



Religion and Medicine: Expanding Understandings of Human Flourishing

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Message from the Guest Editors

The understanding of religion and medicine as fundamentally incompatible, if not antagonistic, domains of exploration and of human experience has been, until recently, widely shared. Today, however, this view is being challenged from diverse quarters. Medicine's relative powerlessness to cure chronic illnesses and its lack of a coherent language with which to conceptualize and cope with human suffering has undermined confidence in its purely materialist frame. In addition, its narrow conceptualization of health as the absence of disease is giving way to a more holistic understanding, inclusive of such markers as positive connections with others, with nature, with space, to purpose, and to meaning.

We seek submissions from those whose work contributes to understanding "medicine" in its broadest terms, inclusive of physical, mental, communal, and ecological well-being, and which recognizes healing as inescapably a total experience—at once physiological, psychological, and spiritual/existential. The scope of this Special Issue will, as a necessity, be broad and seek to include diverse understandings of human flourishing, both historically and contemporarily.





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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.

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