**BRILL HANDBOOKS OF CONTEMPORARY RELIGION SERIES**

Series Editors: Benjamin E. Zeller, Lake Forest College, USA, and Terhi Utriainen, University of Helsinki, Finland.

The Brill Handbooks of Contemporary Religion series debuted in 2007 with the *Handbook of New Age* (edited Daren Kemp and James R. Lewis). The series publishes authoritative volumes in vital areas of research in contemporary religion and spirituality. Proposals should be sent to the series editors:

Benjamin E. Zeller: zeller@lakeforest.edu

Terhi Utriainen: terhi.utriainen@helsinki.fi

Volume proposals in the Handbooks of Contemporary Religion series should fall into one of three categories; religion, regional, or thematic. A religion Handbook typically focuses on contemporary manifestations of a single religious or spiritual tradition (i.e. the Handbook of Contemporary Paganism). Regional Handbooks typically focus on contemporary religious trends in one country or a geographical region (e.g., Japan or the Pacific). Thematic proposals generally focus on a concept or approach in a multi-religious context (e.g., the *Handbook of Religion and the Authority of Science*).

Book proposals will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Preference will be given to co-edited proposals;
- Proposals must have a minimum of 20 chapters by a mixture of significant and emerging scholars in the field;
- The maximum length of any Handbook is 250,000 words;
- Volumes must deal with contemporary manifestations within a particular religion, region or thematic focus;
- Historically oriented chapters in Handbooks will be accepted only if they are directly relevant to contemporary issues; and
- All Handbooks must be innovative and original contributions to scholarship.

All initial proposals sent to the series editors must contain a position statement on the volume’s contents (1,000 to 2,000 words), explaining why it is an original scholarly contribution, and how it offers an authoritative resource for future scholars in the field. Proposals must also contain confirmed abstracts and biographical notes for 80% of the proposed chapters. The process whereby a proposal becomes a published volume is detailed below:

- If the initial proposal is approved by the series editors, and the contributors have confirmed their chapters, contracts will be issued by Brill to the volume editors;
- The series style guide must be strictly adhered to;
• The volume editors will then assemble the text as a Word document and submit it to the
series contact at Brill, Tessa Schild: Tessa.Schild@brill.com

• Brill will send the volume to a minimum of two academic readers who will referee the
contributors' chapters;

• The referee reports will be sent by e-mail to the volume editors;

• The decision of the referee (refusal, acceptance with emendations, acceptance as is) must
be communicated to the contributors. At this stage it is recommended that the volume
editors also request 30–50 indexing terms from all authors whose chapters will appear in
the final collection;

• Emended chapters are submitted to the volume editors, who produce an emended
typescript;

• The emended and copyedited typescript and indexing terms are submitted to Brill, as well
as brief abstracts and up to 10 keywords for each chapter. Any permissions that individual
authors must supply for illustrations or text should also be provided;

• The academic readers approve the final typescript (if they request further changes these
must be made);

• Individual chapter contracts are sent to authors and should be returned as soon as possible;

• First proofs are sent to volume editors, who forward the proofs to the individual chapter
authors who correct them;

• Brill makes the corrections and the whole MSS is sent to the volume editors for proofing at
least once, but potentially twice to check that the requested changes have been made and
that the final volume is of appropriately professional standard (which includes strict
adherence to the style guide and an appropriate level of English language proficiency in the
case of those contributions that are by authors who have English as a second language);

• It is the responsibility of volume editors to check that abstracts relate directly to the
published papers and that the authors' biographical notes are up-to-date.

It must be understood by all volume editors that Brill will not do editing of typescripts involving, for
example, changing of referencing of individual chapters, or correction of English language. All such
changes are the responsibility of volume editors and should be made BEFORE the typesetting
process is started.