

Call for papers

Special Issue on “Religions and Nationalisms”

The aim of this issue is to contribute to the diagnosis of the present by bringing together texts from all disciplines of social sciences that offer an understanding of the contrasting contemporary situations arising from the intertwining of religions and nationalisms. There are many examples, including India, Turkey, Brazil, Poland, Israel, and Russia. While the relationship (affinities, conflicts, legitimations, instrumentalizations, etc.) between religions and nationalisms has been widely explored in the social sciences over the past four decades, it has often (with a few exceptions) been studied by specialists in the nation on the one hand and religion on the other. However, reality often reveals a close relationship between politics and religion that calls for analysis.

Here we would like to solicit texts that are likely to consider in the same configuration what at first glance appears to be a re-actualization of explicitly religious orientations in the field of citizenship, understood here at once as principle, institution, and practice. It is not uncommon for citizenship to be radically challenged in the name of fundamentalist, scripturalist, supremacist, ethnicist, or other orientations. We hypothesize that these reactivations are inseparable from the structure of conflictuality and the interplay of actors who confront each other in the polemical/polyphonic space of different ways of saying “we” in politics. Special attention will therefore be paid to the intelligibility of the various conflictual contexts, understood in the broadest sense, in which they unfold.

Given the interdisciplinary nature of the project and the polysemy of the notions of “religion”, “nation” and “nationalism” - polysemy in academic usage, but also in the historical semantics of different societies - we invite authors to clarify the meaning of the notions (including vernacular ones) they mobilize to describe the situations, as well as the theoretical paradigms on which they draw.

Among the questions we would like to see addressed in the issue are:

- * Does the observed socio-historical dynamic represent something new or the continuity/resurgence of an old structural conflict? Does it express a conflict that has been incandesced by the construction of democracy and citizenship and that reactively generates “illiberal” responses?

- * Does the current configuration of the conflict, in its various forms, lie within the institutionalized rules of the game, or does it concern the rules of the game itself?
- * Does the mobilization of religious references reflect the regulated expression of pluralism, or does it signal its negation through a shift from the civic to the ethnic, possibly creating the space for violent and irreconcilable conflict, opening the horizon for civil war (cold or hot)? Does the notion of religious nationalism make sense? Or is it just a metaphor or an analogy?
- * Based on the hypothesis of a link between male domination and the domination of the gods, we will also look at situations in which the status of women (their place, their rights...), but also their physical integrity, are the object of political and social conflictuality. Do nationalist and/or religious actions have an explicit gender dimension in terms of language or practice?
- * How is the hierarchy of categories articulated anthropologically in the discourses? In particular, does the hierarchy of values place nation above religion? Or, on the contrary, is religion conceived as the all-encompassing and superior value? What is the place of citizenship? Is it seen as transcending particular identities or, on the contrary, does it derive its legitimacy from belonging to these identities?

Submission procedure

Authors must submit a title and a proposed paper of between 500 and 1000 words to the Editorial Secretary by **30 April 2024**. Responses to proposed papers will be sent no later than **31 May 2024**.

Full-length original articles must be submitted to the Editorial Secretary no later than **31 October 2024**. In accordance with the journal's editorial policy, they will first be reviewed by the dossier coordinators and then submitted to a double-blind evaluation by three French or foreign reviewers.

The issue is planned to be published in 2025. Proposals for articles should be sent to Marion Paulhac, Editorial Secretary, with the reference "Proposed article – "Religions and nationalisms" issue" in the subject line: marion.paulhac@ehess.fr.

The issue coordinators are:

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