

JRFM 2019, 5/1 CALL FOR PAPERS

Understanding Jesus in the Early Modern Period and Beyond

Between Text and Other Media

In the last decades a growing interest in theories and notions of religion in the early modern period has developed, and contemporary scholarship is paying increasing attention to representations of early Christianity and Jesus before the rise of 'scientific discourse'. The Protestant Reformation, Bildersturm, geographical explorations and missionary policies contributed to the deepening of religious strife. Interest in religion widened. Committed philologists and sophisticated apologists from different religious communities engaged in defining a wealth of issues: religion in general, the biography of Jesus, the rise of early Christianity and religious iconographies.

The issue of **JRFM** 2019 5/1 is devoted to the representation of Jesus, to different contexts of production and reception. Our interest lies especially in Jewish, Protestant and Catholic traditions, extending the focus to overlooked *media*. While we welcome analysis on textual traditions as they are embedded in prints, manuscripts, and marginalia, alongside with authorized and authorial perspectives, we encourage scholars to present counter-narratives and challenging views, focusing on other forms and fields of representation.

We are inviting articles considering and analyzing visual material, archival sources and fictional literature, in order to establish a more precise picture of both multiple representations and contrasting theories of religion. While the main focus of the issue is on historical studies, articles with a diachronic line of argument or concerned with a contemporary field of research are also welcome. Indeed, we invite scholars to think about what happens when a new medium appears, as in the case of cinema or photography. How does this new form of communication interact with traditional ones, and more broadly, how are religious experiences or historical facts narrated, represented, or performed? Especially with regard to the performative dimension of the narrative, new me-

dia are increasingly exploiting other forms of communication, such as music, speech, and modern technology to convey meaning.

We welcome articles that

- analyze images of and discourses about Jesus in his historical and religious context and emphasize how the past is addressed, how it is reconstructed, and how it is communicated, eventually censored or polished;
- address theological and religious problems of their respective periods and indicate how these conflicts were confronted or left unsolved through the selection of different media;
- focus on the material dimension of the discursive or visual representation, highlighting the relationship between the medium and the story which is narrated. Were certain media more effective in addressing questions of propaganda, of faith or ideology? Were some more dangerous than others?

The issue also has an open section for articles on other topics linked to the profile of **JRFM**. Contributions of 25,000–30,000 characters (including spaces) should be submitted online for peer review 1 November, 2018 through the journal homepage www.jrfm.eu. We kindly ask authors to register. Publication is scheduled for May 2019. For any questions regarding the call for papers or the submission and publication process, please contact the office manager of **JRFM** (natalie.fritz@kath.ch).