

## **A Call for Papers: “Female Leaders in New Religious Movements”**

Submissions are invited which examine the under-researched theme of female leadership in New Religious Movements. While research on male leaders of New Religious Movements has been effectively covered by scholarly debate, as in the case of the so-called Big 5 Movements (Branch Davidians, People’s Temple, Aum Shirinkyō, Solar Temple and the final years of Heaven’s Gate), the latter studies have suffered from an unbalanced approach to gender issues. The present volume seeks to address this shortcoming by studying female leaders in NRMs and the structures of power that regulate these movements. **“Female Leaders in New Religious Movements”** will address this lacuna by including essays covering the many complex aspects of gender and power within NRMs. A series editor at Palgrave-Macmillan has expressed strong interest in this project.

Subjects could include, but are **not** limited to:

- Comparative approaches to male/female leadership within the same movement
- Non-binary gendered/ queer leadership in contemporary (neo-pagan) movements
- Female leadership in contemporary occult orders
- Asian movements female leaders/ founders
- Christian movements female leaders/ founders

Essays are invited from scholars in the disciplines of new religious movements, Western esotericism religious studies, psychology of religions, and related disciplines.

Proposals should take the form of a 250-word (approximately) abstract, a provisional title, and a short contributor biography (50-100 words). All proposals must be received via email by **January 31, 2015**. The word count of essays accepted for inclusion in the collection should be between 6000 and 7000 words, endnotes included. Please send all proposals and questions to the editors, Inga Bårdsen Tøllefsen ([inga.bardsen.tollefsen@uit.no](mailto:inga.bardsen.tollefsen@uit.no)) and Christian Giudice ([christian.giudice@gu.se](mailto:christian.giudice@gu.se)).