that the specific aesthetic qualities and industrial dispositions of manga and anime invite practices of rendition and reception that can and do influence the ways that religious institutions and lay authors have attempted to captivate new audiences.



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Drawing on Tradition will appeal to both the dilettante and the specialist: Fans and self-professed otaku will find an engaging academic perspective on often overlooked facets of the media and culture of manga and anime, while scholars and students of religion will discover a fresh approach to the complicated relationships between religion and visual media, religion and quotidian practice, and the putative differences between "traditional" and "new" religions.

Vernacular religion is religion

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as people experience, understand, and practice it. It shapes everyday culture and disrupts the traditional boundaries between 'official' and 'folk' religion. The book analyses vernacular religion in a range of Christian denominations as well as in indigenous and New Age religion from the nineteenth century to today. How these differing expressions of belief are shaped by their individual, communal and national contexts is also explored. What is revealed is the consistency of genres, the persistence of certain key

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issues, and how globalization in all its cultural and technological forms is shaping contemporary faith practice. The book will be valuable to students of ethnology, folklore, religious studies, and anthropology.

Sociology of Religion  
Manga, Anime, and Religion in Contemporary Japan  
Expressions of Belief  
Dancing Culture Religion  
Encyclopedia of Global Religion

A Global Approach

This book links the growing connections between media, culture and religion into a

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coherent theoretical whole. It examines, amongst others, the effect on cultural practices and the increasing autonomy and individualized practice of religion. The first sociology of religion textbook to begin the task of diversifying and decolonizing the study of religion, *Sociology of Religion* develops a sociological frame that draws together the personal, political and public, showing how religion – its origins, development and changes – is understood as a social institution, influenced by and influencing wider social structures. Organized along sociological structures and

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themes, the book works with examples from a variety of religious traditions and regions rather than focusing in depth on a selection, and foregrounds cultural practice-based understandings of religion. It is therefore a book about 'religion', not 'religions', that explores the relationship of religion with gender and sexuality, crime and violence, generations, politics and media, 'race', ethnicity and social class, disease and disability – highlighting the position of religion in social justice and equality. Each chapter of this book is framed around concrete

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case studies from a variety of Western and non-Western religious traditions. Students will benefit from thinking about the discipline across a range of geographical and religious contexts. The book includes features designed to engage and inspire students: Up-to-date and comprehensive analysis of engaging and accessible material 'Case Examples': short summaries of empirical examples relating to the chapter themes Visually distinct boxes with bullet points, key words and phrases focusing on the context Questions suitable for private or seminar study Suggested class

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exercises for instructors to use Suggested readings and further readings/online resources at the end of each chapter Following a review and critique of early sociology of religion, the book engages with more contemporary issues, such as dissolving the secular/sacred binary and paying close attention to issues of epistemology, negotiations, marginalities, feminisms, identities, power, nuances, globalization, (post) (multiple) modernity (ies), emotion, structuration, reflexivity, intersectionality and urbanization. This book is essential reading for

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undergraduate and postgraduate students exploring the sociology of religion, religion and society, religious studies, theology, globalization and human geography.

Religion and Culture in Native America presents an introduction to a diverse array of Indigenous religious and cultural practices in North America, focusing on those issues in which tribal communities themselves are currently invested. These topics include climate change, water rights, the protection of sacred places, the reclaiming of Indigenous foods, health and wellness, social justice, and the



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safety of Indigenous women and girls. Locating such contemporary challenges within their historical, religious, and cultural contexts illuminates how Native communities' responses to such issues are not simply political, but deeply spiritual, informed by sacred traditions, ethical principles, and profound truths. In collaboration with renowned ethnographer and scholar of Native American religious traditions Inés Talamantez, Suzanne Crawford O'Brien abandons classical categories typically found in religious studies textbooks and challenges essentialist notions of

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Native American cultures to explore the complexities of Native North American life. Key features of this text include: Consideration of Indigenous religious traditions within their historical, political, and cultural contexts Thematic organization emphasizing the concerns and commitments of contemporary tribal communities Maps and images that help to locate tribal communities and illustrate key themes. Recommendations for further reading and research Written in an engaging narrative style, this book makes an ideal text for undergraduate courses in Native American Religions,

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Religion and Ecology,  
Indigenous Religions, and World  
Religions.

Representing work by some of  
the leading scholars in the field,  
the chapters in this handbook  
survey the transformation and  
innovation of religious traditions  
and practices in contemporary  
Japan.

Revitalization and Innovation  
Religion, Culture and Society  
Chinese Religion

On the Strange Place of Religion  
in Contemporary Art

Critical Reflections on Religion  
and Media in Contemporary Bali  
Manipulations of the Public's  
Mind

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Contemporary theology, argues Miller, is silent on what is unquestionably one of the most important cultural issues it faces: consumerism or "consumer culture." While there is no shortage of expressions of concern about the corrosive effects of consumerism from the standpoint of economic justice or environmental ethics, there is a surprising paucity of theoretically sophisticated works on the topic, for consumerism, argues Miller, is not just about behavioral "excesses"; rather, it is a pervasive worldview that affects our construction as persons-

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what motivates us, how we relate to others, to culture, and to religion. Consuming Religion surveys almost a century of scholarly literature on consumerism and the commodification of culture and charts the ways in which religious belief and practice have been transformed by the dominant consumer culture of the West. It demonstrates the significance of this seismic cultural shift for theological method, doctrine, belief, community, and theological anthropology. Like more popular texts, the book takes a critical stand against the deleterious

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effects of consumerism.

However, its analytical complexity provides the basis for developing more sophisticated tactics for addressing these problems.

This book provides a fresh, engaging multi-disciplinary introduction to religion in contemporary America. The chapters explore the roots of contemporary American religion from the 1950s up to the present day, looking at the major traditions including mainline Protestantism, the evangelical-pentecostal surge, Catholicism, Judaism, African-American religions and new

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religious movements. The authors ask whether Americans are becoming less religious, and how religious thought has moved from traditional systematic theology to approaches such as black and feminist theology and environmental theology. The book introduces religion and social theory, and explores key issues and themes such as: religion and social change; politics; gender; sexuality; diversity; race and poverty. Students and instructors will find the combination of historical and sociological perspectives an invaluable aid

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to understanding this fascinating but complex field. An important collection of essays from a range of philosophers from different backgrounds, focusing on the growing importance of the philosophy of religion in providing a 'multi-perspective' approach to the subject area. The Oxford Handbook of the Study of Religions provides a comprehensive overview of the academic study of religions. Written by an international team of leading scholars, its fifty-one chapters are divided thematically into seven sections. The first section



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addresses five major conceptual aspects of research on religion. Part two surveys eleven main frameworks of analysis, interpretation, and explanation of religion. Reflecting recent turns in the humanities and social sciences, part three considers eight forms of the expression of religion. Part four provides a discussion of the ways societies and religions, or religious organizations, are shaped by different forms of allocation of resources (i.e., economy). Other chapters in this section consider law, the media, nature, medicine, politics, science, sports, and

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tourism. Part five reviews important developments, distinctions, and arguments for each of the selected topics. The study of religion addresses religion as a historical phenomenon and part six looks at seven historical processes. Religion is studied in various ways by many disciplines, and this Handbook shows that the study of religion is an academic discipline in its own right. The disciplinary profile of this volume is reflected in part seven, which considers the history of the discipline and its relevance. Each chapter in the Handbook references at least

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two different religions to provide fresh and innovative perspectives on key issues in the field. This authoritative collection will advance the state of the discipline and is an invaluable reference for students and scholars.

Christian Faith and Practice in a Consumer Culture

The Oxford Handbook of the Study of Religion

Religions in Focus

The Sacred Gaze

The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Philosophy of Religion

Contemporary Practices and Controversies

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Philosophy of religion has experienced a renaissance in recent times, paralleling the resurgence in public debate about the place and value of religion in contemporary Western societies. The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Philosophy of Religion is an outstanding reference source to the key topics, problems and debates in this exciting subject. Comprising over thirty chapters by a team of international contributors, the Handbook is divided into seven parts: theoretical orientations  
conceptions of divinity  
epistemology of religious belief  
metaphysics and religious language  
religion and politics religion and

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ethics religion and scientific scrutiny. Within these sections central issues, debates and problems are examined, including: religious experience, religion and superstition, realism and anti-realism, scientific interpretation of religious texts, feminist approaches to religion, religion in the public square, tolerance, religion and meta-ethics, religion and cognitive science, and the meaning of life. Together, they offer readers an informed understanding of the current state of play in the liveliest areas of contemporary philosophy of religion. The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Philosophy of Religion is essential reading for students and

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researchers of philosophy of religion from across the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Presents entries A to L of a two-volume encyclopedia discussing religion around the globe, including biographies, concepts and theories, places, social issues, movements, texts, and traditions.

"Sacred gaze" denotes any way of seeing that invests its object—an image, a person, a time, a place—with spiritual significance. Drawing from many different fields, David Morgan investigates key aspects of vision and imagery in a variety of religious traditions. His lively, innovative book explores how viewers absorb and process religious imagery and how their

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experience contributes to the social, intellectual, and perceptual construction of reality. Ranging widely from thirteenth-century Japan and eighteenth-century Tibet to contemporary America, Thailand, and Africa, *The Sacred Gaze* discusses the religious functions of images and the tools viewers use to interpret them. Morgan questions how fear and disgust of images relate to one another and explains how scholars study the long and evolving histories of images as they pass from culture to culture. An intriguing strand of the narrative details how images have helped to shape popular conceptions of gender and masculinity. The opening chapter considers

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definitions of "visual culture" and how these relate to the traditional practice of art history. Amply illustrated with more than seventy images from diverse religious traditions, this masterful interdisciplinary study provides a comprehensive and accessible resource for everyone interested in how religious images and visual practice order space and time, communicate with the transcendent, and embody forms of communion with the divine. The Sacred Gaze is a vital introduction to the study of the visual culture of religions.

Can contemporary art say anything about spirituality? John Updike calls modern art "a religion assembled



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from the fragments of our daily life," but does that mean that contemporary art is spiritual? What might it mean to say that the art you make expresses your spiritual belief? *On the Strange Place of Religion in Contemporary Art* explores the curious disconnection between spirituality and current art. This book will enable you to walk into a museum and talk about the spirituality that is or is not visible in the art you see.

*Handbook of Contemporary Cuba  
New Approaches to Tradition and  
Contemporary Practices  
Understanding Religion and  
Popular Culture  
Overview and Analysis of  
Contemporary Religion*

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## Post-Secular Society

## Consuming Religion

The Ashgate Research Companion to Contemporary Religion and Sexuality provides academics and students with a comprehensive and authoritative state-of-the-art review of current research in the area of sexuality and religion, broadly defined. This collection of expert essays offers an inter-disciplinary study of the important aspects of sexuality and religion, calling upon sociological, cultural, historical and theological contributions to an under-researched subject. The

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Companion focuses on the exploration of diverse religious faiths, spiritualities, and sexualities with contributions that embrace many contrasting approaches related to the contemporary context. By adopting a truly inter-disciplinary and multi-dimensional perspective, the Companion embraces the complexities of both sexuality and religion.

Aimed primarily at a readership with specialist interest in both, The Ashgate Research Companion to Contemporary Religion and Sexuality offers an innovative and refreshing analysis of key theoretical

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and empirical issues in an increasingly relevant and expanding area of academic interest. The Companion comprises five main thematic sections, each with chapters ranging across a variety of crucial topics traversing various faith traditions. The principal themes are: epistemological and methodological issues; the significance of religious text; institutional religious settings; stability transformation and change; contesting hegemonic structures and discourses. Each section includes four chapters contributed by leading international experts in their respective

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fields and who are at the cutting-edge of current research. Collectively, they offer an inter-disciplinary and comprehensive survey of sexuality and religion. This book explores the exchange of Blackfoot 'medicine bundles' within contemporary Blackfoot culture and between the Blackfoot Peoples and Euro-Americans. Representing a valuable study of contemporary Blackfoot religion as well as the repatriation movement, Lokensgard also contributes to the studies of material culture and exchange. Central to his investigation is the critical examination

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and reapplication of the interpretative terms 'gift' and 'commodity,' helping scholars appreciate how different peoples perceive the worlds they inhabit. Culture is the social behavior and norms in human society. It consists of a set of customs, traditions, and values of society. It is the set of knowledge that is acquired over time. Culture is a central concept in anthropology and includes the range of phenomena that are transmitted through social learning in society. Religion is a cultural universal which is found in every human society. Religion is a cultural

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system of designated behaviors and practices, morals, prophecies, ethics, etc. Religious practice may include rituals, prayers, sermons, sacrifices, festivals and meditation. The study of religion includes a wide variety of academic disciplines such as theology, comparative religion, and social scientific studies. Religion theories offer various explanations for the origins and workings of religion. It includes the ontological foundations of religious being and belief. This book unravels the recent studies in the field of religion and culture. It includes some of

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the vital pieces of work being conducted across the world, on various topics related to these domains. The topics covered in this book offer the readers new insights in the fields of religion and culture.

A new introduction To The field of Chinese religion and culture ideally suited to undergraduate students.

Religion in Contemporary China

Queering Religion, Religious Queers

Principles and Practice

Contemporary Practice and

Method in the Philosophy of Religion

Religious Conversion



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*Provocative insights into the nature of dancing as inseparable from human vitality and distinctiveness emerge from this spiraling study of specific cultural dance traditions brought into conversation with various philosophical/theoretical perspectives centering on the topics: movement, gesture, play, masking, ritual, seduction, performance, religion; each the subject of engaging innovative analysis. The author draws on experience as dancer and academic to address contemporary issues such as gender identity development and plasticity and acuity throughout the lifespan. This book highlights tensions and negotiating processes between modern*

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*society and conservative religious groups. Conservative religion and society have co-existed for at least a century in an increasingly pluralist society. Still, the right to religious freedom and tolerance clashes with certain expressions of religious exclusivity. In this book, scholars from different disciplines look at the various ways in which representatives of conservative religious faith live, practice, and formulate their religion in relation to a contemporary mainstream culture. The studies included represent various settings with regard to time, religion and geography, and are presented in three thematic groups: culture, schooling and public life, and media. Taken*

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*together, the studies contribute to a more nuanced and diverse picture of conservative religious believers and their engagement with mainstream society. The book will be of interest to students and researchers in the fields of sociology of religion, church history and contemporary religion. Are we still secular? If not, what can one possibly mean by “post-secular”? The answers depend on what one considers secular as well as the people, societies, and institutions that one considers. Post-Secular Society argues for the experience of living in a secular world and a secular age and the experience of living without religion as a normal condition. Religion in the Western world is often*

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*described as being marked to some degree by both innovation and disarray. The past couple of decades have seen the emergence of reformulated versions of theories of secularization, variants of rational choice and supply-side models of religion, and new theoretical perspectives on de-secularization of religion. In spite of these different approaches and perspectives, a majority of scholars agree that the West is experiencing a general “resurgence” of religion and that the public visibility of religious actors and discourses is on the rise across most Western societies. Post-Secular Society discusses the changes in religion related to globalization, as well as*

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*New Age and other forms of popular religion. The contributors review religion that is rooted in the globalized political economy, and the relationship of post-secularism to popular and consumer culture. They also detail current innovative discourse as a religious belief system; discuss theories of the post-secular, religious, and spiritual well-being; and consider healing practices in Finland and environmentalism. Religion, Culture and Sustainable Development is a component of Encyclopedia of Social Sciences And Humanities in the global Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS), which is an integrated compendium of twenty one*

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*Encyclopedias. The Theme on Religion, Culture and Sustainable Development with contributions from distinguished experts in the field discusses matters of great relevance to our world such as: Religion, values, Culture and Sustainable Development. These three volumes are aimed at the following five major target audiences: University and College students Educators, Professional practitioners, Research personnel and Policy analysts, managers, and decision makers and NGOs.*

*A Contextual Approach  
Religion in Contemporary America  
Contemporary Issues in Marketing  
Contemporary Practices and  
Perspectives*

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*Opposition, Negotiation, and  
Adaptation*

*Religion and Culture*

The connection between popular culture and religion is an enduring part of American life. With seventy-five percent new content, the third edition of this multifaceted and popular collection has been revised and updated throughout to provide greater religious diversity in its topics and address critical developments in the study of religion and popular culture. Ideal for classroom use, this expanded volume gives increased attention to the implications of digital culture and

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the increasingly interactive quality of popular culture provides a framework to help students understand and appreciate the work in diverse fields, methods, and perspectives contains an updated introduction, discussion questions, and other instructional tools

Drawing on ethnographic and archival research conducted on the Indonesian island of Bali, this book demonstrates that more nuanced attention to problems of media will have serious implications for how we think about the study of religions, past and present.



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Before the modernist transformations of the twentieth century, China had one of the richest and most diverse religious cultures in the world. The radical anti-traditionalist policies of both the Republican and Communist regimes as well as other socio-historical factors posed formidable challenges to China's religious traditions but, this book argues, these conditions also presented new opportunities for re-generation and innovation. It shows that economic reforms and the concurrent relaxation of religious policies have provided fertile ground for the revitalization of a

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wide array of religious practices, including divination, ancestor worship, temple festivals, spirit mediumism, churchgoing, funeral rites, exorcism, pilgrimages, sectarianism, sutra chanting, and the printing and distribution of morality books. Equally new forms of religious practices have emerged such as lay Buddhist preachers, "Maoist shamans", and a range of qigong sects/schools. Written by an international, interdisciplinary team of experts who have all conducted in-depth fieldwork research in China, this book provides a wide-ranging survey of contemporary religious

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practices in China. It examines the different processes and mechanisms of religious revivals and innovations, and, more broadly, relates the Chinese example of religious revitalization to larger issues of social and cultural continuity and change.

"The reader is taken on a global exploration of the forms and diversities of religions and their social and cultural contexts... It is up to the minute in research and theory, and comfortably grounded in the traditions of the social explanation of things religious and spiritual." - Gary Bouma AM, Monash University

"Tells how sociology of religion

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originated in the work of key nineteenth and twentieth century theorists and then brings the story into the present era of globalization, hybrid spirituality, and the Internet. Students of religion will find this an engaging and informative survey of the field." - Robert Wuthnow, Princeton University "It considers the 'big questions' - What is religion? How is religion changing in a modern world? What is the future of religion? - and addresses them through tangible case studies and observations of contemporary life. Its global perspective reflects the breadth, diversity and

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vibrancy of this field." - Sylvia

Collins-Mayo, Kingston

University This is a rich and

dynamic introduction to the

varieties of religious life and the

central issues in the sociology of

religion today. It leads the reader

through the key ideas and main

debates within the field as well

as offering in-depth descriptions

and analysis of topics such as

secularization, fundamentalism,

Pentecostal Christianity,

Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam,

atheism, 'The spiritual

marketplace', digital religion and

new religions like Wicca.

Emphasising religion as a global

phenomenon, examining

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especially the ways in which globalization has had an impact on everyday religious life, Singleton has created an illuminating text suitable for students in a wide range of courses looking at religion as a social and cultural phenomenon.

Religion and Social Work  
Practice in Contemporary  
American Society

Vernacular Religion in Everyday  
Life

Religion and Culture:  
Contemporary Perspectives  
Religious Visual Culture in  
Theory and Practice

Handbook of Contemporary  
Japanese Religions

Rethinking Media, Religion, and  
Culture

**Cuban studies is a highly dynamic field shaped by the country's distinctive political and economic circumstances. Mauricio A. Font and Carlos Riobo offer an up-to-date and comprehensive survey offering the latest research available from a broad array of disciplines and perspectives. The Handbook of Contemporary Cuba brings contributions from leading scholars from the United States, Cuba, Europe, and other world regions and introduces the**

**reader to the key literature in the field in relation to rapidly changing events on the island and in global political and economic affairs. It also addresses timely developments in Cuban civil society and human rights. The guide also presents economic models and forecasts as well as analyses of the recent, pivotal Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba. For students, scholars, and experts in government, it is a vital addition to any collection on Latin American studies or global**



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**politics.**

**"Religions in Focus"**  
engages with the religious  
lives of members of some  
of the most significant  
religions today. It presents  
religions as contemporary  
ways of life that motivate  
and inspire people.  
Because religious people  
refer to sacred texts,  
honour the founders of  
their religions, learn from  
elders, or mould their lives  
according to authoritative  
teachings, "Religions in  
Focus" explains the  
relationship between  
tradition and contemporary  
practice. It offers an

**introduction to religions that is rooted in the best scholarship of the Study of Religions and provides a secure foundation for further study. A team of Religious Studies scholars from many countries, all skilled communicators about the contemporary religions with which they are thoroughly familiar, introduce what it means to live as a religious person today. They insist that however old or young these religions may be, what is most interesting is the ways in which people express them today. This is**

**not a history of religions  
but an insightful  
introduction to living  
religions. A guide to further  
study and a companion  
website will point to ways  
of building on knowledge  
gained in studying this  
book, and applying skills  
developed in studying  
people's religious lives.  
This collection considers  
how religious identity  
interplays with other forms  
and contexts of identity,  
specifically those related to  
sexual identity. It asks how  
these intersections are  
formed, negotiated and  
resisted across time and**

**places, including the UK, Europe, North America, Australia, and the Global South. Questions around 'queer' engagements in same-sex marriages, civil partnerships and other practices (e.g. adoption) have created a number of provoking stances and policy provisions - but what remains unanswered is how people experience and situate themselves within sometimes competing, or 'contradictory', moments as 'religious queers' who may be tasked with 'queering religion'. Additionally, the presumed**

**paradoxes of 'marriage',  
queer sexuality, religion  
and youth combine to  
generate a noteworthy  
generational absence. This  
leads to questions about  
where 'religious queers'  
reside, resist and relate  
experiences of intersecting  
religious and sexual lives.  
In looking at  
interconnectedness, this  
collection offers  
international contributions  
which bridge the  
'contradictions' in queering  
religion and in making  
visible 'religious queers.' It  
provides insight into older  
and younger people's**

**understandings of religiosity, queer cultures, and religious groups. A small but active religious minority in the US has received much attention for its anti-gay political activity; much less attention has been paid to the more positive, supportive role that religious-based groups play in e.g. providing housing, education and political advocacy for queer youth. Queer methodologies and intersectional approaches offer a lens both theoretically and methodologically to**

**uncover the salience of related social divisions and identities. This collection is both innovative and sensitive to 'blended' identities and their various enactments.**

**Conservative Religion and  
Mainstream Culture  
The Ashgate Research  
Companion to  
Contemporary Religion and  
Sexuality**