

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-88391-7 - The Cambridge Companion to Religious Studies

Edited by Robert A. Orsi

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

## Contents

*Notes on contributors* page ix

*Acknowledgments* xiii

Introduction I

ROBERT A. ORSI

***Part one Religion and religious studies:  
the irony of inheritance***

1. On sympathy, suspicion, and studying religion:  
historical reflections on a doubled inheritance 17  
LEIGH E. SCHMIDT
2. Thinking about religion, belief, and politics 36  
TALAL ASAD
3. Special things as building blocks of religions 58  
ANN TAVES
4. The problem of the holy 84  
ROBERT A. ORSI

***Part two Major theoretical problems***

5. Social order or social chaos 109  
MICHAEL J. PUETT
6. Tradition: the power of constraint 130  
MICHAEL L. SATLOW
7. The text and the world 151  
ANNE M. BLACKBURN
8. On the role of normativity in religious studies 168  
THOMAS A. LEWIS
9. Translation 186  
MARTIN KAVKA
10. Material religion 209  
MATTHEW ENGELKE

*viii Contents*

11. Theology and the study of religion:  
a relationship 230  
CHRISTINE HELMER

***Part three Methodological variations***

12. Buddhism and violence 257  
BERNARD FAURE
13. Practicing religions 273  
COURTNEY BENDER
14. The look of the sacred 296  
DAVID MORGAN
15. Reforming culture: law and religion today 319  
WINNIFRED FALLERS SULLIVAN
16. Sexing religion 338  
R. MARIE GRIFFITH
17. Constituting ethical subjectivities 360  
LEELA PRASAD
18. Neo-Pentecostalism and globalization 380  
MARLA F. FREDERICK
19. Religious criticism, secular critique, and  
the “critical study of religion”: lessons from  
the study of Islam 403  
NOAH SALOMON AND JEREMY F. WALTON

*Index* 421