



## Editorial Note

In this issue of *Temenos* we are pleased to present a diverse selection of articles exploring various aspects of religion and religiosity in both historical and contemporary contexts. The issue includes a discussion article, three peer-reviewed articles, and four book reviews.

In his discussion article Göran Larsson delves into the historical context of methodological discussions within the Nordic field of the Study of Religion. This year holds particular significance, as it commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of Åke Hultkrantz's book, *Metodvägar inom den jämförande religionsforskningen* (Methodological Paths within Comparative Religion Research). Larsson takes this opportunity to examine Hultkrantz's perspective on the discipline and the methods he advocated during the early 1970s. Larsson demonstrates that even then Hultkrantz envisioned the field as multidisciplinary and multimethodological, foreshadowing the future developments in the field.

In our first peer-reviewed article, Stefan Gelfgren takes us on a historical journey to the nineteenth century, where he explores the paradoxical relationship between Evangelical revivalism and secularization. Focusing on the Swedish confessional revivalist denomination *Evangeliska Fosterlands-Stiftelsen* (EFS), Gelfgren argues that despite its negative approach to modernization, the revival movement played a significant role in promoting religious pluralism, individualism, and religious democracy. His study offers a nuanced perspective on the interplay between faith and modernity during an important transformative era in the history of the Nordic countries.

In his contribution Jere Kyyrö investigates the intricate relationship between civil religion and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (ELCF) in the context of the Finnish Independence Day celebrations (FID). Through the analysis of a survey and thematic writings Kyyrö examines the key elements of civil religion in FID celebrations, shedding light on their traditional, negotiating, and critical modes. The article speaks for the utility of employing an open definition of civil religion in research. Kyyrö's study highlights the generational dynamics at play in the context of national memory and identity, suggesting that the role of the ELCF in the Independence Day celebrations is that of *banally nationalist institutional religion*.

Tuomas Järvenpää presents an ethnographic analysis of gospel rap music as an integral part of evangelical Christian youthwork in Finland. Through observations and interviews with musicians and event organisers Järvenpää explores the aesthetics of gospel rap and its relationship with the emotional regimes of Finnish evangelical Christianity. The study shows how the emotional moods within Christian rap performances resonate with the broader emotional cultures of late modern societies and reveals the role of irony and self-irony as tools for social commentary and theological reflection.

Collectively, these contributions enrich our understanding of religion's place in society. From the historical dynamics of revivalism to the intersection of civil religion and church and the contemporary aesthetics of gospel rap, each contribution offers a unique perspective on the intricate relationship between worldview practices and culture. We wish our readers a rewarding reading experience!

Minna Opas and Sofia Sjö