



Editorial Note

On 16 May this year experts in the study of religion gathered in Helsinki to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Finnish Society for the Study of Religion (SUS), the publisher of *Temenos*. The anniversary was an opportunity to look back and to look forward. A lot has happened in sixty years, and the debates have varied, but the participants were clearly hopeful about the future. The study of religion today is an essential field with much to offer anyone who wishes to understand contemporary societies and changes. SUS also performs an important task in bringing scholars together and keeping conversations open and current.

However, 2024 is not just a special year for the SUS; it is also a special year for *Temenos*. This year we publish the journal's sixtieth number. It would be impossible to attempt to summarize 60 years and 120 or so issues in a short editorial note. All we can say is that the journal has always been and continues to be characterized by variety and a fearlessness in taking on challenging topics. This year's first issue, a special issue published in June on the burning of the Qur'an, exemplifies this. The interest in the issue has been noticeable. At the conference of the European Association for the Study of Religion (EASR) in August this year the guest editors Göran Larsson, Iselin Frydenlund, and Torkel Brekke organized a well-attended panel discussion about the issue. We are very happy to be able to publish the comments provided during the panel discussion by Professor Verena Meyer and Professor Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen, and the response from Iselin Frydenlund and Göran Larsson. Their reflections on the special issue start this anniversary issue.

The first peer-reviewed article also brings us back to the topic of Qur'an burnings, which continued after the period analysed in the special issue. Mia Lövheim, in conversation with the contributions to the special issue, examines the period between 1 April and 1 October 2023 more closely and explores and discusses the representations of the event as a 'crisis' in the Swedish daily press. With a quantitative approach to the main topics in a selection of daily newspapers and with the aid of theories of mediatized conflicts, Lövheim analyses how the events were debated and constructed, highlighting both similarities with earlier research and new perspectives.

The analysis underscores how the 'Qur'an crisis' is co-structured by multifaceted social, political, and religious changes. There is a risk of polarization here – but also the possibility for deliberation and negotiation and a greater understanding of the questions at hand.

The second article continues with the focus on Sweden and examines conspiracy mentality in Sweden more closely through a survey of paranormal beliefs, practices, and experiences. Cristoffer Tidelius uses the idea of a shared sociocultural milieu of alternative views and practices of knowledge as a point of departure. Continuing with a detailed presentation of the research field, Tidelius explores the relationship between conspiracy mentality and paranormalism. The study shows that the variables that contribute significantly to predicting conspiracy mentality are gender (being male), higher levels of paranormalism, lower income, conservatism as opposed to openness to values of change, and self-transcendence as opposed to values of self-enhancement. The study also points to higher levels of conspiracy mentality among sympathizers with the right-wing populist party in Sweden.

Our third peer-reviewed article focuses on Sápmi. Helge Årsheim examines the identification and protection of the sacred natural sites (SNS) of Indigenous peoples, focusing on cases where the SNS of the Sámi people have come under pressure. The article starts by unpacking the origins and impact of the concept of SNS, moving from the international level to domestic decision making. Årsheim is particularly interested in how discourses on SNS have come to interact with and influence other issues of global governance such as environmental and biological diversity concerns, cultural heritage activism, and the protection of the human rights of Indigenous peoples. The second part of the article discusses the extent to which the Norwegian authorities, commercial actors, and civil society activists have drawn on the international discourse on SNS to formulate their claims.

As usual, the issue concludes with book reviews of the field's current literature. We hope you will enjoy this anniversary issue. Do follow us on social media for suggestions about noteworthy earlier research published in *Temenos* over the last 60 years.

Sofia Sjö and Minna Opas