



NOTES FOR AUTHORS

Thank you for agreeing to write an article for RELIGION Compass – our unique online reviews and surveys journal from Blackwell Publishing. Please take a moment to read over these notes which will assist you in the preparation of your article.

Religion Compass will be used by a diverse audience, and many of the readers of the articles will be non-specialists. Your article should be accessible to them but still have fresh material that would be of interest to people in your field.

The article could be used by a tutor who wants to direct their students to a short article to use as the basis of a class discussion, by a historian who wants to find out about the latest developments in fields that impact on theirs or by a tutor who wants to have to teach in an area outside of their specialty and needs to find out the main points that need to be put across to their students.

Compass style

The style should be crisp, concise and informative, and livelier than a research paper. Remember: you are writing for non-specialists from many different areas. Your article will be their gateway into a new subject. Your aim is to engage as well as inform the reader.

Articles will fall into at least one of the following three categories and will answer one or more of the questions below:

1) Recent research and debates in your field – What debates are driving your field? What new research has been published? What does it add to these debates or the field more generally? Can you put that new research in context? Does a new school of thought or paradigm seem to be developing? Has a new controversy erupted?

2) Comparative look across sections or boundaries – Are there related things happening in different fields? Can you suggest comparisons that have not been fully explored? Can one area provide an insight into another when used in teaching or research?

3) State of the field – Can you offer a fresh perspective on developments in your field? Perhaps there are arguments or fads drawing attention away from what you think are the critical points? Perhaps the field is stagnating? Are students and teachers flocking to or fleeing from your field? Is your area well and fairly covered in the media? Are there resources or archives that are new or underused and are worthy of attention? Has the field been affected by or is it impacting on current affairs?

For excellent sample articles, see:

Peter von Sivers's article on the Islam debate

<http://www.religion-compass.com/viewpoint.asp?section=6&ref=15.html>,

Anne Thayer's on the History of Christianity

[http://www.religion-](http://www.religion-compass.com/viewpoint.asp?section=3&ref=4&type=full.html)

[compass.com/viewpoint.asp?section=3&ref=4&type=full.html](http://www.religion-compass.com/viewpoint.asp?section=3&ref=4&type=full.html)

Katherine Gill's on Medieval Christianity

[http://www.religion-](http://www.religion-compass.com/viewpoint.asp?section=3&ref=9&type=full.html)

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Topic and Length

The topic and length of your article will be agreed with the Section Editor before you begin writing, but the average length is around 5000 words.

Peer-review

Your article will be peer-reviewed by two scholars in the field (one who will normally be a member of the Editorial Board) chosen by the Section Editor. The identity of an author will be made known to the reviewers (who have the option of identifying themselves to the author).

The editor will send you the reviewers' reports or comments for your consideration. Once you have made any appropriate changes the article should be returned to the editor. No alterations will be permitted after this stage.

Proofs

You will be directed to a website where the proofs of your article are to be corrected. At this stage you should correct typesetter errors only.

Offprints

Authors will be sent a PDF version of their article via email when the article is published.

Presentation on the site

Your article will be copy-edited and typeset like a print journal. Religion Compass users will see an HTML version of the article on the screen, with the option to download a PDF version. Users will be able to cite your article in their publications, email details of the article to their colleagues, or use it in their class reading lists.

Submitting your Article

Your article should be submitted to the Section Editor via **Manuscript Central**. Compass does not accept postal submissions, and to facilitate communication please ensure that the Section Editor has your most up-to-date email address. Proofs are checked electronically (although in exceptional circumstances they may be sent by post).

You are required to submit a complete version of the article (incorporating the title page, abstract, text, reference list, figures, tables and captions) as a Word document, as well as submitting each component of the article separately.

Cover Letter

Articles should be accompanied by a cover letter containing a statement that the article has not been submitted for publication elsewhere, and will not be submitted elsewhere until a decision has been rendered by the Editor-in-Chief. You may also give details of any special circumstances that apply to your article in the cover letter.

Title page

The title should be concise and informative. Only the first letter and proper names are capitalized. The title page should include the title of the paper, name(s), primary professional/academic affiliation(s) i.e. Department/Unit and Institution and e-mail address(es), of the author(s) as they wish them to appear.

Abstract

Please include an abstract of your article of not more than 150 words at the beginning of your manuscript. You should also select key words from the list provided (information to follow).

Text

Ideally you should prepare your article using a well-known word processing program (such as MSWord) and save it as a .doc or .rtf file. The text should be submitted in a well-known 12-point font (such as Arial, Helvetica, or Times), with 2.54 cm (1 inch) margins on all four sides of the page. Authors may also use a special typeface (e.g. bold, italic, Greek, etc.) where necessary. All parts of the article (abstract, text, references, tables, and figure captions) must be double-spaced and paginated. Format your article as follows, starting each section with a new page: (1) title page, (2) abstract, (3) text, (4) acknowledgements, (5) references, (6) figure captions, (7) figures, (8) tables.

Use of English

You may write in the version of English (e.g. UK, US, international) that is most comfortable to you. However whichever conventions you use must be followed throughout (e.g. –ise or –ize).

Language

Articles should be written in non-sexist, non-racist language, and phrasing that might generate antagonism or be construed to be cynical or derogatory should be avoided.

Dates in the text should be given in the form 20 September 1985.

Latin Abbreviations (e.g. i.e. cf. N.B.) appear in plain text without a trailing comma.

Notes

Religion Compass does not accommodate either footnotes or endnotes, and specific arguments or points should be amplified at an appropriate place in the text.

Headings

Only the first letter and proper names are capitalized.

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First level headings are flush left on a separate line. The first text line following is flush left.

This is a second level heading

Second level headings are flush left on a separate line. The first text line following is flush left.

Reference List

The reference list is a very important tool for readers. Each reference will be linked electronically to the online source, so it is important that your bibliography be as concise and comprehensive as possible. YOUR ARTICLE CANNOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT AN ABSTRACT OR REFERENCE LIST, SO PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE THEM.

References should be listed in alphabetical order at the end of the article. Authors should use the Harvard system in which authors' names (no initials) and dates are given in the main body of the text with specific pages indicated only in the case of quotations (e.g. Linton and Moisley 1960, 29). References are listed alphabetically at the end of the paper under the heading References, set out as follows, with double spacing for all lines.

Papers

Lehman, Marjorie and Kress, Jeffrey. 2003. "The Babylonian Talmud in Cognitive Perspective: Reflections on the Nature of the Bavli and its Pedagogical Implications." *The Journal of Jewish Education* **69**, no.2: 58–78.

Books

Marsh, Charles. 1999. *God's Long Summer: Stories of Faith and Civil Rights*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Chapter of book

Kealiinohomoku, Joann. 1974. "Dance Culture as a Microcosm of Holistic Culture." In *New Dimensions in Dance Research: Anthropology and Dance* –

The American Indian, edited by Tamara Comstock. Tucson, Ariz.: University of Arizona.

Other publications

Where there is doubt (e.g. Occasional papers) include all bibliographical details. The place of publication should always be given when books are referred to.

Web Sites and Pages

The full title of a Web site or page should be provided. Web site URLs should be cited at the end of a citation to an online source as follows:

url (Last Accessed Date)

The last accessed date is required information for a citation, and authors should check all URLs before final submission of their article to ensure that they are still active. If they are not, alternative URLs or citations for the same information should be provided.

Please always ensure that a reference list is included at the end of your article because Religion Compass will be making use of new technology to link to library catalogues.

Figures

Images and illustrations should convey ideas efficiently or enhance the text. Figures must be legible, concise, and referred to in the text. All figures must be in digital form (jpeg or tiff for images).

Line weights less than one point should be avoided.

All type should be from common font families (e.g. Arial, Helvetica, or Times), unless a unique type font is critical to the theme of a map, for example, to help engender the feelings of an historical era. Any type must be sufficiently large to be easily read at final print size and type sizes smaller than 6 point should be avoided. Titles should be incorporated into the figure caption. Captions should not be a part of the figure. Type placed on screen tints or area patterns must be clearly readable.

Photographs and Illustrations

Black-and-white or colour versions of all photographs and illustrations must be submitted as electronic files with a resolution of not less than 600 dpi. IT IS THE AUTHOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO OBTAIN ANY NECESSARY PERMISSIONS, AND INDICATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS IN THE CAPTION.

Figure Captions should be concise but as informative as possible, and must be typed double spaced and listed on a separate sheet. Figures and photographs are numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals (Figure 4, etc.). All diagrams illustrations and photographs are referred to as 'Figures',

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