SOCIO-HISTORICAL EXAMINATION OF RELIGION AND MINISTRY:

A JOURNAL OF THE GLOBAL CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS RESEARCH

VOL. 3, NO. 1 SUMMER 2021

Copyright © 2021

www.shermjournal.org

ISSN 2637-7519 (print)
ISSN 2637-7500 (online)
ISBN 978-1-7362739-4-4 (print)
ISBN 978-1-7362739-5-1 (eBook)

GCRR Press 1312 17th Street Suite 549 Denver, CO 80202 www.gcrr.org

Printed copies of this issue are available for purchase on the GCRR website at www.gcrr.org/products.

Socio-Historical Examination of Religion and Ministry (SHERM Journal) is a biannual (not-for-profit) peer-reviewed academic journal that publishes the latest social-scientific, historiographic, and ecclesiastic research on religious institutions and their ministerial practices. SHERM is dedicated to the critical and scholarly inquiry of historical and contemporary religious phenomena, both from within particular religious traditions and across cultural boundaries, so as to inform the broader socio-historical analysis of religion and its related fields of study.



General Editor: Darren M. Slade, PhD

Editorial Advisory Board: Abimbola A. Adelakun, PhD Abbas Aghdassi, PhD Gbenga Emmanuel Afolayan, MA Peter Antoci, PhD Robert Gregory Cavin, PhD Mike Clawson, PhD Sandra Cohen, MaHL Carlos Colombetti, PhD Jack David Eller, PhD Evan Fales, PhD Anthony Gill, PhD Ken Howard, MDiv, MEd Charles David Isbell, PhD Mark A. Moore, PhD Josh Packard, PhD Josfin Raj S.B, MDiv, ThM Elisa Robyn, PhD

Typesetters & Copyeditors:

Kimberly Dell Christian Farren Allison Guy Katie Curlee Hamblen Holly Lipovits Kortland Phillips Hannah Purtymun Amanda Reser

The purpose of SHERM Journal is to provide a scholarly medium for the social-scientific study of religion where specialists can publish advanced studies on religious trends, theologies, rituals, philosophies, socio-political influences, or experimental and applied ministry research in the hopes of generating enthusiasm for the vocational and academic study of religion while fostering collegiality among religion specialists. Its mission is to provide academics, professionals, and nonspecialists with critical reflections and evidence-based insights into the socio-historical study of religion and, where appropriate, its implications for ministry and expressions of religiosity.

Editorial Advisory Board

SHERM journal is a division of the non-profit organization, the FaithX Project, and therefore receives endowments from FaithX to maintain a significant presence within academia and the broader faith community. Nonetheless, the journal is overseen by an independent, religiously unaffiliated Editorial Advisory Board to ensure the content of the published articles meet stringent standards of critical scholarship uninfluenced by theological or ideological allegiances.

Copyright Privileges

When publishing an article through SHERM, authors are able to retain copyright privileges over their research. As part of the rights agreement, however, all authors wishing to publish their research through SHERM must transfer exclusive licensing rights over to SHERM, thereby granting SHERM the right to claim the article as part of its publishing proprietary corpus. Authors retain copyright credit for the article while SHERM becomes the sole publisher of the material. Because SHERM is a non-restrictive licensing publication, authors (as copyright owners of their research) are allowed to share and repost their article on any platform of their choosing.

As partners with SHERM, upon acceptance and publication of an article, authors are automatically granted the right to share, disseminate, use, and repost their article in any way they deem necessary to expand the visibility of their publication. Likewise, authors retain all intellectual property rights, including the specific research content and data employed throughout the article, as well as the right to retain attribution rights as the article's original creator and writer.

Licensing Transfer

As the sole licensee of all the articles, SHERM retains the exclusive right to publish, distribute, or transfer the license of an article to other third parties for private and commercial purposes. SHERM reserves the right to create and authorize the commercial use of all published articles.

In order to make the articles available to as many audiences and researchers as possible, SHERM reserves the right to post (and repost even after initial publication of) all articles in any form or media as allowable by the newest technological developments. Currently, this means SHERM will post all articles to numerous open access websites and social media platforms. SHERM also reserves the right to advertise the publication of any article through various mediums.

By transferring exclusive licensing rights to SHERM, authors agree to the following stipulations:

- Authors cannot republish their article (either in English or in another language) with a
 different academic journal (without express consent from SHERM).
- Authors who repost their article online must incorporate a citation that indicates SHERM as the publisher of the content (including a link to the original article on the SHERM website, as well as the volume and issue number).
- Authors who wish to use portions of the article for other publications or work must cite the original SHERM publication.
- SHERM is granted authorization to impose copyright infringements laws, as well as combat instances of plagiarism against third parties on behalf of the author(s).

No part of this journal or issue may be used, copied, or reproduced in any manner without written permission from the editors except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles, reviews, and other scholarly publications. In accordance with the "fair use" agreement of Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107 of the US Copyright Act, the following permissions are granted for the express purposes of teaching, research, and scholarship: **Reproduction**—authors and readers can make multiple copies of individual articles without profit. **Distribution**—authors and readers can distribute and publicly display individual articles without profit. Opinions and conclusions expressed in SHERM are those of the individual article authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editorial Advisory Board, the FaithX Project, or other affiliated partners. For questions or permissions, contact the SHERM editorial staff: shermeditor@gmail.com.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vol. 3, No. 1 Summer 2021

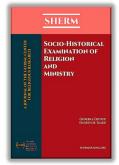
EDITORIALS	
Genus Unbelief, Species Atheism: The Case for and Against Unbelief as a Master Concept for Non-Religion Jack David Eller	1
DIALOGUES IN PHILOSOPHY	
Inference to the Best Explanation and Rejecting the Resurrection David Kyle Johnson	26
SOCIAL-SCIENTIFIC AND PHILOSOPHICAL RESEARCH	
A Fruitful or Wild French Vineyard? Distinguishing the Religious Roots of Albigenses and Waldensians in the Twelfth Century Ottavio Palombaro	54
	34
Bayesian Reasoning's Power to Challenge Religion and Empirically Justify Atheism	
Richard Carrier	75
Epidemics and Religion: From Angry Gods and Offended Ancestors to Hungry Ghosts and Hostile Demons	
Louise Marshall	97
MINISTRY RESEARCH	
"Jesus is a Stranger Here": The Healing Jesus Crusade and its Perception by the Muslim Community of Ede (Southwest Nigeria)	
Raheem Oluwafunminiyi, Siyan Oyeweso	119
'Emet: The Paradox of Death and Afterlife Zev Garber	143

TABLE OF CONTENTS -CONTINUED-

Vol. 3, No. 1 Summer 2021

Student Highlights	
Crime and Sin in Early Medieval England Hannah Purtymun	169
BOOK REVIEWS	
Faith After Doubt by Brian D. McLaren Deena M. Lin	182
The Date of the Muratorian Fragment by John F. Lingelbach Lucy C. Bajjani	194









CALL FOR PAPERS!

SOCIAL-SCIENCES HUMANITIES PHILOSOPHY MINISTRY

Submit Proposal

GCRR and SHERM Journal are accepting submission proposals for the following fields of study:

- Religious History
- Historical Theology
- Historical Jesus
- Psychology of Religion
- Sociology of Religion
- Anthropology of Religion
- Philosophy of Religion
- Religious Trends and Demographics
- Issues in Contemporary Theology
- Ancient, Medieval, and Contemporary Christian Literature
- Patristic, Medieval, and Contemporary Exegesis
- Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Writings
- Ancient Israelite Religion and Second Temple Judaism
- History and Literature of Contemporary Judaism
- Hebrew Bible
- New Testament
- Textual Criticism
- Islamic Studies

- Mormon Studies
- Native American Religion
- Hinduism, Buddhism, and Other World Religions
- Historical and Contemporary Religious Revivals and Sects
- New Religious Movements (Cults)
- Religious Violence
- Religious Liberty
- Freedom from Religion
- General Religious Studies

Ministry Research:

- Ancient, Medieval, and Contemporary Ministry Practices
- Experimental Faith Communities
- Ecclesiastical Trends and Issues
- Economic, Political, Social, and Ecological Issues in Ministry
- Ethical, Racial, Sexual, and Gender Issues in Ministry
- Case Studies / Case Reports

The World's Premier Research Institute and Publishing House

JOIN THE GCRR ACADEMIC SOCIETY

And be part of tens of thousands of scholars, educators and students researching religion from around the globe.

SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER MEMBERSHIP COSTS

FREE DIGITAL
SUBSCRIPTION
TO SHERM
ACADEMIC
JOURNAL



















PRIORITY
PEER-REVIEW
AND
PUBLISHING

PAID
"RESIDENT
SCHOLAR"
POSITIONS
AVAILABLE



Where religious students, scholars and specialists **flourish**

GCRR.ORG/JOINGCRR