

Religions of South Asia

Notes for contributors

Guidelines for Contributors to *Religions of South Asia*

Please follow these guidelines when you first submit your article for consideration by the journal Editors and when you prepare the final version of your article following acceptance for publication.

Religions of South Asia (RoSA) will consider articles (of 5,000–8,000 words) from established scholars and research students. It will publish articles of quality on any aspect of South Asian religions, including religious traditions of South Asian origin followed elsewhere (e.g. Buddhism), and those followed in South Asia though originating elsewhere (e.g. Islam, Christianity). Studies may arise from various disciplines (e.g. Archaeology, Art History, Anthropology, Asian Studies, Comparative Religion, Law, Philosophy, Philology, Psychology, Religious Studies and Theology).

The subject includes:

- The different cultural and geographical regions where South Asian religions exist or have existed (in South, South-East, Central and East Asia, and the South Asian diaspora);
- Historical and contemporary aspects (including religious developments in the South Asian diaspora);
- Theoretical, practical and methodological issues relating to South Asian religion;
- Textual, linguistic, archaeological and art-historical studies.

There will be two issues a year, each of roughly 128 pages and including articles, reviews and sometimes review essays. From time to time there will be a Special Issue covering a particular aspect of the subject. Proposals for Special Issues, accompanied by an overall rationale and abstracts of any individual papers which are already planned, should be sent electronically to the Editors in the first instance.

The journal is published simultaneously in print and online.

There is a team of Editors responsible for the running of the journal, supported by an international Editorial Board to advise the Editors both on individual articles and on questions of policy. There is also a Reviews Editor. The publisher is Equinox Publishing Ltd.

The Editors will only exceptionally consider previously published material. They will consider translations of articles previously published in other languages, if they consider that their publication in English will considerably advance the study of the subject.

Articles

Articles are to be 4000–8000 words in length, should be accompanied by a bibliography and may be accompanied by notes (see below).

Book Reviews

The Reviews Editor receives books offered by publishers for review, and assigns them to reviewers. Any established scholar may also offer to review a particular recent book in their field, but should

first check with the Reviews Editor in case the book has already been assigned. Reviews should be 600–1200 words.

Review Articles

Established scholars may also offer to write review essays, of 1,500–4,000 words, covering several books by a single author, in a series, or around a particular topic, or raising wider issues beyond the book or books under review. For this, they should approach the Reviews Editor, with details of the book or books to be reviewed.

Language of Publication

The language of publication is English. The language of submission should be English.

Review Process

You will be able to track the progress of your submission through our online submission system when you log in as an author.

All submissions are evaluated by referees, who may be members of the Editorial Board or external referees. Authors and referees remain anonymous to each other throughout this process. The Editors will make every effort to have all submissions evaluated in a timely manner and in any case within three months of submission. The evaluation may include recommendations for revision, which the author should carry out to the Editors' satisfaction before the article can be accepted.

Permissions

You will need to clear copyright for any copyrighted material that you use or quote, including artwork. Please refer to separate PDF (Permission Guidelines for Authors) at <http://www.equinoxpub.com>.

Agreement to Publish

It is a condition of publication that authors vest copyright in their articles, including abstracts, in Equinox Publishing Ltd. This enables the publisher to ensure full copyright protection and to disseminate the article, and the journal, to the widest possible readership in print and electronic formats as appropriate. Authors may use the article elsewhere **in print** only *after* publication without prior permission from Equinox Publishing Ltd., provided that acknowledgment is given to the Journal as the original source of publication, and that Equinox is notified in advance so that its records show that use of the article is properly authorized. Once an article has been accepted for publication, the author must complete the 'Agreement to Publish' form downloadable from the website <http://www.equinoxpub.com>. Please read the conditions, sign the form and return it to Equinox Publishing Ltd., Unit 6, The Village, 101 Amies Street, London SW11 2JW, UK. Any other re-use of the material must be cleared in advance with the Publisher.

Online Submissions

We normally accept only online submissions. If you are unable to do so electronically through the Equinox site, contact the Editor.

Online submission is a five-stage process and you may submit articles or book reviews but in the case of book reviews, please check in advance with the Book Review editor to ensure that the book you want to review has not already been assigned.

Once you have begun the five-stage process, you will be prompted to supply various types of information (metadata) along with your actual article including an abstract of no more than 200 words. (Book Reviews do not require abstracts) and three to six keywords, a short biographical statement of up to 75 words, contact details and appropriate library of congress subject classification codes, among other things. This metadata is important because it facilitates the indexing of your article once it is published, leading to more citations and greater readership.

You will be asked to upload your article. Your submission should be in Microsoft Word. If using another word processor, convert the final file into Rich Text Format (RTF). Manuscripts should be formatted using one and a half line spacing, printed and numbered consecutively throughout.

For articles containing diacritics, you should upload an original submission file in Word and a PDF as a supplementary file (in a two stage process). We do not accept other programs since diacritics written in other programs may not be received correctly by the Editors and are more likely to be corrupted during the production process.

You may also upload other supplementary material such as (a) research instruments (b) data sets (c) sources that would otherwise be unavailable to readers or (d) audio/video material. If you intend these to become an official part of the journal, please indicate in a note to the Editor. Some material may be suitable only for the electronic version of the journal.

When you have completed the submission process, the Journal Editor will receive a notification of your submission and you will receive confirmation that the review process has started.

Ensuring a Blind Peer Review

All articles are blind peer-reviewed. To insure the integrity of the blind peer-review we need to make every effort to preserve the anonymity of authors and reviewers. Therefore when preparing your article for submission please take the following steps:

1. Remove your name entirely from the text. If you cite your own publications be sure to substitute the word 'author' for your own personal details and for the actual title of the work cited.
2. With Microsoft Office documents, author identification should also be removed from the properties for the file (see under File in Word), by clicking on the following, beginning with File on the main menu of the Microsoft application: File>Save As>Tools (or Options with a Mac)>Security>Remove personal information from the file properties on save>Save.
3. On any PDF uploaded, remove the author names from Document Properties found under File on Adobe.

Style Rules

All articles and reviews accepted for publication must conform to the following style rules and be submitted according to the following instructions.

Diacritical Marks/Romanization

For diacritic marks, wherever possible use a Unicode font such as Gentium, which is available as a free download from:

http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&item_id=Gentium_download

For Chinese ideograms, a Unicode font is essential.

As noted above, in articles containing diacritics it is a good idea to submit a PDF as a supplemental file.

Articles arising from disciplines in which exact romanization is not usual (e.g. sociology, history) need not use diacritics. Articles using literary sources in Asian languages should use the appropriate internationally accepted romanization system, with diacritics (preferably the one used by the US Library of Congress). If there is any uncertainty as to whether a particular article should have exact romanization and which system should be used, the Editors should be consulted.

Illustrations, Tables, Maps, Figures

Illustrations, tables, maps and figures must be numbered consecutively, using roman numerals for tables and arabic for figures. They must include captions which identify the source of any image or data. Authors are responsible for obtaining copyright and for submitting camera ready illustrations. The Publisher accepts no responsibility for redrawing illustrations.

When an article has been accepted, any photographs and figures should be supplied electronically at a minimum (in the case of half-tones) of 300 dpi.

Format of articles, reviews and review essays

Page layout should be A4, with a minimum margin of 1 inch/2.54 cm. A 12-point font must be used, and justification and hyphenation must be turned off. Pages must be numbered in one sequence, beginning with 1.

Format of articles

Articles should be 5,000–8,000 words in length.

Citations should be by author and date; see **Style** below.

Use no more than three levels of heading below the title. Ensure that each level is clearly identifiable by using the MS Word default styles, as in this document. Headings should be ranged left, and should not be numbered.

Footnotes should be as few and brief as possible, and should not be used for giving citations. Place your footnotes at the end of the document, but they will be printed at the foot of the page.

Format of review essays

Review essays should be 1500–4,000 words in length, and have a title, as for an article, followed by the details of the books reviewed, in the same format as in a review. For other matters, including citations to other books, see **Format of articles** above and **Style** below.

Format of reviews

A review should be headed with the details of the book reviewed, in the following format:

Authority and Meaning in Indian Religions: Hinduism and the Case of Valmiki, by Julia Leslie. Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate, 2003. x + 241 pp., £49.50 (hb), £17.99 (pb). ISBN 0-7546-3430-2 (hb), 0-7546-3431-0 (pb).

A review should not normally include footnotes, or citations of other books. Citations of the book under review should be by page number, in the form (p. 6). If it is essential to cite another book, it should be in the form (Gavin Flood (1996) *An Introduction to Hinduism*, p. 81).

For other matters, see **Style** below.

References

All citations should be given in bracketed form, and each citation must match an entry in the list of references. Conversely, the list of references should contain only those works that are cited. A footnote should not be created solely to give a citation, though footnotes may include citations.

Bracketed citations

Citations of modern publications should be in author and date form, followed by a page number (unless the whole work is cited), e.g. (Geaves 2006: 101). Authors with the same surname should be distinguished by initials, e.g. (J. D. Smith 1999: 76). Publications by the same author with the same date should be distinguished by letters, e.g. (Flügel 2006a: 327). A passage on two or more pages should be referred to in the form (Gombrich 2005: 71-72) or (Sharma 2002: 108-11). Do not use the abbreviation f. or ff.

Where the same source is referred to in several places in the same paragraph, it should be given in the above form on the first occurrence, e.g. (Gombrich 2005: 70), but in the form (p. 73) or (pp. 73-74) in subsequent occurrences in the paragraph. Otherwise the abbreviation p. or pp. should not be used (except in reviews; see above). Do not use *op. cit.*, *loc. cit.* or *ibid.*

For literary or religious texts, including modern literary texts of which there is no one standard edition, give chapter and verse or other appropriate reference, e.g. (*Bhagavad-Gita* 18, 61); (Sankara on *Vedanta-Sutra* 1, 1, 4); (Forster, *A Passage to India*, ch. 12.). If such a text is referred to frequently, the title may be abbreviated, and listed in a list headed ABBREVIATIONS before the list of references.

List of references

The list of references should be in alphabetical order at the end of the article, before the notes, and headed REFERENCES. Where there are two sources by the same author published in the same year, add a, b, etc. after the date, e.g. 2007a, 2007b. Titles of books should be in italics. Titles of articles in periodicals or of chapters, articles or papers in multi-authored books should be in single quotation marks ‘’. English titles should have a capital initial for each word, other than prepositions, articles, conjunctions, or forms of the verbs *be* and *have*. Titles in other languages should be capitalized as in the source, since different languages have different conventions. The initial letters of article titles should not be capitalized unless they would be capitalized in normal writing. All entries should be punctuated as in the examples below.

Books: Give the author’s surname, forenames and initials (as given in the source), date, title (in italics, with subtitle separated by a colon), place of publication, and publisher. E.g.:

Oberoi, Harjot. 1994. *The Construction of Religious Boundaries: Culture, Identity and Diversity in the Sikh Tradition*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Chapters, articles or papers in multi-authored books (including encyclopedias): If only one contribution in the book is referred to, list it as follows:

Thapar, Romila. 1994. 'A Historical Perspective on the Story of Rama.' In Gopal, Sarvepalli (ed.), *Anatomy of a Confrontation: Ayodhya and the Rise of Communal Politics in India*: 141-63. London: Zed Books.

But if several contributions in the same book are referred to, list the book (under the editor's or first-named editor's name), and also the individual contributions, as follows:

Bagchi, Amiya Kumar. 1994. 'Predatory Commercialization and Communalism in India.' In Gopal (ed.) 1994: 193-218.

Gopal, Sarvepalli (ed.). 1994. *Anatomy of a Confrontation: Ayodhya and the Rise of Communal Politics in India*. London: Zed Books.

Thapar, Romila. 1994. 'A Historical Perspective on the Story of Rama.' In Gopal (ed.) 1994: 141-63.

Articles in periodicals: Give the author's surname, forenames and initials (as given in the source), date, title (in quotation marks), journal title, volume number (with part number in brackets), page numbers, place of publication, and publisher. E.g.:

Tulladhar-Douglas, Will. 2005. 'On Why It is Good to have Many Names: The Many Identities of a Nepalese God.' *Contemporary South Asia* 14 (1): 58-74.

Note that *In* is used for chapters or articles in books, but not for articles in periodicals.

Literary or religious texts: List the text under its title, followed by details of the edition or translation used. E.g.:

Atharva-Veda. W. D. Whitney (trans.), *The Atharva Veda Samhita*. 2 vols. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. 1905.

Websites: Give the URL of the site, date accessed, sub-page and route there indicated by >s and its address if it has a separate one. E.g.:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Author | Dr Jay McDaniel |
| Year | 2006 |
| Document title | <i>Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism in Arkansas</i> |
| Format [] | [WWW] |
| URL including filename extension | http://www.pluralism.org/affiliates/mcdaniel/index.php |
| Date accessed () | (11-09-06) |

The format would look like this:

McDaniel, J. 2006. [WWW] *Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism in Arkansas*. <http://www.pluralism.org/affiliates/mcdaniel/index.php> (11-09-06)

2005. [WWW] *Diasporas, Migrations and Identities*. <http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/> (11-09-06)

Add other information that helps to locate the passage, e.g. the title or heading it is under. Give an author if one is listed.

Style

Spelling

British spelling and punctuation should be used. Where British practice varies, the Concise OED (1950) should be consulted. Please note the following:

1. The suffix *-ize* should be spelt thus (not *-ise*) (e.g. *emphasize, recognize, organization*). Exceptions are certain words in which *-ise* is not a suffix (e.g. *improvise, exercise*).
2. Spell *judgment, acknowledgment* (not *-dge-*).
3. Spell *focused, focusing* with single *-s-*, not *-ss-*.
4. Possessive forms of names with final *s* should be written with added *'s* (e.g. *Jones's views, Maimonides's responsa*). Certain names may be written without the added *s* if this is traditional (e.g. *Jesus' sayings*).
5. Numerals should be written as words when they are ten or below, when they begin a sentence, or when they are an even hundred, thousand, million, billion, etc. Names of centuries should be written as words: *twenty-first century; nineteenth century*, etc. (A hyphen before *century* is only used if the phrase is attributive, forming a phrase with the following noun (e.g. *nineteenth-century India*.)
6. The apostrophe *'* should only be used either where *s* marks a possessive form (but not in the possessive form *its*), or where it's a colloquial form of *is* or *has*. It should not be used in plurals such as *the NGOs, the 1920s*. (Note that the phrase *the 1900s* should refer only to the years 1900–1909, not 1900–1999.)

Italics

Italicize:

- All non-English terms, at each occurrence, but not a final English plural *-s* or *-es* (e.g. *munis; apsaras*).
- The titles of books and journals.
- The titles of texts, including text collections.
Do not italicize names of persons, deities, places, schools of Hinduism or Buddhism, etc.
Do not italicize quotations, or titles of articles (see **List of references** above).

Quotations

Short quotations (of up to three lines) should run continuously with the main text, and be indicated by single quotation marks *'*. Double quotation marks *"* should be used only for quotations within quotations. The source of the quotation should be cited in brackets (see **Citations** above) after the closing quotation mark and before the following full stop or other punctuation.

Long quotations (of more than three lines) should be indented from the left margin (but still in 12-point size), without opening or closing quotation marks. Any quotation within a long quotation should be in single quotation marks *'*. The source should be cited in brackets on the line below the end of the quotation, ranged right.

Any omission within a quotation, but not at the beginning or end, should be marked with . . .

Parentheses and brackets

Parentheses or round brackets *()* should be used to mark a parenthesis. (This applies even to a parenthesis within a parenthesis (as in this example).) If a parenthesis is a complete sentence (as in the preceding example), the full stop or period should be to the left of the closing bracket. Other punctuation (except a question mark or exclamation mark which is part of the parenthesis!) should

be to the right of the closing bracket (as the comma in the preceding sentence, or the full stop in this sentence).

Square brackets [] should be used to indicate matter inserted by the author within a quotation, or the change of a letter from upper to lower case or vice versa by the author. Square brackets should be used where a non-English word is translated in a quotation but the author of the article inserts the original word (e.g. ‘There is consensus [*ijma*] on this question’). Square brackets with quotation marks should be used where the author of the article inserts a translation of a non-English term (e.g. ‘There is *ijma* ‘[‘consensus’] on this question’). The insertion [sic] (‘[it is written] thus [in the original]’) should only be used to indicate that an apparent error is not the fault of the author of the article. It should not be used to pass judgment on the quoted author’s choice of words.

Abbreviations

In the list of references, use the following abbreviations:

- ed. (‘editor’; ‘edited by’)
- repr. (‘reprint’)
- rev. (‘reviser’; ‘revised by’)
- trans. (‘translator’; ‘translated by’)
- vol. (‘volume’), vols. (‘volumes’)
- 2nd edn. (‘second edition’)

Do not abbreviate titles of journals or reference books.

Do not use the abbreviations *op. cit.* (‘in the work cited’), *loc. cit.* (‘in the place cited’), *ibid.* (‘in the same place’), *idem* (‘the same [author]’), *f.* (‘and the following page’) or *ff.* (‘and the following pages’); see the section on **References**.

The abbreviations *p.* (‘page’), *pp.* (‘pages’), *ch.* (‘chapter’) are not used in *RoSA*’s system of referencing, except as explained under **Format of reviews**, **Bracketed citations** and **References**.

The abbreviations *e.g.* (‘for example’), *i.e.* (‘that is’) and *etc.* (‘and other things’) should only be used in parentheses or in footnotes.

For dates, use BCE and CE (in small capitals and without full stops).

Gender

Where a gender-inclusive alternative is possible, it is to be preferred (e.g. *humankind* or *humanity* rather than *man*). On the other hand, the use of gender-inclusive words where only one gender is meant (e.g. *a person’s wife*) should be avoided.

Proofs, offprints and copyright

Proofs will normally be sent to authors as PDF files. Authors should print out, correct and return them within one week. They should advise the Editors in advance if they will be unable to do this. Proofs should be corrected using the British Standard notation, published in the *Writers’ and Artists’ Yearbook*. Only typographic corrections, and responses to specific questions raised by the Editors, can normally be accepted at this stage.

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