Journal of Religion and Popular Culture Author Guidelines

General Contacts

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Notes to Contributors of Articles

In General

The *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* seeks to cultivate an interdisciplinary academic exploration, analysis, and interpretation of the interrelations and interactions between religion and religious expression and popular culture, broadly defined as the products of contemporary mass culture. We aspire to be the premier site for leading discussions in the field and to shape the broader academic study of religion with original research and lively debate.

Article manuscripts should not be previously published, should not be substantially similar to another publication, and should demonstrate a full command of the scholarly literature and available primary sources. They should be original works written by the author(s), without the assistance of artificial intelligence, that do not plagiarize any other published works. They must proceed beyond the presentation or mere reporting on the content of primary source materials. Manuscripts must offer original interpretations and draw new scholarly conclusions, while remaining contextualized within the scope of the broader study of religion and popular culture. Manuscripts, in English, should also avoid unnecessary jargon and be accessible to readers from disciplines across the humanities and social sciences.

Manuscript Submissions

Manuscripts should be uploaded directly to *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*'s Scholastica site at https://jrpc.scholasticahq.com/. Please note that if you have not previously submitted to *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* through the Scholastica system you will need to create an account in order to do so.

Please do not email manuscripts directly to the editorial office unless requested to do so by a member of that office.

The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture does accept submissions for proposed special issues (please contact David Feltmate at dfeltmat@aum.edu to propose a special issue). We will publish papers that comprised a conference panel together if they have been substantially revised into article length manuscripts. These articles will be treated to double-blind peer-review before publication.

Authors should review the University of California Press Artificial Intelligence (AI) guidelines prior to submitting manuscripts.

Contents of the Initial Submission

Initial submissions must include two separate files:
- Abstract as a Word file;
- Text and accompanying endnotes as a Word file.

If the author wishes to include illustrations or charts with their submission, the author must also include:
- Captions with illustration sources and permissions as a Word file;
- Low-resolution scans of the images, uploaded as individual files, as explained below. Do not place images together on a text document. If an article is accepted for publication, you will then be required to provide high-resolution TIFF files as separate files (see instructions below).

Form of the Manuscript

1. **Manuscript anonymity**: The author's name (or authors' names) should not appear in the manuscript or be used in the file name of any electronic submission. All files should instead be named with a key word from the title of the article. Cite works by yourself in the third person; do not include personal notes (acknowledgements, thanks, references to oral presentation, etc.). You may add these later if the article is accepted. Please remove personal information from the file altogether before submitting it to *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* through Scholastica.

2. **Language**: Article manuscripts should be in grammatically correct, scholarly English; authors unsure of their prose should employ a fluent English-speaking editor or an appropriate editorial software that can assist with language and grammar.
3. **Word Limit**: Article manuscripts should be between 7,500 and 9,000 words in length, including endnotes and bibliography, with an abstract of no more than 150 words. Longer or shorter submissions may be considered at the discretion of the editor. Book reviews should be between 600 and 900 words.
4. **Formatting**: The abstract, text, endnotes, and captions/sources must be double-spaced and formatted for printing on standard-size paper (8½ x 11 inches or A4). Files should be in twelve-point type. Pages must be left-justified and numbered consecutively throughout each file. Do not use automatic numbering for the caption list or numbered lists.
5. **Notes**: *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* uses endnotes. Please double-space and include them at the end of the article using the embedded Endnote function in Word.

Editorial Miscellany

- We follow the author-date style of the most recent edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* (chicagomanualofstyle.org).
- Spelling
  - Use current American spelling and typographical practice.
- Names and titles:
  - Use both name and surname on first mention. After that, the last name of a person, living or dead, will suffice unless clarity requires a title or additional name.
- Numbers and dates
  - Use figures rather than spelled-out numbers for cardinal numbers over ten and for all measurements.
    - Form the plural of decades without an apostrophe: "1950s" rather than "1950's."
    - Dates in notes should be given in the following forms: "25 December 1900," "25 December," or "December 1900,"
    - Use BCE/CE to denote time periods (not B.C.E./C.E. nor B.C./A.D.)
    - For number ranges in citations in endnotes, use en dashes and include all page numbers in the run. For example: (328–329; rather than 328-29)
    - Prices in currencies other than USD are okay to use.
    - For reviewed books with both a print edition ISBN and an epub ISBN, please spell out hardcover and e-book.
- Labeling figures:
  - Regular font (no bold)
    - Add period after "Figure"
    - Add Space between period and first letter of caption
      - Example: Figure 1. This is my photo caption.

- ○ For in-text references to figures, spell out and capitalize "Figure"
- Dimensions:
  - ○ Use Chicago style for dimensions of objects (height, width, depth – not labeled but always in the same order).
    - ■ Example: Figure 1. Base of a funerary bed, purportedly from Anyang, Henan Province, China, 550–77 CE. Marble with traces of pigment. 60.3 × 234.0 × 23.5 cm. Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, F1915.110.
- For foreign language titles:
  - ○ The *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* will print citations in original languages. Be sure to check these citations quite carefully both before submitting your final manuscript and when you receive your proofs. Pay special attention to accent and diacritical marks.
  - ○ Quotations from foreign languages must be translated in the text, with the original in the endnote, if necessary. Isolated foreign words should be italicized unless they have been adopted in English or unless their context is the direct subject of the text. Full foreign-language quotations should be in Roman type and put within quotation marks. Foreign personal titles, names of buildings, monuments, etc. are not italicized.
  - ○ French publication capitalization styles vary: follow CMS's recommendation for sentence-style and allow CMS exceptions for French. For short titles, we will follow this alternative style mentioned in CMS: "for titles beginning with a definite article (Le, La, L', Les), the article and the first substantive (noun or noun form) and any intervening modifier are capitalized (e.g., La Grande Illusion)."
  - ○ For German, per CMS, "all nouns and words used as nouns are capitalized, whether in ordinary sentences or in titles of works." When complications arise, query author and/or editor(s).
  - ○ For Hebrew and Arabic, per CMS: The Hebrew alphabet has no capital letters, and there is no universally used system for capitalizing romanized Hebrew. Writers may follow normal English usage—capitalizing proper names, book titles, and so forth (see 11.6, 11.18). Some writers eschew capitalization altogether. As always, the author must ensure internal consistency. For italics in romanized Hebrew, the normal English usage may also be followed (see 11.8).
  - ○ For Latin, per CMS: Titles of ancient and medieval Latin works should usually be capitalized in sentence style—that is, only the first word in the title and subtitle, proper nouns, and proper adjectives are capitalized (see 8.158).
  - ○ Renaissance and modern works or works in English with Latin titles, on the other hand, can usually be capitalized headline-style (see 8.159). (If there is any doubt about the era to which the title belongs, opt for sentence style.)
  - ○ For all other modern languages, please consult the most recent edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Please make sure to include all diacritical marks.
- Please resolve all other editorial issues by consulting the errata below, the most recent edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style,* or the editor

- For those scholars for whom American English is a second language, there are a variety of resources to help with guideline formatting.See, for example: The Purdue University Online Writing Lab's guide to CMS: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/cmos_formatting_and_style_guide/chicago_manual_of_style_17th_edition.html

Citation Formats

The aim of citation is clarity and scholarly verification: in the end, it is the author's responsibility to make sure that such references are accurate and will serve to instruct and aid the readers of *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*. When in doubt, more information is better. Please avoid any idem/eadem and ibid. citations, and instead use the standard shortened citation (including page number) of a work, as described in CMS.

Captions (including illustration sources) and Alt-text

Illustrations should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are mentioned in the text. The manuscript should include in-text figure callouts.

The order of information is: figure number, designer (if known), name of the building or object, location, date, brief description (if necessary), and source (using the wording prescribed by the copyright holder, if necessary). Subsequent references may be shorter than the first one.

Example:
> Figure 1. Mosaic of Lion from 6th century Tunisia, Brooklyn Museum. Museum Collection Fund (05.18).

Please note that all illustrations, images, tables and graphs are required to include alt-text. For more information about accessibility requirements, please review the Accessibility Requirements for UC Press Journal Authors.

Illustrations

If a manuscript is accepted for publication, the author must provide high-quality illustrations. They must follow the specifications below.

Digital images (preferred format)
- 300 ppi minimum at 5 inches wide or 3.6 megapixels. Images need not exceed 1200 ppi.

- Historical photographs may not meet the above criteria, which is fine. As long as the image is 96 ppi for Windows–based images, and 72 ppi for Mac OS, it will be viewable on screens.
- To support zoomability, resolution must be high enough to allow identification of relevant details, usually 600 ppi or higher.
- Saved as RGB for color, or grayscale for monochrome. Color is preferred.
- Saved in TIFF format, preferred. Most file formats will work.
- Line art must be scanned at 1200 ppi in bi-tonal mode (1-bit). For more information, see Penn State Press's website, mentioned below.
- File name should include the primary author's name and figure number.
- All images are required to meet the [Accessibility Requirements for UC Press Journal Authors](#), including alt-text.

Scanning images from books or other publications results in lower quality images. Please avoid using scans, but if their use is absolutely necessary, the author is responsible for correcting pattern (descreening) in PhotoShop and alerting *Animal History* to the problem.

For additional information regarding the preparation of digital images, including line art, please see the Penn State website: https://www.psupress.org/books/author_resources/author_digsub.html, particularly the section on halftones. This site details the descreening process and other ways to avoid problematic issues that often arise with scanned images.

Video
- Resolution: Recommended: 1280 x 720 (16 x 9 HD) and 640 x 480 (4:3 SD). There is no required minimum resolution; in general the higher resolution, the better. For older content, lower resolution may be unavoidable.
- Bit rate: Because bit rate is highly dependent on codec, there is no recommended or minimum value. Videos should be optimized for resolution, aspect ratio, and frame rate rather than bit rate.
- Frame rate: The frame rate of the original video should be maintained without resampling. Pull down and other frame rate resampling techniques are strongly discouraged.
- Codec: H.264, MPEG-2 or MPEG-4 preferred
- File types: .3gp, .avi, .mov, .mp4, .mpg, .flv, .swf, .mkv
- File size: Up to 1 GB
- Duration: Up to 10 minutes
- File name should include a key work from the title and figure number
- All video files are required to meet the [Accessibility Requirements for UC Press Journal Authors](#)

When in doubt, convert files to MPEG4 video with MP3 audio, or follow YouTube guidelines.

Audio

- Codecs: MP3 or AAC preferred
- File Size: Up to 100 MB
- Duration: Up to 10 minutes
- Sampling rate: 44.1 kHz. For older content, lower frequencies may be unavoidable.
- Bit Rate: 128 kbps preferred. For older content, lower rates may be unavoidable.
- Channels: 2 (stereo) preferred.
- File name should include a key word from the title and figure number
- All audiofiles are required to meet the [Accessibility Requirements for UC Press Journal Authors](#)

The Publishing Process for Accepted Articles

When an article is accepted for publication, the editor will provide detailed instructions about the requirements for final submission. If the article is to have illustrations, the final submission must include illustrations that meet the standards outlined above.

Upon acceptance, the manuscript will be copyedited to conform to *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*'s house style. The copy editor will send copyedited essays, articles, and reviews to their respective authors for review and approval.

Author's Agreement and Permissions

When a manuscript is accepted for publication, the author will be sent an author agreement that must be signed and returned to the editors. Authors must also obtain permission to reproduce illustrations when necessary and pay copyright fees and other costs if required by the ownership. Copies of the written permissions should be attached to a copy of the captions/sources lists and accompany the signed author's agreement. Please consult the [UC Press Journals Authors Permissions Resources online.](#)

Queries

If you have questions about the format of a submission or you wish guidance as to whether a subject is appropriate for *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*, please write directly to the editor at dfeltmat@aum.edu.

Guidelines for Obtaining Image and Permissions

The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture requires that authors clear rights to images for reproduction in the journal. You may need to obtain both a loan permission from an image lender (e.g., a museum or a photo bank such as Art Resource) and a copyright permission from the rights holder for the work (e.g., an artist or agent).

Artworks whose creator died more than 70 years ago are no longer in copyright. For such works, the only copyright may be that of a photographer who created the photo of the artwork. Or there may be no photographer's copyright—if, for example, you take the photo yourself. If there is no copyright, then you only need to rent or purchase or take a photo, and the paperwork need only cover that transaction.

If the artist or architect died less than 70 years ago, or if the work was created by a corporate entity (e.g., an archeological services company) fewer than 125 years ago, copyright is still in effect. (Copyright has this length of term in most countries worldwide). In such cases, you need to obtain permission from the rights holder as well as rental of a photo.

Tips for Obtaining Image Permissions
- Begin to request images and permissions as early as possible. Some sources are slow to respond to requests.
- Do the necessary research. Find out who handles permissions for a given artwork or museum. If you need help understanding this process, contact the editor or consult the UC Press Journals Authors Permissions Resources online.
    - **Art photographed from a book.** Most books print "image credits" in the front or back, indicating the source of each image. Be sure to consult the credits section of a book before you scan an image from it. If there is no credits page, and the work or photo of the work is not out of copyright, then you may need to write to the permissions department of the publisher to request contact information for the rights holder.
    - The publisher of a book is usually not the copyright holder for an artwork reproduced in the book. The museum that owns an artwork is usually not the copyright holder for that artwork, though it may assert copyright over a photo of that artwork. Thus, loan forms for the rental of a photo, scan, or transparency are not necessarily the same as copyright permissions.
    - Here are a few online resources to aid in identifying and locating the copyright owners of content:
      1. Copyright Catalog at the Library of Congress (Books and periodicals 1978-present)
      cocatalog.loc.gov
      2. Copyright Clearance Center (Books and periodicals)
      copyright.com
      3. Artists Rights Society (Fine Art)
      www.arsny.com
    - **Lengthy text excerpt** may also be in copyright. Fair-use laws permit you to quote within reason (and at length in a review of the book), but in general if you quote at length from a copyrighted text (including a modern copyrighted translation of an old text), you should request permission from the copyright holder (usually the author or publisher).
- Scope of rights: request world English-language rights.

- Request print and online/digital permission because although the journal is e-only, hard copies are made available for purchase via Print on Demand. Some lenders are uncomfortable granting permission for online use. You can explain to them that *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* is behind a paywall and archived permanently on the University of California website.
- As a scholar publishing in a nonprofit academic journal, you can and should negotiate fees. Many rights holders ask high fees, but most will lower them for a scholarly purpose.
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Notes to Writers of Book Reviews

Our Book Review Editor handles all book reviews and we do not accept unsolicited book reviews. Reviewers are free to express their own opinions, but the editors retain normal editorial responsibilities, including the right of rejection.

The length of reviews will range between 600 and 900 words, to be allotted on a per-book basis by the book review editor.

Book reviews must be headed with this information: author of the book, title, place of publication, publisher, date, number of pages, number of color and black-and-white illustrations, price, and ISBN. All text, including book review headings, shall be double-spaced. Manuscripts should conform to the requirements laid out in the "Notes to Contributors of Articles."