

# New Titles in Religious Studies and Theology

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## Religious Tolerance through Humility

Thinking with Philip Quinn

Edited by James Kraft, Huston-Tillotson University, USA and David Basinger, Roberts Wesleyan College, USA

While many ground religious tolerance on a sense of unity or enrichment resulting from religious diversity, the acclaimed scholars contributing to this volume place under scrutiny a fascinating alternative proposal for a pathway to religious tolerance: that the serious consideration of religious diversity tends to reveal the weakness of support many have for their religious commitments and that the humility produced tends to result in religious tolerance. The authors illuminate the debate within philosophy about the way beliefs are supported, the controversy between internalism and externalism, and disagreement about how humility and tolerance are related.

**Contents:** Introduction; Part 1 From Religious Diversity Seriously Considered to Humility?: Epistemology in philosophy of religion [excerpt], *Philip Quinn*; Is uncertainty a sound foundation for religious tolerance?, *William Lane Craig*; How religious diversity can and does foster religious tolerance, *David Basinger*; Quinn's thin strategy, *Jerome Gellman*; Friendly theism, *John Greco*. Part 2 From Humility to Religious Tolerance?: On religious diversity and tolerance, *Philip Quinn*; Epistemic humility in the face of 'violent religions': calming the seesaw, *James Kraft*; A path to (and beyond) tolerance, *Robert McKim*; 'Thinner theologues', religious diversity, and religious tolerance, *William Hasker*; Quinn on tolerance and diversity, *Peter Byrne*; Religious pluralism and epistemic humility, *Keith Yandell*; Index.

February 2008 138 pages  
Hardback 978-0-7546-6102-3 £45.00 £33.75



## Pseudo-Dionysius as Polemicist

The Development and Purpose of the Angelic Hierarchy in Sixth Century Syria

Rosemary A. Arthur

Ashgate New Critical Thinking in Religion, Theology and Biblical Studies

The anonymous theologian known as Pseudo-Dionysius, who was responsible for arranging the angelic hierarchy into nine orders, had a significant influence on mediaeval European mysticism. This book places him in his religious and political context in 6th century Syria, and uncovers the hidden agenda which lies behind his writings. New evidence is presented to establish the dating of the corpus more accurately than has been done before. Rather than analysing the minutiae of Dionysius' thought, Rosemary Arthur focuses on his sources for, and treatment of, the Angelic Hierarchy and the Dazzling Darkness, with a view to ascertaining his motive for writing, his relationship with his opponents and his need to hide his identity.

**Contents:** Preface; Christian and non-Christian sources; The angelic hierarchy; The unknowability of God; The monophysite connection; Summa or polemic?; Conclusion; Bibliography; Index.

March 2008 226 pages  
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## Mind, Brain and the Elusive Soul

Human Systems of Cognitive Science and Religion

Mark Graves, Jesuit School of Theology, USA

Ashgate Science and Religion Series

Does science argue against the existence of the human soul? Many scientists and scholars believe the whole is more than the sum of the parts. This book uses information and systems theory to describe the "more" that does not reduce to the parts. One sees this in the synapses – or apparently empty gaps between the neurons in one's brain-where informative relationships give rise to human mind, culture, and spirituality. Drawing upon the disciplines of cognitive science, computer science, neuroscience, general systems theory, pragmatic philosophy, and Christian theology, Mark Graves reinterprets the traditional doctrine of the soul as form of the body to frame contemporary scientific study of the human soul.

Includes 23 line drawings  
March 2008 c. 256 pages  
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## Luke the Priest

The Authority of the Author of the Third Gospel

Rick Strelan, University of Queensland, Australia

This book focuses on the authority and status of the author of Luke-Acts. What authority did he have to write a Gospel, to interpret the Jewish Scriptures and traditions of Israel, to interpret the Jesus traditions, and to update the narrative with a second volume with its interpretation of Paul and the other apostles who appear in the Acts narrative? Rick Strelan constructs the author as a Jewish Priest, examining such issues as writing and orality, authority and tradition, and the status and role of priests. The analysis is set within the context of scholarly opinion about the author, the intended audience and other related issues.

**Contents:** Preface; Introduction; Who were the Gospel writers?; Gospels, authors and authority; The status of Luke in scholarship; Why write another Gospel?; Owning, controlling, guarding the traditions; The oral and the written; Luke in the tradition; Luke among the scholars; Luke the priest; Luke as authoritative interpreter of Scripture; Luke as interpreter of the Jesus traditions; Luke as interpreter of Paul; Conclusion; Bibliography; Indexes.

May 2008 204 pages  
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## Creation: Law and Probability

Edited by Fraser Watts, University of Cambridge, UK

Ashgate Science and Religion Series

How can we reconcile assumptions about the lawfulness of the universe with provision for chance events? Do the 'laws of nature' indicate what absolutely must happen, or just what is most likely to happen? These are important questions for both science and theology, and they are explored here from both perspectives. This volume explores the important but neglected topic on the interface of science and theology: the relationship law and probability have within creation. Prestigious contributors look at this topic in a broad way: (a) from a variety of different disciplines, including history and philosophy, as well as theology and science; (b) in relation to a variety of different sciences, including cosmology, evolutionary biology and neuroscience; and (c) in dialogue of different faith traditions.

**Contents:** Preface; Concepts of law and probability in theology and science, *Fraser Watts*; The development of the concept of laws of nature, *Peter Harrison*; Contemporary philosophical concepts of laws of nature: the quest for broad explanatory consonance, *Philip Clayton*; Multiverses and ultimate causation, *George F.R. Ellis*; Laws of physics, principles of self-organization, and natural capacities: on explaining a self-organizing world, *Niels Henrik Gregersen*; Chance and evolution, *Michael Ruse*; Neuroscience, determinism, and downward causation, *Nancey Murphy*; God and probability, *David J. Bartholomew*; From law and chance in nature to ultimate reality, *Wesley J. Wildman*; Creation, law and probability: a world religions' perspective, *John Bowker*; Afterword: some further reflections, *John Polkinghorne*; Index.

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## Christology and Science

F. LeRon Shults, University of Agder, Norway

Ashgate Science and Religion Series

'LeRon Shults here offers one of the first comprehensive accounts of the relevance of science for contemporary Christology, and vice versa. At once a multifaceted and highly accessible book.'

–Niels Henrik Gregersen, Copenhagen University, Denmark

The dialogue between theology and science has blossomed in recent decades, but particular beliefs about Jesus Christ have not often been brought to the forefront of this interdisciplinary discussion even in explicitly Christian contexts. This book breaks new ground by explicitly bringing the specific themes of Christology into dialogue with contemporary science. It engages recent developments in late modern philosophy of science in order to articulate the Christian beliefs about Jesus Christ in a way that responds to challenges and opportunities that have arisen in light of various scientific discoveries. The main chapters deal with Incarnation, Atonement and Parousia. After a brief treatment of the history of the shaping of these ideas, the author traces developments in some of the sciences that have challenged these formulations: evolutionary biology, cultural anthropology and physical cosmology. Each chapter also summarises some of the popular constructive responses to these developments. After clarifying the way in which the Christian understanding of God and of humanity shape the task of reforming Christology, each chapter concludes with a programmatic outline of ways in which we might articulate the identity, agency and presence of Jesus Christ in dialogue with late modern science and culture.

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## Post-Christian Feminisms

### A Critical Approach

Edited by **Kathleen McPhillips**, University of Western Sydney, Australia and **Lisa Isherwood**, University of Winchester, UK

This book explores the impact and contribution of post-theories in the field of Christian feminist theology. Post-theory is an important and cutting-edge discursive field which has revolutionized the production of knowledge in both feminism and theology. This book fills a gap by providing a text that can make authoritative statements on the use and status of post-theory in feminist theology, and secondly it makes an on-going contribution to the discourse of Christian feminist theology and its liberation agenda. Distinguished and established scholars contribute conclusive essays on the most recent and exciting developments in post-theory, feminism and theology.

**Contents:** Introduction, *Lisa Isherwood* and *Kathleen McPhillips*; Beyond reason: towards a post-Christian philosophy of religion, *Beverley Clack*; The 'post'-age of belief: wither or whither Christianity?, *Pamela Sue Anderson*; Ecofeminist thea/logies and ethics: a post-Christian movement?, *Rosemary Radford Ruether*; Material elements: the matter of women, the matter of Earth, the matter of God, *Anne Elvey*; Who's been reading MY Bible? Post-structuralist hermeneutics and sacred text, *Jane Wootton*; Post-Christian hermeneutics: the rise and fall of female subjectivity in theological narrative, *I'an Jobling*; The Bi/girl writings from feminist theology to queer theologies, *Marcella Althaus-Reid*; Our Lady of Perpetual Succour: mother of phallic fetishes, *Lisa Isherwood*; Feminist interjections and proposals for a post-Christian, post-patriarchal sacred, *Kathleen Phillips*; Melting hearts of stone, *Mary Condren*; A third way: explicating the post in post-Christian feminism, *Frances Gray* and *Kathleen McPhillips*; For post-Christian feminisms: a critical appraisal. Re-membering Jesus: a postcolonial feminist remembering, *Satoko Yamaguchi*; Jesus past the posts: an enquiry into post-metaphysical Christology, *Lisa Isherwood*; The return of the living dead, *Elisabeth Stuart*; Index.

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## Liturgy and Architecture

### From Early Church to the Middle Ages

Allan Doig, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, UK

Liturgy, Worship & Society Series

In this book Allan Doig explores the interrelationship of liturgy and architecture from the early Church to the close of the Middle Ages, taking into account social, economic, technical, theological and artistic factors. These are crucial to a proper understanding of ecclesiastical architecture of all periods, and together their study illuminates the study of liturgy. Buildings and their archaeology are standing indices of human activity, and the whole matrix of meaning they present is highly revealing of the larger meaning of ritual performance within, and movement through, their space. The excavation of the mid-third-century church at Dura Europos in the Syrian desert, the grandeur of Constantine's Imperial basilicas, the influence of the great pilgrimage sites, and the marvels of soaring Gothic cathedrals, all come alive in a new way when the space is animated by the liturgy for which they were built. Reviewing the most recent research in the area, and moving the debate forward, this study will be enormously useful to the liturgist, clergy, theologians, art and architectural historians, and those interested in the conservation of ecclesiastical structures built for the liturgy.

**Contents:** Preface; Introduction; The earliest Christian worship and its setting; Constantine, continuity and change in the 4th century; The emergence of the Byzantine rite and the church building as sacrament; Late antiquity in the West and the Gallican rite; Carolingian architecture and liturgical reform; monasticism, pilgrimage and the Romanesque; Gothic architecture and the Latin rite: from origins to the close of the Middle Ages; Index.

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## Whose God? Which Tradition?

### The Nature of Belief in God

Edited by **D.Z. Phillips**

Philosophy of Religion is marked by controversy over which philosophical accounts do justice to core religious beliefs. Many Wittgensteinian philosophers are accused by analytic philosophers of religion of distorting these beliefs. In *Whose God? Which Tradition?*, the accusers stand accused of the same by leading philosophers in the Thomist and Reformed traditions. Their criticisms alert us to the dangers of uncritical acceptance of dominant philosophical traditions, and to the need to do justice to the conceptual uniqueness of the reality of God. The dissenting voices breathe new life into the central issues concerning the nature of belief in God.

April 2008 184 pages  
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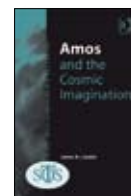
## Amos and the Cosmic Imagination

James R. Linville, University of Lethbridge, Canada

Society for Old Testament Study

Said to contain the words of the earliest of the biblical prophets (8th century BCE), the book of Amos is reinterpreted by James Linville in light of new and sometimes controversial historical approaches to the Bible. Amos is read as the literary product of the Persian-era community in Judah. Its representations of divine-human communication are investigated in the context of the ancient writers' own role as transmitters and shapers of religious traditions. Amos's extraordinary poetry expresses mythical conceptions of divine manifestation and a process of destruction and recreation of the cosmos which reveals that behind the appearances of the natural world is a heavenly, cosmic temple.

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## Ecumenism Today

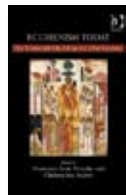
### The Universal Church in the 21st Century

Edited by **Francesca Aran Murphy**, University of Aberdeen, UK and **Chris Asprey**, University of Aberdeen, UK

What is Ecumenism? Is Christian unity a legitimate hope or just a pious illusion? The aim of this book is to analyze the real obstacles that stand in the path to unity and to propose solutions, where these are possible. Distinguished authors from the main Christian denominations offer a unique insight into the problem of Christian divisions and the relationships between Christian communities. This work is not a politically correct exercise in diplomacy; rather, it informs the reader about the actual state of the ecumenical dialogue.

**Contents:** Introduction, Christopher Asprey; Section 1 Theological Ecumenism: Stumbling upon Peter? The question of the Church in contemporary ecumenical dialogue, *Philip C. Ziegler*; Ut unum sint: cross-bench Anglican reflections, *John Webster*; A communal adventure in ecclesiology, *Francesca Aran Murphy*; Watch and pray: a reflection on the meaning of ut, *Susan Frank Parsons*. Section 2 Ecumenical Theology: Unity and Schism: The myth of schism, *David Hart*; The basis of Christian unity, *Donald McLeod*; Authority: The meaning of the Petrine ministry, *Charles Morerod OP*; A communion of love and the primacy of Peter, *Vigen Guroian*; A reformed Papacy? The treatment of Papal primacy in the Worms Book (1540), *Nicholas J. Thompson*; Eucharist: All change: eucharist is key, *Peter Donald*. Epilogue: Persecution and Theological Ecumenism: United we stand, divided we fall: is persecution against Christians breaking down the walls between churches?, *John Pontifex*; Persecution and ecumenism, *Robin Gibbons*; Index.

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## Cambridge Theology in the Nineteenth Century

### Enquiry, Controversy and Truth

David M. Thompson, University of Cambridge, UK

Many books have been written about nineteenth-century Oxford theology, but what was happening in Cambridge? This book provides the first continuous account of what might be called 'the Cambridge theological tradition', by discussing its leading figures from Richard Watson and William Paley, through Herbert Marsh and Julius Hare, to the trio of Lightfoot, Westcott and Hort. It also includes a chapter on nonconformists such as Robertson Smith, P.T. Forsyth and T.R. Glover. The analysis is organized around the defences that were offered for the credibility of Christianity in response to hostile and friendly critics. In this period the study of theology was not yet divided into its modern self-contained areas. A critical approach to scripture was taken for granted, and its implications for ecclesiology, the understanding of salvation and the social implications of the Gospel were teased out (in Hort's phrase) through enquiry and controversy as a way to discover truth. Cambridge both engaged with German theology and responded positively to the nineteenth-century 'crisis of faith'.

May 2008 222 pages  
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## Mi'kmaq Landscapes

### From Animism to Sacred Ecology

Anne-Christine Hornborg, Linköping University, Sweden

Vitality of Indigenous Religions Series

This book seeks to explore historical changes in the lifeworld of the Mi'kmaq Indians of Eastern Canada. The Mi'kmaq culture hero Kluskap serves as a key persona in discussing issues such as traditions, changing conceptions of land, and human-environmental relations. In order not to depict Mi'kmaq culture as timeless, two important periods in its history are examined. Within the first period between 1850 and 1930 Hornborg explores historical evidence of the ontology, epistemology, and ethics – jointly labelled animism – that stem from a premodern Mi'kmaq hunting subsistence. New ways of discussing animism and shamanism are here richly exemplified. The second study situates the culture hero in the modern world of the 1990s, when allusions to Mi'kmaq tradition and to Kluskap played an important role in the struggle against a planned superquarry on Cape Breton. This study discusses the eco-cosmology that has been formulated by modern reserve inhabitants and that could be labelled a "sacred ecology". Focusing on how the Mi'kmaq are rebuilding their traditions and environmental relations in interaction with modern society, Hornborg illustrates how environmental groups, pan-Indianism, and education play an important role, but so does reserve life. By anchoring their engagement in reserve life the Mi'kmaq traditionalists have to a large extent been able to confront both external and internal doubts about their authenticity.

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