

Call for the contributions for the special issue of Nova Religio
"Religious Leadership in New Religions: theoretical and empirical trajectories"

Guest editors:

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This special issue of Nova Religio will focus on recent approaches to religious leadership in contemporary new religions. It aims to answer the following theoretical and empirical research questions. What theoretical approaches have been used to analyze religious leadership in the study of new religions? How have these approaches changed with shifting social and religious environments? What changes of religious leadership can be observed with the shift of the perception of authority in contemporary society (Barker 2005, Wood 2007)? What roles do religious leaders play within the context of such changes? What can empirical data about recent successes and failures of religious leadership in new religions contribute to the classical theories of leadership? What theoretical insights can we glean from recent empirical studies?

Within the study of new religions, religious leaders have typically been studied as charismatic leaders. Charismatic leadership is one of the most important aspects considered when trying to define a new religion and its features (Barker 1984, Wessinger 2012). The idea of charismatic leadership traces back to Max Weber's (1922 [1964]) theoretical considerations on leadership and its types - traditional, rational-legal and charismatic. As scholars have observed (Wilson 1982, Dawson 2004), charismatic leadership is uniquely precarious because it must sustain legitimacy even when actions might reinforce or undermine that very authority.

We invite scholars to contribute to this issue on religious leadership in new religions with new and innovative theoretical and empirical research papers. The application of comparative approach between different regions, countries, genders, generations and doctrines will be especially welcomed.

Please submit your paper proposal in the form of a 300-word abstract to the guest editors by May 1, 2018. The guest editors will notify the author by June 1, 2018 if the paper topic is suitable for the special issue. First draft of the paper should be submitted to the guest editors by November 1, 2018. Guest editors will determine if the paper is suitable or not, or if it needs revision. The guest editors will determine when a paper is ready to be submitted to the co-general editors of Nova Religio.

The guest-editors will submit prepared papers to the co-general editors of Nova Religio by no later than June 1, 2019. The co-general editors will determine whether or not a paper can be accepted for the special issue, or if it needs revision.

The publication of the issue is planned for Nova Religio 24, no. 3 (February 2021).

For further questions please approach guest-editors Milda Ališauskienė (milda.alisauskiene@vdu.lt) and Edward Irons (ediron@aol.com).

For more information about the journal Nova Religio and the Style Sheet for papers please visit its website: <http://nr.ucpress.edu>