

Foreword

The concordia religion students' association is proud to present the most recent volume of the *CRSA academic journal of religion*. This issue includes papers that were selected for publication in the 2014-2015 academic year but whose editing only took place in the summer of 2015.

This journal seeks to showcase the highest-caliber work of concordia students in the field of religious studies. In accordance with concordia's department of religion, we believe that:

The academic study of religion is a multi-disciplinary enterprise. It involves the historical examination of religious movements, the literary analyses of their literatures, philosophical reflections on beliefs and teachings, the social scientific investigations of their rituals, practices, texts, and institutions, the psychological study of their participants and ethical inquiries regarding both their moral writings and social roles.

Thus, we are engaged in creating a journal that facilitates the interdisciplinary study of religion, welcoming papers from different disciplines, approaches, and theoretical frameworks. As a consequence of such interdisciplinary approach, the subjects of the papers included in this collection vary from essay to essay.

In his contribution to this journal, Nathan Afilalo presents an exploration of causality and impermanence in finite cosmologies, using Theravada Abhidharma and Norse Mythology as his case studies. Roxanne Baril-Bédard uses Japanese divination to explore and problematize epistemological religious considerations. Daniel S. Sáenz undertakes a re-reading of the YMCA through Marcella Althaus-Reid's indecent theology and argues that the YMCA has been, since its inception, a site for radical queerness and a hotbed for queer Christianities and same-sex desire. Karolina Saghafi explores the ordination of female deacons in the Early Christian period, which would destabilize the "lack of precedence" argument against the ordination of women in the Church. In "Re-membering the Goddess in Chicana Feminism," Emma Flavian explores the importance of fashioning divinity in one's image, the effects of patriarchal religions on the lives of women, and the appropriation of religious symbolism by Chicana feminists. Similarly, Emma Leary explores the development of feminist Islamic exegesis, offering a historical account of the Islamic exegetical tradition, showcasing the challenges associated with this tradition, and developing on the importance of feminist Islamic exegesis. Similarly, in the field of feminism and Islam, Josee Roy writes about women's activism and reform in Saudi Arabia in the contemporary moment. Dinah Kisil reconstructs the Holocaust from a feminist perspective, exploring how the Holocaust can be reconciled with a Jewish, Feminist theology. Tiawent:non Canadian undertakes a similar examination in her paper, where she explores the themes of destruction and rebirth in A.M. Klein's *Second Scroll*.