



Śākta Purāṇas in Hindu Religious Practice, Text, and History

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Message from the Guest Editor

In 1963, Dr. Rajendra Chandra Hazra published the second volume of his *Studies in the Upapurāṇas*. Subtitled *Śākta and Non-Sectarian Upapurāṇas*, it remains the single most comprehensive scholarly study of the Śākta Purāṇas. Hazra's tremendously detailed consideration and his critical analyses of the religious and broader cultural character have for decades served as a foundation for the scholarly study of these and other Śākta texts and traditions.

This Special Issue, to be published almost 60 years after Hazra's pioneering work, is intended to document the current state, concerns, innovations, and breadth of scholarship on Śākta Purāṇas and how these texts connect with people, places, and practices of Śāktism itself as well as more broadly within South Asian and diaspora communities. The issue aims to present scholarship on the texts themselves, their language and diverse contents, their original contexts and composition history, and the ongoing "lives" of these texts in Hindu religious traditions and communities.

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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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