Men and Masculinities in Christianity and Judaism: A Critical Reader

One of the leading scholars in this field has collected 35 key texts that have shaped this field within the wider area of the study of gender, religion and culture. The texts in this critical reader engage actively and critically with the position of men in society and church, men's privileged relation to the sacred and to religious authority, the ideals of masculinity as engendered by religious discourse, and alternative trajectories of being in the world, whether spiritually, relationally or sexually. Each of the texts is introduced by the editor and accompanied by bibliographies that make this the ideal tool for study.

The perspectives brought to bear upon men’s studies in religion look at the relations between men and religion as dynamic, elastic, complex, creative, and filled with historical and political significance. Religions create images of men and impose particular modes of being a man; they can impede or cultivate men’s development and provide alternative pathways. This volume introduces students of religion and gender to the rich complexity of the relations between men and their religious commitments; it also provides an overview of the different themes and methodological approaches that emerge in such a study.

Reviews:

“This impressive synthesis of gender studies and religious studies will be welcome in both fields—and maybe even get them talking to one another in a more informed way.”—Michael Kimmel

“This substantial anthology is a landmark event for the study of gender and religion.”—Naomi Goldenberg

“[It] will be required reading for anyone who seeks to understand the current state of research on the history and theories of the masculinity in Jewish and Christian tradition.”—Rebecca Alpert

“It is an indispensable introduction to the study of critical men's studies in religion... Krondorfer's framing of critical men's studies in religion should help put to rest feminist, pro-feminist and queer concerns that it conceals a masculinist agenda.”—Joseph Gelfer Editor, Journal of Men, Masculinities and Spirituality
“Each of the seven parts starts with a brief ‘introductory narrative’ by the editor who familiarizes the student with every single article and its author. Read together [they offer] a survey of the field as a whole. Debates are contextualized and the contours of positions and trajectories are highlighted.” — Ruth Hess, *Religion and Gender*

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