



The Cambridge Companion to Religious Studies (Cambridge Companions to Religion)

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The Cambridge Companion to Religious Studies is both informative and provocative, introducing readers to key debates in the contemporary study of religion and suggesting future research possibilities. A group of distinguished scholars takes up some of the most pressing theoretical questions in the field. What is a 'religious tradition'? How are religious texts read? What takes place when a religious practitioner stands before a representation of gods or goddesses, ghosts, ancestors, saints, and other special beings? What roles is religion playing in contemporary global society? The volume emphasizes religion as a lived practice, stressing that people have used and continue to use religious media to engage the circumstances of their lives. This underlying conviction provides a realistic perspective on religion, and the volume's essays engage with real-world religious practices. The volume's essays should prove valuable and interesting to a broad audience, including scholars in the humanities and social sciences and a general readership, as well as students of religious studies.

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Christine Love-Rodgers, Reference Reviews

About the Author

Robert A. Orsi is Professor of Religious Studies and History and G. Craddock Nagle Professor of Catholic Studies at Northwestern University. He is the author of several prize-winning books, including *The Madonna of 115th Street: Faith and Community in Italian Harlem, 1880-1950*, 3rd edition (2010); *Thank You, Saint Jude: Women's Devotions to the Patron Saint of Hopeless Causes* (1996) and *Between Heaven and Earth: The Religious Worlds People Make and the Scholars Who Study Them* (2005).

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