

**EDITORIAL, 2024, ISSUE 1****Religious Discourses on Sex, Violence, and Gender: Emerging Voices from the Global South**

It is with great joy and satisfaction that we present volume 21, n.1 (2024) of Revista Sacrilegens. This is our first international volume, representing an effort not only to publish research within the Brazilian context but also to expand the dialogue between researchers in the fields of Religious Studies and Theology both in Brazil and worldwide.

The proposal for this special issue emerged from the South-South academic engagement between the coordinators: Professor Charlene Van der Walt, Professor André Sidnei Musskopf, Tracey Maswazi Gumede (M.A.), and Giovanna Sarto (M.A.). The preference for this journal, in turn, reflects an ethical commitment to the development of our field through critical and rigorous research—a commitment that Sacrilegens has upheld over the past six years. We believe that academic knowledge is always built through a scientific community dedicated to developing strategies for transforming social reality, particularly from diverse contexts.

In the Humanities, this movement occurs through reflection, the exercise of criticism, dialogue, and the identification of the violences and resistances that are forged and shaped by human experiences. Our laboratory is alive, plural, dynamic, and in constant transformation. Therefore, a common path has been the deconstruction and reconstruction of collective possibilities that directly impact how we understand the social world and human relations. In Religious Studies specifically, it is of interest to us to consider how the religious phenomenon challenges world meanings, highlighting the limits and possibilities of these interactions, always with the task of recognizing the languages and systems that construct this vast, complex, contradictory, and important framework that is religion.

In this sense, the current issue is themed around “Religious Discourses on Sex, Violence, and Gender: Emerging Voices from the Global South.” It includes contributions from researchers in South Africa, Colombia, and Brazil, offering important reflections that critically analyze contemporary challenges related to Sex,



Violence, and Gender. Furthermore, the contributions of researchers from diverse nationalities are essential to promoting the internationalization of science in Brazil.

With this in mind, the contributions presented aim to illuminate the challenges and possibilities of research in the field, fostering an academic debate that considers the various dynamics that shape and guide the objects of interest.

This edition includes a total of 14 articles, with 7 dedicated to the special theme and 7 covering open topics. Regarding this issue, it begins with the article "Men, Masculinity, and Violence: A Critical Engagement with the Promotional Material of the Pentecostal Men's Conference," authored by Siwakhile Ngcobo and Charlene Van Der Walt. Following, Nandi M Makhaye presents the article "Condemned Bodies: Experiences of Homophobic Hatred and Violence in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa." The third article is titled "Anti-Gender Discourse: Vatican, Queermuseu, and the Congressional Inquiry into Mistreatment," by Bryan Henrique Pinto. The next one is "Religion and Politics in the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God: The Mobilization of Gender and Sexuality Issues in the Folha Universal Newspaper (2018 and 2022)," by Deivit Henrique da Silva Leite, Fabrício Roberto Costa Oliveira, and Bruna Nogueira Maia. Marta Bonach Gomes contributes the article "Rio da Vida: The Social, Spiritual, and Mystical Tapestry in Identity Production within the Allegory of the Coralina River." This is followed by "Mariana, Herondina, and Toya Jarina: Transculturality in the Figurations of the Sacred Feminine in Amazonian Enchantment," by Alex Araújo Mar, Caio Augusto Teixeira Souto, and Waldimiro Maximino Tavares César. The dossier concludes with "The Defense of an Indecent/Queer Territorialized Liberation Theology" by Camilo Hernan Manchola Castillo. This rich variety of themes not only provides a critical and multifaceted dialogue but also offers numerous methodological approaches within the study of religion.

We thank everyone who contributed to this edition: authors, reviewers, editors, and so many other collaborators who dedicated themselves to making this volume possible. The process of preparing and publishing an international volume in a student-run open-access journal where 100% of the team works voluntarily and without compensation is undoubtedly neither simple nor easy. Among the challenges, we highlight the need to ensure the diversity and quality of contributions, as well as the



substantial efforts to establish and maintain international networks of researchers. It was also crucial to meticulously coordinate and standardize peer review processes across different cultural and academic contexts.

On the other hand, this entire experience has enriched Sacrilegens and CAPES Area 44, stimulating global perspectives and promoting a broad exchange of knowledge, besides strengthening the visibility of student publications on an international scale without deviating from our commitment to the Graduate Program in Religious Studies at the Federal University of Juiz de Fora and public universities across Brazil. Thus, we reaffirm our commitment to the development of Religious Studies and continue to work together to strengthen academic debate, foster new research, and contribute to the construction of increasingly broad and transformative knowledge.

We wish you a pleasant reading.

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