



BRILL

## *Editorial*



# **Religion, Ecology and Human Flourishing: Institutional and Personal Dimensions of Religiosity and Current Societal Challenges**

Religious traditions not only provide beliefs and practices that contribute to meaning construction when confronted with contingent experiences at individual level, but also hold thoughts and values that may influence attitudes towards current societal challenges. Global challenges such as the ecological crisis, poverty, socio-economic inequality and ethno-cultural conflicts may contain intriguing religious dimensions that call for further reflection based on empirical exploration.

How can these societal challenges be understood from empirically informed religious perspectives, and how does religion favour or hinder their potential solutions?

In this vein, the Conference of International Society for Empirical Research in Theology (ISERT) in Assisi (19–22 June 2022) addressed the theme “*Religion, Ecology and Human Flourishing: Institutional and personal dimensions of religiosity and current societal challenges*”.

Some scholars reckon that religion may induce sustainability, social harmony and human flourishing through the dissemination of constructive values. Others maintain that particular societal actors are far more efficient in taking responsibility for ecology, solidarity and personal integrity, and point to the detrimental effects of religion in this regard. In short, the conference focused on the reciprocal impact between institutional and personal dimensions of religion and the current challenges in ecology, solidarity and human flourishing.

Around fifty professors and research scholars participated in the conference with over forty papers being presented. The present Special Issue of JET includes seven of these papers.

*Francis-Vincent Anthony*

Salesian Pontifical University, Rome

*vincent@unisal.it*

*Lluís Oviedo*

Pontifical University Antonianum, Rome

*loviedo@antonianum.eu*