

On the Subject of Religion

Charting the Fault Lines of a Field of Study

edited by James Dennis LoRusso

DESCRIPTION:

How is religion depicted in the academic study of religion? How do private donors selectively privilege certain descriptions of religion, and to what ends? Do the practical needs of students align or conflict with the theoretical concerns of scholars? To what extent do answers to these questions reveal shared challenges or fault lines across the field of study?

Previous volumes in the NAASR Working Papers series have made critical reflections on key domains such as theory, method, data, and categories. *On the Subject of Religion* takes a step back to consider syncretically how religion is imagined or invented through several lenses.

On the Subject of Religion takes as its inspiration the work of the late Jonathan Z. Smith, who challenged scholars to be mindful of the ways in which they imagine religion and religious data. Building on this crucial insight, this book brings together a range of early-career and established scholars of religion to explore how various domains of society—the classroom, academic literature, public debates, and private fundraising—shape, and are shaped, by the contours of the academic study of religion.

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James Dennis LoRusso currently serves as Vice President of the North American Association for the Study of Religion. He is a former Associate Research Scholar in the Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University, USA and is the author of *Spirituality, Corporate Culture, and American Business: The Neoliberal Ethic and the Spirit of Global Capital* (Bloomsbury, 2017).

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