



## Asceticism, Mysticism, and the Affirmation of the World in Christianity and Islam

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### Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue of *Religions* focuses on the relationship between ascetic practices and mystical theological traditions in the world's two largest religions, Christianity and Islam. Between asceticism and mysticism, these two distinct areas are too often set in opposition to each other instead of focusing on the relationship between ascetic practices and mystical thought as well as experience. In both religions, asceticism and mysticism are both often identified as world-rejecting or escapist phenomena, with the role that both play in engaging and affirming the world remaining undertheorized and underexplored.

This issue seeks articles that explore any or all of the following:

- (1) Connections between asceticism and mysticism in either or both religions that have been largely ignored;
- (2) Forms of asceticism and mysticism with world-affirming trajectories or teloi;
- (3) Comparative approaches that contribute to theoretical understandings of asceticism and mysticism. All methodological approaches in the fields of religious studies and theology are welcome.





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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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