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# Selection of Titles from the Interdisciplinary Research Field of the Relationship between Religion and Politics<sup>1</sup>

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## Critical study of religion and Critical sociology of religion

**Goldstein, W. S. & Reed, J. (Eds.). (2022). *Religion in Rebellions, Revolutions, and Social Movements*. London: Routledge. ISBN 9781032011523**

The book explores how and under what conditions religion functions as a progressive and/or reactionary force that compels people to challenge or protect social orders. The authors focus on the role that religion has played in peasant, slave, and plebeian rebellions; revolutions, including the Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Iranian; and modern social movements. In addition to these case studies, the book also contains theoretical chapters that explore the relationship religious thought has with the politics of liberation and oppression. It examines the institutional, organizational, ritualistic, discursive, ideological, and/or framing mechanisms that give religion its oppressive and liberating structures. Many scholars of religion continue very conventional modes of thinking, ignoring how religion has been—and continues to be—both a hegemonic and counterhegemonic force in conflict. This book looks at both sides of the equation.

**Davis, M. H. (2022). *Markets of Civilization: Islam and Racial Capitalism in Algeria*. Durham: Duke University Press. ISBN 978-1-4780-1850-6**

In *Markets of Civilization* Muriam Haleh Davis provides a history of racial capitalism, showing how Islam became a racial category that shaped economic development in colonial and postcolonial Algeria. French officials in Paris and Algiers introduced what Davis terms “a racial regime of religion” that subjected Algerian Muslims to discriminatory political and economic structures. These experts believed that introducing a market economy would modernize society and discourage anticolonial nationalism. Planners, politicians, and economists implemented reforms that both sought to transform Algerians into modern economic subjects and drew on racial assumptions despite the formally color-blind policies of the French

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<sup>1</sup> The annotations are taken from the publishers and official distributors of the books. They are also edited and shortened according to the needs of the journal.

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state. Following independence, convictions about the inherent link between religious beliefs and economic behavior continued to influence development policies. Highlighting the entanglements of race and religion, Davis demonstrates that economic orthodoxies helped fashion understandings of national identity on both sides of the Mediterranean during decolonization.

**Kim, H. J. (2022). *Race For Revival: How Cold War South Korea Shaped the American Evangelical Empire*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780190062422**

*Race for Revival* seeks to retell the story of modern American evangelicalism through its relationship with South Korea. With the outbreak of the Korean War, the first hot war of the Cold War era, a new generation of white fundamentalists and neo-evangelicals forged networks with South Koreans that helped turn evangelical America into an empire. South Korean Protestants were used to bolster the image of the US as a non-imperial beacon of democratic hope, in spite of ongoing racial inequalities. At the same time, South Koreans used these racialized transpacific networks for their own purposes, seeking to reimagine their own place in the world order. They envisioned Korea as the new emerging Christian kingdom, that would beat the American evangelical empire in a race for revival. Employing a bilingual and bi-national approach, *Race for Revival* reexamines the narrative of modern evangelicalism through an innovative transpacific framework, offering a new lens through which to understand evangelical history from the Korean War to the rise of Ronald Reagan.

**Guest, M. (2022). *Neoliberal Religion: Faith and Power in the Twenty-first Century*. London: Bloomsbury Academic. ISBN 9781350116382**

This book explores neoliberalism as an account of contemporary society and considers what this means for our understanding of religion. Neoliberalism is a perspective grounded in free market economics and distinguished by a celebration of competition and consumer choice. It has had a profound influence in societies across the world, and has extended its reach into all areas of human experience. And yet neoliberalism is not just about enterprise and opportunity. It also comes with authoritarian leadership, gross inequality and the manipulation of information. This book provides an accessible discussion about religion in the 21st century. Mathew Guest asks what distinguishes neoliberal religion and explores the sociological and ethical questions that arise from considering its wider significance.

**Tremlett, P. (2023). *Religion and Marxism: An Introduction*. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing. ISBN 9781800502871**

This concise and accessible introduction brings the writings of Marx and Engels and later thinkers in the Marxist tradition including Althusser, Gramsci, the Frankfurt School as well as Liberation Theologians such as Gutierrez and Maduro, into focus in relation to questions of religion, social change and social justice. Marx

was a nineteenth century thinker trying to develop a theory that could explain the dramatic social and technological changes that he lived through. Later thinkers modified and developed key elements of Marx' theoretical model, with religion – particularly Christianity – providing a vital point of critical self-reflection for thinkers in the Marxist tradition. This book tracks these modifications and developments to Marx' ideas, and their continuing relevance to contemporary debates about religion, social change and social justice.

**Floyd-Thomas, S. M. (2022). *Religion, Race, and COVID-19: Confronting White Supremacy in the Pandemic*. New York: New York University Press. ISBN 978-1479810222**

The COVID-19 pandemic upset virtually every facet of society and, in many cases, exposed gross inequality and dysfunction. The particular dynamics emerging from the coronavirus pandemic have been felt most intensely by America's most vulnerable populations, who are disproportionately people of color and the working poor, the people whom the Bible refers to as "the least of these". This book makes the case that the pandemic was not just a medical phenomenon, or an economic or social one, but also a religious one. Religious practice has been altered in profound ways. Controversies around religious freedom have been re-ignited over debates concerning whether government can restrict church services. The volume shows how social transformation occurs when faith is both formed and informed during crises, offering compelling insight into the saliency and lasting impact of religiosity within human culture.

**Gorski, P. S. & Perry, S. L. (2022). *The Flag and The Cross: White Christian Nationalism and the Threat to American Democracy*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0197618684**

In this short primer, Gorski and Perry explain what white Christian nationalism is and is not; when it first emerged and how it has changed; where it's headed and why it threatens democracy. Tracing the development of this ideology over the course of three centuries—and especially its influence over the last three decades—they show how, throughout American history, white Christian nationalism has animated the oppression, exclusion, and even extermination of minority groups while securing privilege for white Protestants. It enables white Christian Americans to demand "sacrifice" from others in the name of religion and nation, while defending their "rights" in the names of "liberty" and "property". The future of American democracy, Gorski and Perry argue, will depend on whether a broad spectrum of Americans—stretching from democratic socialists to classical liberals—can unite in a popular front to combat the threat to liberal democracy posed by white Christian nationalism.

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**Berry, E. (Ed.). (2022). *Climate Politics and the Power of Religion*.  
Bloomington: Indiana University Press.  
ISBN 978-0253059062**

*Climate Politics and the Power of Religion* is an edited collection that explores the diverse ways that religion shapes climate politics at the local, national, and international levels. Drawing on case studies from across the globe, it stands at the intersection of religious studies, environment policy, and global politics. From small island nations confronting sea-level rise and intensifying tropical storms to high-elevation communities in the Andes and Himalayas wrestling with accelerating glacial melt, there is tremendous variation in the ways that societies draw on religion to understand and contend with climate change. *Climate Politics and the Power of Religion* offers 10 timely case studies that demonstrate how different communities render climate change within their own moral vocabularies and how such moral claims find purchase in activism and public debates about climate policy. Whether it be Hindutva policymakers in India, curanderos in Peru, or working-class people's concerns about the transgressions of petroleum extraction in Trinidad—religion affects how they all are making sense of and responding to this escalating global catastrophe.

### Postcolonial studies

**Dasgupta, S. (2022). *Reordering Adivasi Worlds: Representation, Resistance, Memory*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.**

**ISBN 9780190127916**

Recounting the story of the Oraons and Tana Bhagats of Chhotanagpur in the present-day state of Jharkhand, this book questions postcolonial understandings of the category of 'tribe' and unravels the threads of a hierarchical adivasi world. It unpacks colonial ethnography, missionary narratives, and anthropological writings; explores issues of adivasi identity and resistance; and demonstrates how contemporary adivasi protest draws upon memories of the past. Dasgupta argues that nineteenth and early twentieth-century ideas of 'tribe' were not abstract imaginaries but structured colonial interventions. These affected the shaping of customary rights; the understanding of the rural world; and the perception of customs and practices. She analyses the ways in which Tana Bhagats questioned hierarchies among the Oraons; opposed landlords, moneylenders, and the colonial state; and engaged with Gandhi and the Congress. Using colonial archives, oral narratives, and contemporary pamphlets, this book examines the contending 'truths' produced around adivasi protest, and the complex interplay between the past and the present, the oral and the written.

**Li-ann, T. & Jaelyn, L. N. (Eds.). (2022). *Religious Offences in Common Law Asia: Colonial Legacies, Constitutional Rights and Contemporary Practice*. Oxford: Hart Publishing. ISBN 9781509946037**

This book provides in-depth comparative analysis of how religious penal clauses have been developed and employed within Asian common law states, and the impact of such developments on constitutional rights. By examining the theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of religious offences as well as interrogating the nature and impact of religious penal clauses within the region, it contributes to the broader dialogue in relation to religious penal clauses globally. Providing rigorous studies of common law jurisdictions that have adopted similar provisions in their penal code, the contributors provide an original examination and analysis of the use and development of these religious clauses in their respective jurisdictions. These country-by-country chapters inform the conceptual examination of religious views and sentiments as a basis for criminality and the forms of 'harm' that attract legal safeguards. Through these examinations, the book critically interrogates the legacy of colonialism on the criminal law and constitutional practice of various Asian states.

**Obadare, E. (2022). *Pastoral Power, Clerical State: Pentecostalism, Gender, and Sexuality*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press. ISBN 978-0268203146**

Pentecostal pastors enjoy an unprecedented authority in contemporary Nigerian society, exerting significant influence on politics, public policy, popular culture, and the moral imagination. In *Pastoral Power, Clerical State*, Ebenezer Obadare investigates the social origins of clerical authority in modern-day Nigeria with an eye to parallel developments and patterns within the broader African society. Obadare focuses on the figure of the pastor as a bearer of political power, thaumaturgical expertise, and sexual attractiveness who wields significant influence on his church members. He situates the figure of the pastor within the wider context of national politics and culture and as a beneficiary of the dislocations of the post-colonial society in Africa's most populous country. Obadare calls our attention to the creative ways in which Nigeria's Pentecostal pastors utilize religious doctrines, beckon spiritual forces, and manipulate their alliances with national powerbrokers to consolidate their influence and authority.

**Guha, A. (2022). *The Curious Trajectory of Caste in West Bengal Politics: Chronicling Continuity and Change*. Leiden – Boston: Brill. ISBN 978-90-04-51181-1**

*The Curious Trajectory of Caste in West Bengal Politics: Chronicling Continuity and Change* critically engages with the dynamics of caste in the politics of West Bengal which unlike other parts of India has remained relatively free from large scale caste based political mobilisation. The insignificance of caste in West Bengal politics has remained an enigma. Yet Caste question in West Bengal politics has remained under-researched. However, there has been a growing interest in the politics

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of caste in West Bengal in recent years and this interest has grown due to the end of the world's longest serving democratically elected Communist government (1977-2011) that followed a class-centric non-identitarian politics. It is in this backdrop that this book explores the reasons for the relative insignificance of caste in post-colonial West Bengal's politics and also assesses the future possibilities of caste-based identity politics in the state.

**Gaitanidis, I. (2022). *Spirituality and Alternativity in Contemporary Japan: Beyond Religion?* London: Bloomsbury.  
ISBN 9781350262614**

This book critically analyses the creation and effects of spirituality as both discourse and practice in Japan. It shows how the value of spirituality has been sustained by scholars who have wished for a more civic role for religion; by the publishing industry whose exponential growth in the 1980s fashioned those who later identified as the representatives of this “new spirituality culture”; by “spiritual therapists” who have sought to eke out a livelihood in an increasingly professionalized and regulated therapeutic field; and by the cruel optimism of an increasingly precarious workforce placing its hopes in the imagined alternative that the *supirichuaru* represents. Ioannis Gaitanidis offers a new transdisciplinary conceptualisation of ‘alternativity’ that can be applied across and beyond the disciplines of religious studies, media studies, popular culture studies and the anthropology/sociology of medicine.

### **Historical and Political Studies of Religion**

**Jones, C. V. (Ed.). (2022). *Buddhism and Its Religious Others: Historical Encounters and Representations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.  
ISBN 9780197266991**

This volume collects studies of Buddhist literature and art that represent the religious other to their audiences. Contributing authors examine how Buddhists in India, China and elsewhere across Asia have understood their place in shared religious landscapes, and how they have responded to the presence and influence in the world of traditions other to their own. We consider in these studies a variety of ‘others’ that Buddhists of different times and situations have encountered, and the variety of mechanisms that Buddhists have employed to make sense of them. Chapters of this volume explore the range of attitudes that Buddhists have expressed with respect to other religions, how they have either accommodated the other within their worldview or pronounced the redundancy of their ideas and activities. These chapters illuminate how over the centuries Buddhists have used and reused stories, symbols and other strategies to explain religious others and their value, in which every representation of the other is always also a comment on the character and status of Buddhism itself.

**Logan, D. W. (2022). *Awkward Rituals: Sensations of Governance in Protestant America*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. ISBN 9780226818504**

In the years between the American Revolution and the Civil War, there was an awkward persistence of sovereign rituals, vestiges of a monarchical past that were not easy to shed. In *Awkward Rituals*, Dana Logan focuses our attention on these performances, revealing the ways in which governance in the early republic was characterized by white Protestants reenacting the hierarchical authority of a seemingly rejected king. With her unique focus on embodied action, rather than the more common focus on discourse or law, Logan makes an original contribution to debates about the relative completeness of America's Revolution. Ranging from Freemason initiations to evangelical societies to missionaries posing as sailors, Logan shows how white Protestants promoted a class-based society while simultaneously trumpeting egalitarianism. She thus redescribes ritual as a box to check, a chore to complete, an embarrassing display of theatrical verve and emphasizes how ritual distinctively captures what does not change through revolution.

**Sedgwick, M. (2023). *Traditionalism: The Radical Project for Restoring Sacred Order*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 13978-0197683767**

Traditionalism is a shadowy philosophy that has influenced much of the twentieth century and beyond: from the far-right to the environmental movement, from Sufi shaykhs and their followers to Trump advisor and right-wing provocateur Steve Bannon. Mark Sedgwick, one of the world's leading scholars of Traditionalism, presents a major new analysis, pulling back the curtain on the foundations of Traditionalist philosophy, its major proponents—René Guénon, Julius Evola, and Frithjof Schuon, and their thought. One of Traditionalism's fundamental pillars is perennialism, the idea that beneath all the different forms of religion there lies one single timeless and esoteric tradition. A second is the view that everything is getting worse, rather than better, over time, leading to the Traditionalist critique of modernity. Sedgwick details Traditionalism's unique ideas about self-realization, religion, politics, and many other spheres

**Schuppener, G. (2022). *The Germanic Tribes, the Gods and the German Far Right Today*. London – New York: Routledge. ISBN 978-1-032-07000-1**

*The Germanic Tribes, the Gods and the German Far Right Today* deals with the question of how right-wing extremists in German-speaking countries adapt and adopt elements from the history, culture, and mythology of the Germanic tribes. It provides the first in-depth study of the adoption of these historical motifs by right-wing extremists. Using linguistic and historical perspectives, and drawing on both publicly accessible material and sources gathered by the intelligence services, the book delineates the influence and impact of Germanic tribal history and culture within extremist subcultures. The author demonstrates that references to the Germanic peoples, their history, culture, and mythology, are even more

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widespread among contemporary right-wing extremists than they were in the interwar National Socialist era.

### Handbooks and Political or Social Theory

**Davie, G. & Leustean, L. N. (Eds.). (2022). *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Europe*. Oxford – New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780198834267**

*The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Europe* offers a detailed overview of religious ideas, structures, and institutions in the making of Europe. It examines the role of religion in fostering identity, survival, and tolerance in the empires and nation-states of Europe from Antiquity until today; the interplay between religion, politics, and ideologies in the twentieth century; the dialogue between religious communities and European institutions in the construction of the European Union; and the engagement of Catholicism, Protestantism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Islam, Judaism, and Eastern religions with the idea of Europe. *The Handbook* closes with an overview of European nation-states, focusing on history, demography, legal perspectives, political authorities, societal changes, and current trends. Written by leading scholars in the field, *The Handbook* is an authoritative and up-to-date volume which demonstrates the enduring presence of lived and institutionalized religion in the social networks of identity, policy, and power over two millennia of European history.

**Ramji, R. & Marshall A. (Eds.). (2022). *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Religion and Migration*. London: Bloomsbury Academic. ISBN 9781350203853**

*The Bloomsbury Handbook of Religion and Migration* presents the story of religion and migration predominantly through the experiences of Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Buddhists, considering intersectional issues including race, ethnicity, class, gender and generation throughout. Many chapters are grounded in embodied ethnography including participant observation fieldwork, interviews, oral history collections and qualitative analysis, drawing on sociological and anthropological theory, as well as non-western and historical approaches to religion. Chapters also chronicle migration in regional, transnational, multicultural and populist contexts, examining everyday religiosity and religion across generations. The volume includes chapters on Islam and Muslim identity, Chinese and Vietnamese Buddhism, Filipino and Korean religiosity and Polish Catholicism.

**Rebelo, M. (2023). *Explaining Religious Party Strength: State Capacity, Social Services, and Religious Civil Society*. New York, NY: Routledge. ISBN 9781032328201**

Drawing on insights from political science and sociology, this book argues that religious parties are typically formed for defensive reasons, reacting against state-builders' attempts to secularize public services such as education, welfare, and

healthcare. Building on these findings, the author argues that the strength of religious parties is determined by the infrastructural power of the state. Weak states that fail to provide adequate public services open up space for religious communities to build a dense network of private schools, hospitals, and charities, which translates into votes for religious political parties. By contrast, strong states that provide efficient public services squeeze out private welfare providers, undermining the electoral strength of religious political parties. The author tests this theory through statistical analysis, using a new dataset on all religious parties which have participated in national parliamentary elections between 1800 and 2015. He includes comparative historical analyses of Roman Catholic political parties in France and Italy and Sunni Islamic political parties in Egypt, Turkey, and Albania.

**Bulutgil, H. Z. (2022). *The Origins of Secular Institutions: Ideas, Timing, and Organization*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780197598443**

In *The Origins of Secular Institutions*, Zeynep Bulutgil develops a theory that combines ideational and organizational mechanisms to explain how institutional secularization occurs. She first focuses on why political groups with a secularizing agenda emerge. Her argument is that the circulation of Enlightenment literature among the elite and associations through which the elite could exchange ideas were the main factors that influenced the early emergence of secularizing political movements. She then turns to the conditions under which these movements succeeded. Bulutgil supports these arguments by combining statistical analysis of original historical data with comparative analysis of countries in Europe (France, Spain, United Kingdom) and the Middle East/North Africa (Turkey, Morocco, and Tunisia). An authoritative explanation of why political secularization occurred in some countries but not others, this book will reshape our understanding of an issue of unsurpassed importance for over two centuries: the effects of modernity on politics.

**Hafiz, M. (2022). *Can Muslims Think? Race, Islam, and the End of Europe*. Maryland: Littlefield. ISBN 9781538165072**

As Europe goes astray, deeply conflicted about where it is within and with the world, it does not know what it wants to know about, or do, with the racial subject. In this situation, the Muslim becomes an intense source of anxiety, one that is at once terrifying and called to answer for Europe's existential fear of relegation. Islamophobia thus represents both the racism constitutive of European modernity and is also symptomatic of contemporary transformations in racist power, knowledge, and governance, propelled by technologies and economies of endless wars on terror. But how might the Muslim speak about the world, its past, and unfolding terrors? Which questions must she answer, and which answers does Europe deem acceptable? Presenting a speculative theory of the post-racial subject of Islamophobia, *Can Muslims Think?* is an attempt to build a vocabulary for analyzing the complexities of racism today, its potential futurity, and techniques for its dismantling.

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## Feminist and Queer studies of religion

**Jackson, P. A. & Bauman, B. (Eds.). (2022). *Deities and Divas: Queer Ritual Specialists in Myanmar, Thailand and Beyond*. Copenhagen: NIAS Press. ISBN 978-87-7694-307-3**

Across the Buddhist societies of mainland Southeast Asia, local queer cultures are at the center of a recent proliferation of professional spirit mediumship. Drawing on detailed ethnographies and extensive comparative research, *Deities and Divas* captures this variety and ferment. The first book to trace commonalities between queer and religious cultures in Southeast Asia and the West, it reveals how modern gay, trans and spirit medium communities all emerge from a shared formative matrix of capitalism and new media. With insights and analysis that transcend the modern opposition of religion vs secularity, it provides fascinating new perspectives in transnational cultural, religious and queer studies.

**Oládémọ, O. (2022). *Women in Yoruba Religions*. New York: NYU Press. ISBN 9781479813971**

*Women in Yoruba Religions* examines the profound influence of Yoruba culture in Yoruba religion, Christianity, Islam, and Afro-Diasporic religions such as Santería and Candomblé, placing gender relations in historical and social contexts. While the coming of Christianity and Islam to Yorubaland has posed significant challenges to Yoruba gender relations by propagating patriarchal gender roles, the resources within Yoruba culture have enabled women to contest the full acceptance of those new norms. Oyeronke Olademo asserts that Yoruba women attain and wield agency in family and society through their economic and religious roles, and Yoruba operate within a system of gender balance, so that neither of the sexes can be subsumed in the other. Olademo utilizes historical and phenomenological methods, incorporating impressive data from interviews and participant-observation, showing how religion is at the core of Yoruba lived experiences and is intricately bound up in all sectors of daily life in Yorubaland and abroad in the diaspora.

## Psychological and Psychosocial studies

**Çakal, H. & Husnu, S. (Eds.). (2022). *Examining Complex Intergroup Relations: Through the Lens of Turkey*. Taylor & Francis. ISBN 9781032022260**

Turkey is home to a huge variety of social, ethnic and religious groups and hosts the largest number of refugees in the world. This diversity creates a unique opportunity to understand how powerful forces of ethnicity, migration and political ideology shape intergroup processes and intergroup relations. Bringing together novel research findings, the international collection of authors explore everything from disability, age and gender, Kurdish and Armenian relations as “traditional minorities”, the recent emergence of a “new minority” of Syrian refugees and

Turkey's complex political history. The theories and paradigms considered in the book – social identity, intergroup contact, integrated threat, social representations – are leading approaches in social and political psychology, but the research presented tests these approaches in the context of a very diverse and dynamic non-WEIRD (Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich and Democratic) society, with the goal of contributing toward the development of a more intercultural and democratic social and political psychology.

**Moghaddam, F. M. (2023). *Political Plasticity: The Future of Democracy and Dictatorship*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 13978-1009277112**

Political plasticity refers to limitations on how fast, how much, and in what ways political behavior does (or does not) change. In a number of important areas of behavior, such as leader-follower relations, ethnicity, religion, and the rich-poor divide, there has been long-term continuity of human behavior. These continuities are little impacted by factors assumed to bring about change such as electronic technologies, major wars, globalization, and revolutions. In addition to such areas of low political plasticity, areas of high political plasticity are considered. For example, women in education is discussed to illustrate how rapid societal change can be achieved. This book explains the psychological and social mechanisms that limit political plasticity, and shape the possibility of changes in both democratic and dictatorial countries. Students, teachers, and anyone interested in political behavior and social psychology will benefit from this volume.

**O'dwyer, E. & Souza, L. G. S. (Eds.). (2022). *Psychosocial Perspectives on Community Responses to Covid-19: Networks of Trust and Social Change*. Abingdon, Oxon – New York, NY: Taylor & Francis. ISBN 9781032295060**

The Covid-19 pandemic motivated a significant community response globally, with the widespread development and mobilisation of “bottom up” community initiatives and groups. These community responses were an essential yet often unseen and unrecognised means by which people survived the pandemic. This book asks questions such as how were community responses to Covid-19 shaped by national, cultural and political processes and phenomena; how did community responses to Covid-19 interact with public policies, on health, education, and social welfare; and what are the likely political implications of the community response to Covid-19? Discussing the provision of abortion care in Latin America, the support to marginalized communities in Kolkata, and the mobilisation of carnival “krewes” in New Orleans, to give a few examples, the text adopts and develops a novel socio-cultural psychological approach, weaving together contributions from scholars working in diverse disciplinary fields.