

Editorial Note

Having served as the editors of *Temenos* for the past four years – and for Tiina Mahlamäki additionally for the previous five years as editorial secretary for the journal – we feel it is now time for us to pass on the journal to a new editor. We have been the first female editors in the 50-year history of the journal, in which we hope to have made an imprint by creating issues that reflect our views of and visions for scholarship on religion today. We are proud of the eminent history of the journal, and with this anniversary volume we especially want to highlight the female scholars within our field – demonstrating for younger generations of scholars that not only founding fathers, but also founding mothers, have been instrumental in creating and developing the research field and can serve as models for scholars today. This model is indeed important; even though the lion's share of students who today take up studies in comparative religion, at least in Finland are female, the higher in the academic career you climb – through doctoral students, researchers, lecturers, and up to full professors – the more the gender distribution sex changes toward greater male dominion. Today, the first female professor of Comparative Religion in Finland, Tuula Sakaranaho, is also serving as the first female chair of the Finnish Society for the Study of Religion.

As editors, then, we have striven to encourage and highlight the work of female researchers. We have also introduced new perspectives in the journal, for instance the fields of non-religion and secularity, and western esotericism. We have sought to advance the Nordic profile of the journal so that the majority, albeit not all, of the authors and the themes dealt with in the articles have connections to the Nordic countries or are based on conferences arranged here. The articles presented in this issue are based on keynote speeches delivered at the EASR Conference "Ends and Beginnings" in Södertörn University, Stockholm, in 2012, and at the 50th Anniversary Symposium of the Finnish Society for the Study of Religion in 2013, held at the University of Turku.

The first issue published in our current anniversary volume (Vol. 50/1 in the spring of 2014) focused on the roots of the study of religion in the Nordic Countries. This second issue broadens the perspective to the international horizon and reflects on the contemporary situation of the study of religions as it has developed from its Western origins into a multifaceted, multi-perspective field of research. Ingvild Gilhus explores the roots of the research field – the founding fathers, as they were all male – and stresses

how theology has always served, and still serves, as the Significant Other of comparative religion. Morny Joy continues from where Gilhus leaves off, to envision what the study of religion is today and where it might, or ought to, be heading in the future. Both Gilhus and Joy emphasise that the founding fathers today have been joined by an increasing number of significant founding mothers. Perhaps, we suggest, the prominent researchers contributing to this issue are themselves to be counted among them.

But gender is not decisive for a prominent researcher; more important is the contribution made by their works and ideas: how our ability to think and understand is expanded and enhanced as we read their inspiring and critical research. In her article, Morny Joy introduces us to the work and scholars that have inspired her. Another female scholar with a long and intense engagement with her field of research is Eileen Barker, who contributes to this issue with an historical overview and personal assessment of the study of New Religious Movements over the past decades. This contribution is especially valuable as Professor Barker has herself been the most prominent and visible scholar in this field for all these years, introducing new theoretical and methodological approaches as well as partaking in the sometimes rather heated debate on NRMs. The oscillation between roots and renewal, origin and change are central also in Abdulkader Tayob's article, which identifies and explores the notion of revival in the Islamic ḥadīth literature through an analytic, inter-textual reading. Finally, we are proud to include an article by a promising young researcher of religion in this issue: Tuomas Järvenpää's ethnographic analysis of how boundaries between Rastafarian and secular expression are constructed in Finnish sound system reggae performances. Järvenpää's Master's thesis, which also focused on music and religion in another context, won the national Temenos Award for the best Master's Thesis in studies in religion in Finland in 2011.

You are now holding in your hands the final issue of Temenos which will appear in printed form. In future, Temenos will be published online according to the open-access principle that makes our scholarship freely available for everyone. The e-journal can be found at the website www.temenos.fi. At this site, you will find Temenos issues from the past ten years freely available; older issues can be obtained in full-text via the ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials. The change of format will bring no changes to the strict scholarly criteria according to which articles are selected for publication, and we believe that Temenos will continue to be one of the leading journals in its fields. We want to contribute to the free sharing of knowledge, so that our articles can be available also outside academia, and accessible for

scholars whose universities cannot afford costly journal subscriptions. In e-format, the articles are also easy to use for educational purposes. For all these reasons, we have opted for open-access publication. We urge all of our readers to register as 'Readers' at our website; in this way you will receive notifications of new Temenos issues straight to your e-mail.

We'd like to thank all the readers, reviewers and contributors. It has been a privilege to work with you. We are also grateful for the distinguished editorial board of Temenos for their valuable comments and encouragements during these years. The review editor, Dr. Teemu Taira, the language editor, Dr. Keith Battarbee, the copy editor, Pekka Tolonen MA, and the editorial secretary, Joakim Alander MA, have formed the Temenos team in Turku. It has been pleasure to work with you! Teemu Taira and Keith Battarbee are continuing their work, and Pekka Tolonen is taking on the responsibilities as editorial secretary. We wish good and productive years with Temenos to the incoming team, and the new editor-in-chief, Dr. Måns Broo from Åbo Akademi University.

Ruth Illman & Tiina Mahlamäki

