

The Cambridge Handbook of the International Psychology of Religion

This handbook offers a comprehensive resource for exploring core elements of the psychology of religion. Utilizing a systematic template to describe the state of the field across 32 regions of the globe, it charts the subject's historical background and current research trends. The chapters also highlight common pitfalls and suggest collaborative topics for future research. By leveraging the Inglehart–Welzel Cultural Values Framework, the text introduces key questions emerging from non-Western contexts, challenges culturally laden assumptions, and promotes collaborative, international perspectives. Featuring contributions from researchers around the world on the psychology of religion within their respective geographical and cultural contexts, the work brings new voices into the conversation and offers fresh avenues of exploration for scholars and graduate students studying the psychology of religion, social psychology, religion, and theology.

KEVIN L. LADD is Chancellor's Professor of Psychology at Indiana University South Bend, USA. He is an active leader in the International Association for the Psychology of Religion, Editor-in-Chief of the *Archive for the Psychology of Religion*, and former President of APA Division 36. His research investigates prayer, Open Science, and theatrical magic.

JAYANTI BASU is a retired Professor of Applied Psychology at the University of Calcutta, West Bengal, with 39 years' worth of experience. She is also a registered psychoanalyst. Professor Basu has authored over 100 published papers and book chapters in international journals and edited volumes, as well as a book on the Bengal Partition.

VALERIE DEMARINIS holds concomitant professorships in the Department of Theology, Uppsala University, and the Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, Umeå University, Sweden. She is also Professor of Public Mental Health Promotion at the Innlandet Hospital Trust, Norway. Professor DeMarinis's research projects include clinical psychology of religion, existential meaning-making, public mental health promotion, and forced migration.

ÜZEYİR OK is Professor of Psychology of Religion at the Faculty of Education, Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University, Turkey. He has been influential in developing the field in Turkey and as a leader in the International Association for the Psychology of Religion. His research interests primarily include religious doubt, personality, and faith development.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-108-48864-8 — The Cambridge Handbook of the International Psychology of Religion

Edited by Kevin L. Ladd , Jayanti Basu , Valerie DeMarinis , Üzeyir Ok , Wellington Zangari , Meleah L. Ladd
Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

WELLINGTON ZANGARI is Professor of Psychology in the Institute of Psychology at the University of São Paulo, Brazil. He also holds coordinator positions in the Social Psychology of Religion Laboratory and the InterPsi-Psychosocial Studies Laboratory. Professor Zangari is also a coauthor of *Fundamentals of the Psychology of Religion* (2022).

MELEAH L. LADD is Associate Scholar for Research in the Social Psychology of Religion Lab, Psychology Department at Indiana University South Bend, USA. With degrees in music performance and pedagogy, and medieval musicology, and a PhD in liturgical theology, her interests center around ritual, the role of food in spiritual experience, and the domestic church.

Cambridge Handbooks in Psychology

The Cambridge Handbook of the International Psychology of Religion

Edited by

Kevin L. Ladd

Indiana University South Bend

Jayanti Basu

University of Calcutta

Valerie DeMarinis

Uppsala University, Umeå University, and Innlandet Hospital Trust

Üzeyir Ok

Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal Üniversitesi

Wellington Zangari

University of São Paulo

Meleah L. Ladd

Indiana University South Bend



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-108-48864-8 — The Cambridge Handbook of the International Psychology of Religion

Edited by Kevin L. Ladd , Jayanti Basu , Valerie DeMarinis , Üzeyir Ok , Wellington Zangari , Meleah L. Ladd
Frontmatter

[More Information](#)



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108488648

DOI: 10.1017/9781108771122

© Cambridge University Press 2026

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781108771122

First published 2026

Front cover illustration: Sean Gladwell/Getty Images

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Ladd, Kevin L. editor | Basu, Jayanti editor | DeMarinis, Valerie editor | Ok, Üzeyir editor | Zangari, Wellington editor | Ladd, Meleah L. editor

Title: The Cambridge handbook of the international psychology of religion / edited by Kevin L. Ladd, Indiana University, South Bend, Jayanti Basu, University of Calcutta, Valerie DeMarinis, Uppsala University, Umeå University, and Innlandet Hospital Trust, Üzeyir Ok, Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal Üniversitesi, Wellington Zangari, University of São Paulo, Meleah L. Ladd, Indiana University South Bend.

Description: 1. | Cambridge, United Kingdom : New York, NY, USA, [2026] |

Series: Cambridge handbooks in psychology | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2025023704 (print) | LCCN 2025023705 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108488648 hardcover | ISBN 9781108771122 ebook

Subjects: LCSH: Psychology, Religious

Classification: LCC BL53 .C2547 2026 (print) | LCC BL53 (ebook)

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2025023704>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2025023705>

ISBN 978-1-108-48864-8 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-72684-9 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

For EU product safety concerns, contact us at Calle de José Abascal, 56, 1º, 28003 Madrid, Spain, or email eugpsr@cambridge.org.

To Leon J. Putnam and Philip B. Harner (Heidelberg College) who fostered my interests in the global psychology of religion, and to Donald E. Capps (Princeton Theological Seminary) who expanded my boundaries and led me to Bernard Spilka (University of Denver). Their collective demonstration of an intellectual life of service to others has been inspiring.

—K. L. L.

In loving memory of my Grandmother who introduced spirituality and religion to me.

—J. B.

To Professor (emeritus) Owe Wikström, Uppsala University; and in fond memory of Professor Antoon Geels, Lund University, two of the modern inspirational figures in the Nordic countries in psychology of religion.

—V. D.

To Hayati Hökelekli, whose unwavering dedication to the development of Turkish Psychology of Religion has been an inspiration to all, and to Bekir Demirkol, whose guidance and mentorship taught me how to harmoniously integrate psychology and Islamic theology within myself from a deeply humanistic perspective.

—U. O.

To Geraldo José de Paiva (University of São Paulo), who introduced me to the best version of the Psychology of Religion that I could ever know; to Fatima Regina Machado, a great researcher and dear wife; to my laboratory colleagues and my students at the Institute of Psychology (University of São Paulo), who have inspired me to continue in the field. Their presence has been fundamental in my personal and scientific journey.

—W. Z.

To Susan Schreiner, Arrington Norton, Alasdair Ladd, and Aurelia Ladd, for your ongoing encouragement and support, and to Ellen Spilka, always my inspiration.

—M. L. L.

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> xii
<i>List of Tables</i>	xiii
<i>List of Contributors</i>	xvi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xix
1 Introduction	1
KEVIN L. LADD	
2 Argentina: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	10
HUGO SIMKIN AND HUGO H. RABIA	
3 Australia and New Zealand: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	27
VICTOR COUNTED, MAUREEN MINER, AND JOSEPH BULBULIA	
4 Brazil: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	50
WELLINGTON ZANGARI AND FATIMA REGINA MACHADO	
5 The Caribbean Region: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	62
KARI A. O’GRADY, J. DOUGLAS ORTON, ESTHER ABENA YIRENYA-TAWIAH, AND MARISSA JAMES	
6 China, the Eastern Traditions: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	78
ZHUO JOB CHEN AND SHUOZHI GUO	
7 Egypt: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	96
WAEI MOHAMED	
8 Estonia: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	113
TÕNU LEHTSAAR	
9 Germany: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	122
SARAH DEMMRICH, LARS ALLOLIO-NÄCKE, AND UWE WOLFRADT	
10 Ghana: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	137
ANNABELLA OSEI-TUTU AND VIVIAN AFI DZOKOTO	
11 Greece: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	156
SPYRIDON K. TSITSIGKOS	
12 Hungary: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	183
ZSUZSANNA JÁKI, SZABOLCS URBÁN, AND MAGDOLNA KŐVÁRI	

x	Contents	
13	India, the Eastern Traditions: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	211
	AMITA CHATTERJEE	
14	India, the Western Traditions: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	225
	CHETNA DUGGAL, JYOTHSNA CHANDUR, SADHVI KRISHNAMOORTHY, AND CHAITALI SINHA	
15	Indonesia: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	252
	RENA LATIFA, DINI RAHMA BINTARI, AND BAHRUL HAYAT	
16	Iran: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	277
	MAHBOUBEH DADFAR	
17	Italy: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	286
	MARIO ALETTI AND DANIELA FAGNANI	
18	Japan: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	304
	MASAMI TAKAHASHI AND HIROKI KATO	
19	Mexico: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	321
	MARÍA MONTERO-LÓPEZ LENA, ARMANDO RIVERA-LEDESMA, AND DARÍO GUAJARDO	
20	Nigeria: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	340
	MATTHEW MICHAEL, STEPHEN EDE, JOHNBOSCO CHUKWUORJI, AARON AGBO, AND VICTOR COUNTED	
21	Poland: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	366
	KATARZYNA SKRZYPIŃSKA AND PAWEŁ M. SOCHA	
22	Romania: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	401
	ADRIAN OPRE AND RAMONA BUZGAR	
23	Russia: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	418
	TATIANA MALEVICH	
24	Scandinavia: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	437
	VALERIE DEMARINIS AND LARS DANBOLT	
25	Slovakia: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	471
	PETER HALAMA	
26	South Africa: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	488
	RICHARD G. COWDEN, EVERETT L. WORTHINGTON, JR., AND SUMAYA LAHER	
27	South Korea: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	511
	EYHYUN KWON	
28	Spain: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020	531
	ANTONIO MUÑOZ-GARCÍA	

	Contents	xi
29	Switzerland: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020 PIERRE-YVES BRANDT AND JULIEN NORBERG	547
30	Turkey: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020 ÜZEYİR OK, A. BURCU GÖREN, AND FATUMETUL ZEHRA GULDAS	570
31	The United Kingdom: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020 CARISSA A. SHARP AND JOANNA COLLICUTT	591
32	The United States and Canada: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020 JOSHUA CONRAD JACKSON, DANICA DILLION, AND KURT GRAY	601
33	Vietnam: The Psychology of Religion up to 2020 LÊ XUÂN HY, VŨ DŨNG, NGUYỄN THI MAI LAN, AND VŨ THU TRANG	624
	<i>Author Index</i>	641
	<i>Subject Index</i>	649

Figures

1.1	Scatter plot with countries plotted according to Inglehart–Welzel cultural values	page 6
3.1	Graphic visualization of key themes that emerged in publications and data provided by PoR researchers in Australia and New Zealand	38
9.1	Portrait of Wilhelm Stählin (1883–1975), the founder of the IARP and editor of its journal <i>APR</i>	122
9.2	Portrait of Karl Girgensohn (1875–1925), the founder of the so-called Dorpat School of the psychology of religion	124
14.1	Pie chart depicting the distribution (%) of PoR engagement across professional fields in India	236
14.2	Pie chart depicting the distribution (%) of PoR engagement across subfields of psychology in India	236
14.3	Line graph showing the increasing trend in the number of PoR-related publications in India (1990–2020) included in the systematic review	236
14.4	Pie chart depicting the various methodological approaches found in the systematically reviewed publications in India	237
14.5	Important centers across India working in the area of PoR	238
14.6	Important centers of global collaborative connections in the field of Indian PoR	239
15.1	Pie chart showing the percentage of PoR publications for each major religious group in Indonesia	263
19.1	Bar graph showing the nine most cited topics in the identified PoR-related papers ($n = 102$) in Mexico	329
26.1	Graphic visualization of associations among key terms that appeared alongside “relig*,” “spirit*,” “worship*,” “pray*,” “faith,” or “sacred” crossed with “South Africa” in scholarly articles, books, and book chapters published from 1990 to 2019	498
26.2	Bar graph showing areas of expertise of psychologists at higher education institutions in South Africa	499

Tables

3.1	Summary of post-1990 research and training opportunities in PoR in ANZ	page 35
3.2	Areas of expertise of PoR researchers in ANZ	40
3.3	Research methods used among PoR researchers in the ANZ region	41
9.1	Forms and fields of publication in the last 30 years in Germany	129
10.1	Number of practitioners by field of practice in Ghana	144
12.1	General psychology themes of psychological dissertations in Hungary (1999–2020)	196
12.2	Hungarian publications on the subject of PoR (1990–2020), grouped by topics	199
12.3	Number of Hungarian psychotherapists by specialization in 2019	201
15.1	Number of PoR-related papers in Indonesia by methodology	262
16.1	Three approaches attributed to Islamic psychology in Iran	280
17.1	Winners of the Giancarlo Milanesi Award (Italy)	296
18.1	Number of PoR-related articles in Japan (1960–2019) by keyword	310
18.2	Information from Japanese Union of Psychological Associations (https://jupa.jp/)	314
20.1	Number of PoR-related publications by researchers at Nigerian universities (1995–2020), by university	344
20.2	Number of PoR-related publications by lead author’s area of expertise (Nigeria)	346
20.3	Number of PoR-related publications by corresponding author’s departmental affiliation (Nigeria)	346
20.4	Number of PoR-related publications in Nigeria (1995–2020), by journal	348
20.5	Authorship, broad research scope, and methodological details of empirical PoR-related articles in Nigeria (1995–2020) identified using key search terms	352
21.1	Significant PoR-related conferences organized in Poland	375
21.2	PoR-related questionnaires adapted for use in Poland grouped by religiosity, spirituality, and mindfulness	387
21.3	PoR-related questionnaires created for use in Poland grouped by religiosity, spirituality, and mindfulness	388
22.1	PoR and/or PoR-related topics across the faculties of major Romanian universities (undergraduate level)	405
22.2	Specific PoR-related topics in undergraduate syllabi across major Romanian universities	406

xiv	List of Tables	
22.3	PoR and/or PoR-related topics across the faculties of major Romanian universities (master's level)	407
22.4	Number of journals and common keywords for the three most common research fields (Romania)	409
22.5	Number of certificates issued to Romanian psychologists by areas of specialization	411
22.6	Number of practitioners interested in PoR by field of activity (Romania)	412
22.7	Number of practitioners interested in PoR by practitioner's religious confession (Romania)	412
22.8	Data collection strategies of Romanian psychologists	413
23.1	Most addressed research topics in Russian PoR	426
23.2	Areas of expertise of Russian psychologists and psychologists of religion	428
23.3	Methodologies employed by Russian psychologists and psychologists of religion	429
24.1	Listing of PoR-related academic appointments in Sweden	449
24.2	Listing of PoR-related academic appointments in Norway	451
26.1	Distribution of the South African population by major religions in 1996 and 2015	490
26.2	Number of PoR-related publications (1990–2019) in South Africa grouped by researcher affiliation	492
26.3	Researchers with four or more publications (1990–2019) at South African universities, ranked by number of publications	494
26.4	Journals with five or more PoR-related articles (1990–2019) ranked by number of articles (South Africa)	497
26.5	Authorship, broad research scope, and methodological details of empirical PoR-related articles in South Africa (1990–2019) identified using key search terms	500
27.1	Major journals in Korea that cover religion, with affiliation, category, and language, ranked by year of initial publication	520
27.2	Psychology journals in Korea that cover religion, with affiliation, category, and language, ranked by year of initial publication	521
27.3	Top 10 most popular psychological papers, based on the number of detailed information views (South Korea)	523
28.1	Numbers of teaching staff in Spain's public universities by area of expertise (academic year 2020–21)	536
28.2	Themes in psychology in publications with Spanish authors or coauthors, ranked from the most common to the least common	538
28.3	PoR-related publications by research methodology (Spain)	540
29.1	Summary of PoR training available by university (Switzerland)	553
29.2	Number of credentials awarded by area of specialization (Switzerland)	558
29.3	Therapeutic methods most commonly used by members of the FSP and number of practitioners who include the religio-spiritual dimension in their practices (Switzerland)	559

	List of Tables	xv
29.4	Distribution of professorships across various branches of psychology at Swiss universities	562
30.1	Number of academic personnel studying PoR at Turkish universities	575
30.2	Chronological listing of PoR coordination meetings held in Turkey	577
30.3	Number of PoR-related published works in Turkey (1952–2020), grouped by theme	579
30.4	Themes studied in theses in Turkey (1990–2020) arranged from most common to least common	580
30.5	Subfields of psychologists in 132 Turkish universities (state or foundational)	581
30.6	Number of publications by subfield of psychology (Turkey)	581
30.7	PoR themes studied by researchers in Departments of Psychology (Turkey)	582
30.8	Methods used in theses in Turkey (2010–19), by year	583
30.9	Number of works (1990–2020) by psychologists of religion, grouped by theme and decade (Turkey)	584
30.10	Number of papers (1990–2020) by method used (Turkey)	585
33.1	Religious affiliations in Vietnam	626

Contributors

AARON AGBO, University of Nigeria

MARIO ALETTI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

LARS ALLOLIO-NÄCKE, Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane

JAYANTI BASU, University of Calcutta

DINI RAHMA BINTARI, Universitas Indonesia

PIERRE-YVES BRANDT, University of Lausanne

JOSEPH BULBULIA, Victoria University of Wellington School of Psychology and
Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History

RAMONA BUZGAR, Babes-Bolyai University

JYOTHSNA CHANDUR, AMITA CHATTERJEE, Jadavpur University

ZHUO JOB CHEN, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

JOHNBOSCO CHUKWUORJI, University of Nigeria

JOANNA COLLICUTT, Ripon College

VICTOR COUNTED, Regent University

RICHARD G. COWDEN, Harvard University

MAHBOUBEH DADFAR, Iran University of Medical Sciences

LARS DANBOLT, Innlandet Hospital Trust and MF Norwegian School of Theology

VALERIE DEMARINIS, Uppsala University, Innlandet Hospital Trust, and Umeå
University

SARAH DEMMRICH (M. KABOGAN), University of Münster

DANICA DILLION, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

CHETNA DUGGAL, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

VIVIAN AFI DZOKOTO, Virginia Commonwealth University

STEPHEN EDE, Gregory University Uturu

DANIELA FAGNANI, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

- A. BURCU GÖREN, Necmettin Erbakan University
- KURT GRAY, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- DARÍO GUAJARDO, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
- FATUMETUL ZEHRA GULDAS, Erzincan Binali Yildirim University
- SHUOZHI GUO, Dali University
- PETER HALAMA, Slovak Academy of Sciences
- BAHRUL HAYAT, UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta
- LÊ XUÂN HY, Seattle University
- JOSHUA CONRAD JACKSON, University of Chicago
- MARISSA JAMES, HIROKI KATO, Komazawa University
- MAGDOLNA KÖVÁRI, Institute of Mental Health, Semmelweis University
- SADHVI KRISHNAMOORTHY, Griffith University
- EYHYUN KWON, Korea Baptist Theological University
- KEVIN L. LADD, Indiana University South Bend
- MELEAH L. LADD, Indiana University South Bend
- SUMAYA LAHER, University of the Witwatersrand
- RENA LATIFA, UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta
- TÕNU LEHTSAAR, University of Tartu
- FATIMA REGINA MACHADO, University of São Paulo
- TATIANA MALEVICH, Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen and Hertie Institute for Clinical Brain Research
- MATTHEW MICHAEL, Nasarawa State University
- MAUREEN MINER, University of Notre Dame
- WAEI MOHAMED, Menoufia University and International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)
- MARÍA MONTERO-LÓPEZ LENA, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
- ANTONIO MUÑOZ-GARCÍA, University of Granada
- NGUYỄN THI MAI LAN, Graduate Academy of Social Sciences, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences
- JULIEN NORBERG, IRAS COTIS

- KARI A. O'GRADY, Resilience Village
- ÜZEYİR OK, Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal Üniversitesi
- ADRIAN OPRE, Babes-Bolyai University
- J. DOUGLAS ORTON, Resilience Village
- ANNABELLA OSEI-TUTU, University of Ghana
- HUGO H. RABIA, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba / Universidad Católica de Córdoba
- ARMANDO RIVERA-LEDESMA, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
- CARISSA A. SHARP, University of Birmingham
- HUGO SIMKIN, Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA)
- CHAITALI SINHA, Wya
- KATARZYNA SKRZYPÍŃSKA, University of Gdańsk
- PAWEŁ M. SOCHA [DECEASED], Ignatianum University in Kraków
- ZSUZSANNA JÁKI, Semmelweis University
- MASAMI TAKAHASHI, Northeastern Illinois University
- SPYRIDON K. TSITSIGKOS, University of Athens
- SZABOLCS URBÁN [DECEASED], Pázmány Péter Catholic University
- VŨ THU TRANG, Graduate Academy of Social Sciences, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences
- VŨ DŨNG, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences
- UWE WOLFRADT, University of Halle
- EVERETT L. WORTHINGTON, JR., Virginia Commonwealth University
- ESTHER ABENA YIRENYA-TAWIAH, University of Texas at Austin
- WELLINGTON ZANGARI, University of São Paulo

Acknowledgments

The International Congress of Psychology met in Yokohama, Japan, in 2016. During that event, I had a wide-ranging conversation about several potential projects with Janka Romero, a member of the Cambridge University Press team. Over the next year, with her encouragement and guidance, a formal proposal was crafted for this book and approved by Cambridge Press. A Fall 2019 sabbatical, partially supported by Indiana University South Bend, provided time to assemble the necessary infrastructure for the project, including a detailed grant proposal. At the very end of 2019, the John Templeton Foundation, represented by Kimon Sargeant and Nicholas J. S. Gibson, joined the project with a generous grant (61429) to underwrite many of the associated expenses. Most recently, our Cambridge support team has grown to include Anna Hubbard and Emily Watton, both of whom have answered our steady flow of questions with speed and generosity. For all of these gifts of time, energy, and funding, I am most grateful.

It has been my good fortune to have the esteemed Professors Jayanti Basu, Valerie DeMarinis, Üzeyir Ok, and Wellington Zangari working with the team. They provided critical advice, introductions to a host of scholars, and many other forms of important insights during the process. I deeply respect and admire their individual and collective works. They have my great appreciation for devoting some of their limited time to this project.

Meleah L. Ladd, PhD, has been deeply integral to the realization of this project. Her knowledge of the psychology of religion, expertise in liturgical theology, and years of experience managing journals, as well as coordinating grants, indispensably combined as an enviable set of intellectual and practical tools for the process of keeping everyone working toward a common end across the volume. Countless are the elements that were refined due to her eye for detail and clarity. She, too, has my deep gratitude.

My profound appreciation goes to the array of scholars who have contributed to this volume. This project began nearly in perfect synchrony with the COVID-19 pandemic. Following a very optimistic and productive set of meetings with potential authors, I departed a New Orleans meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in late February 2020 amid rumors of an impending health care crisis. Rumors became reality, and the work–life patterns of all the scholars were abruptly changed. Some were able to continue aspects of their efforts, while others were completely cut off from the resources they needed. Despite the multiyear effects of the pandemic, the vast majority of the writers eventually successfully recorded their observations and thoughts about the psychology of religion for this volume. Their persistence, patience, and grace with the intervening vagaries of this production cannot be overestimated.

One notable sadness is associated with our collective effort. This is the loss of the contributor James Meredith Day (1955–2021). James was Professor Emeritus at Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. His expertise in moral decision-making and psychotherapy, among many other domains, touched and shaped the intellectual and personal lives of a host of people. We were greatly anticipating his contribution conveying his erudite reflections

concerning the psychology of religion in Belgium. Their absence represents a distinct loss for the community. Our condolences remain with his family and friends.

A closing word of thanks is for the readers of these pages. We appreciate the time you have invested in considering these ideas. We hope you are encouraged and inspired to explore new topics with new collaborations that yield new insights!