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Subject: [Religions] Invitation to Contribute to the Special Issue on “Pastoral and Spiritual Care in Pluralistic Societies”

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Dear colleagues,

I write to invite you to submit an article for a special issue on “Pastoral and Spiritual Care in Pluralistic Societies” for the journal *Religions* (ISSN 2077-1444) (<https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions>). The journal has been included by AHCI and Scopus and has a strong academic record. It is also open access and so has a large readership.

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/Pastoral_Spiritual_Care

I am the guest editor for this issue and would love to have your participation. Your work is a good fit for the topic. Please feel free to suggest a specification on the topic on the special issue fitting with your research interests and academic focus.

The article should be between 5,000-10,000 words and follow the guidelines of the journal. (We will forward the guidelines and template when your abstract is accepted.) The guidelines and Call For Paper can also be found on the journal website.

The submission deadline is **5 February 2023**. An abstract of 250 words about the topic you have selected should be emailed to me, at annette.haussmann@ts.uni-heidelberg.de or bella.xu@mdpi.com.

For further details on the submission process, please see the Instructions for Authors on the journal website (<http://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/instructions>).

The article should be uploaded to the journal webpage and will then be sent to reviewers. The journal mandates two outside reviewers for all submissions. Publication is normally 6-8 weeks after the final draft submission.

Author Benefits in Religions:

1. ***Open Access*** (unlimited and free access for readers).
2. ***High Visibility*** is provided by citations available in the AHCI, as well as Scopus, and other

databases (<https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/indexing>).

3. ***Fast Publication*** combined with a thorough peer review process.

4. Religions has just been ranked by **Google Scholar Metrics** as one of the top four journals in Religion (https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=top_venues&hl=en&vq=hum_religion).

All articles published in *Religions* (ISSN 2077-1444) are published in full [open access](#). In order to provide free access to readers, and to cover the costs of peer review, copyediting, typesetting, long-term archiving, and journal management, an article processing charge (APC) of **1200 CHF (Swiss Francs)** applies to papers accepted after peer review.

The description of the topic for the special issue is described below:

Dear Colleagues,

In this Special Issue of *Religions*, the focus will be on how the tradition of pastoral care and the newer approaches to spiritual care find itself today in the confrontation with the conditions of a plural society. For some time now, poimenics, theology, but also psychology and psychology of religion, sociology, philosophy or medicine have been reflecting on how societal pluralization and differentiation affect religious phenomena, pastoral care within the church framework and beyond, spiritual needs and spiritual care. In particular, the expansion to interreligious pastoral care and spiritual care (Noth, Wenz & Schweitzer 2017; Noth & Kohli-Reichenbach 2019), intercultural pastoral care (Kießling 2019) and the dialogue between Judaism, Christianity and Islam have set new standards here for what can be understood by “care” and “spirituality/religion”. However, this requires a far-reaching future-oriented reflection on how new approaches to the cooperation of cultures, religions and professions can be created in a pluralistic society. Particularly in view of the loss of self-understanding of religious affiliation, the individualization of spirituality and the loss of influence of the churches, it is necessary to ask how pastoral care and spiritual care can be shaped in the future. Conflicts also have to be considered in this field: on a social, religious–spiritual or cultural level, there are also conflicts in plural societies, e.g. about norms, values, religious/spiritual feelings and attitudes, which become relevant in pastoral care and spiritual care.

This Special Issue intends to address the following questions, but is also open to its own suggestions and topics within this spectrum:

- Empirical research in the context of religious phenomena in plural societies and its effects/implications for pastoral care and spiritual care.
- Pastoral care and spiritual care in the multireligious and interreligious as well as intercultural context.
- Significance and impact of global phenomena on religion, pastoral care and spiritual care (e.g. migration, global health challenges).
- Approaches and methods for interreligious and intercultural pastoral care or spiritual care.
- Which religious, spiritual and cultural needs do people have today and how can they be addressed in pastoral care/spiritual care?
- Spiritual, religious, cultural conflicts in plural societies and their significance in pastoral care/spiritual care.
- How does the pluralistic society affect pastoral care/spiritual care in different fields, for example, in hospital chaplaincy or in schools (school chaplaincy)?

- What training, qualifications and prerequisites are necessary on the part of pastoral care workers and other professions in order to ensure good interdisciplinary and interprofessional care?
- Which models of interprofessional and interdisciplinary cooperation have proven successful in the plural context and which further developments are necessary?

We look forward to receiving abstracts and manuscripts and are eager to hear your ideas and suggestions for a fruitful discussion of pastoral and spiritual care in the context of plural societies.

We welcome research papers and contributions from the field of empirical, historical and theoretical research as well as contributions from pastoral and spiritual care practice.

We request that, prior to submitting a manuscript, interested authors initially submit a proposed title and an abstract of 400–600 words summarizing their intended contribution. Please send it to the guest editors (annette.haussmann@ts.uni-heidelberg.de; isabelle.noth@unibe.ch) or to the Religions editorial office (religions@mdpi.com). Abstracts will be reviewed by the guest editors for the purposes of ensuring proper fit within the scope of the Special Issue. Full manuscripts will undergo double-blind peer-review.

Literature:

Kießling, K. (2019). *Seelsorge interkulturell: Pastoralpsychologische Beiträge* (1st ed.). Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/kxp/detail.action?docID=5646335>

Noth, I., Wenz, G., & Schweizer, E. (Eds.). (2017). *V&R eLibrary. Pastoral and spiritual care across religions and cultures: = Seelsorge und Spiritual Care in interkultureller Perspektive*. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Neukirchener Theologie. <https://doi.org/10.13109/9783788732028>

Noth, I., & Kohli Reichenbach, C. (2019). *Pastoral and Spiritual Care Across Religions and Cultures II: Spiritual Care and Migration* (I. Noth, & C. Kohli Reichenbach, Eds.) (1. Auflage 2019). Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

Best,

Prof. Dr. Annette Haussmann, Heidelberg University

Prof. Dr. Isabelle Noth, University of Bern