



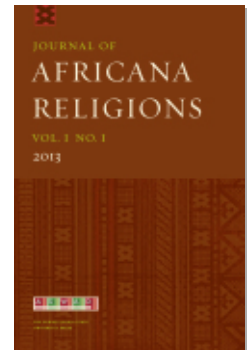
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Editors' Note

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EDITORS' NOTE

Welcome to the *Journal of Africana Religions*!

We are thrilled to inaugurate a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal devoted to understanding the religions of African-descended people and the diverse religious heritage of Africa and the African diaspora.

This is a publication not only for religious studies scholars and theologians but also for historians, anthropologists, sociologists, literature and language scholars, black studies scholars, political scientists, and all other humanists and social scientists who think about the meaning and function of religion in the lives of African-descended people. The journal will advance the multidisciplinary study of Africana religion and will encourage its authors and readers to be in conversation with one another across the broad intellectual expanse of Africana religions.

The journal also provides an unprecedented opportunity for specialists to examine the connections and ruptures among the peoples and religious traditions associated with Africa and the African diaspora. We see the terms *Africana* and *religion* as heuristic and generative. They are dynamic intellectual categories whose meanings will be shaped by the ways in which our authors define and contest them in these pages.

In order to demonstrate the value of intellectual exchange about Africana religions across geographic, thematic, and temporal boundaries, we invited some of our board members to discuss what the purview of Africana religions implies for scholarship. We encouraged them to select whatever key issue, question, or problem reflected their passion for the field and to write about it in the way that they desired. The result is a rich group of articles that includes both original research and theoretical analysis. This special edition of the journal sets the tone for the kinds of questions that we hope future authors will address.

The journal has been made possible by the generous financial support of the Department of African American Studies and the Weinberg College

of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University and the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis. Equally vital have been the contributions of a thirty-four-member editorial board whose scholarship has become essential reading in the study of Africana religions in the Americas, Europe, and Africa. Finally, we thank our partners at Pennsylvania State University Press who have offered extraordinary assistance in launching this journal.

Edward E. Curtis IV
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