

## EDITORIAL ADDRESS

The second issue of volume five of the *Journal of the Council for Research on Religion* (JCREOR) is a special issue, *From Indigenous 'Religions' to Indigenous Values*. Planned and realized in collaboration with Philip P. Arnold (Syracuse University), the Indigenous Values Initiative (IVI), and the American Indian Law Alliance (AILA), this volume offers a collection of responses and articles that speak to the themes and tensions noted in the Report on Indigenous Religious Freedom or Belief, presented by the United Nation's Office of the External Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom or Belief, which we have gained special permission to republish here in full. This issue provides input on the report, but also examines the restrictions and limitations imposed by the categories of religion and/or belief when working with Indigenous nations and communities.

The responses to Special Rapporteur Ahmed Shaheed's report discuss not only the usefulness of the categories of religion and belief, but also their limitations, which hinder much-needed discussions about Indigenous values and sovereignty. The articles address the historical injustices faced by Indigenous nations and communities in the name of religious freedom, the need for decolonial approaches to the study of religion, and the colonial tensions created by the categories of religious freedom and belief and their relationship to the Doctrine of Christian Discovery. The issue concludes with a reflection by the Special Rapporteur.

– Gerbern S. Oegema, Amanda Rosini,  
Elyse MacLeod & Aaron Ricker

### JCREOR

(ISSN 2563-0288 online) is published twice a year (Spring and Fall) on the McGill University Library Open Access Publications platform (Montreal, Quebec).

JCREOR was born out of the McGill Center for Research on Religion (CREOR), which was active from 2006 to 2019. The journal is a web-based refereed interdisciplinary journal that publishes articles on all aspects of the scholarly study of religion.

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