

Special Issue

Symbolism in the Post-Human Age: Between Tradition and Innovation

Message from the Guest Editors

All symbols, whether conventional or sacred, require interpretation. As Ricoeur put it, the symbol gives rise to thought, and there is no symbolic language without hermeneutics. When words become insufficient, symbols make the non-communicable communicable. Religious symbolism long expressed this: for Tillich, the Divine could be spoken of only symbolically. Yet symbolism is also being reinvented. Tattooing and body art turn the body into a 'second skin' conveying identity, memory, and history, a new form of sacralisation awaiting interpretation. This Special Issue explores the role of symbolism in human experience, focusing on the links between these new forms and traditional symbolism. Do symbols still matter in a post-human, AI-shaped world? Can they help heal trauma and emotions such as guilt or shame? How do sacred texts and ancient symbols remain relevant? We welcome original articles and reviews across the phenomenology, hermeneutics, and psychology of symbolism. Interested? Send a title and a 200–300 word abstract via the Special Issue website.

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Message from the Editorial Board

Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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