



## Religion and Folk Belief in Chinese Literature and Theatre

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### Message from the Guest Editor

The Special Issue addresses the bidirectional relationship of religion and folk belief to literature and theatre. By "bidirectional relationship", a dynamic and interactive relationship is meant, in which religious beliefs and practices engender and inspire literature and theatre and are, in turn, enriched and nourished by literature and theatre. Thus, the broader question that the Special Issue seeks to answer is how we interpret and appreciate the various forms and functions that the relationship assumes between religion and folk belief and literature and theatre in general and between gods and humans, ghosts and spirits, mortals and immortals, temple and theatre, ritual performance and theatre performance, efficacy and entertainment, saints and shamans, cults and ceremonies, dream and reality, magic and myth, strange beings and strange happenings, the occult and the mundane, divination and revelation, trance and dance, prophecy and necromancy, in particular.





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