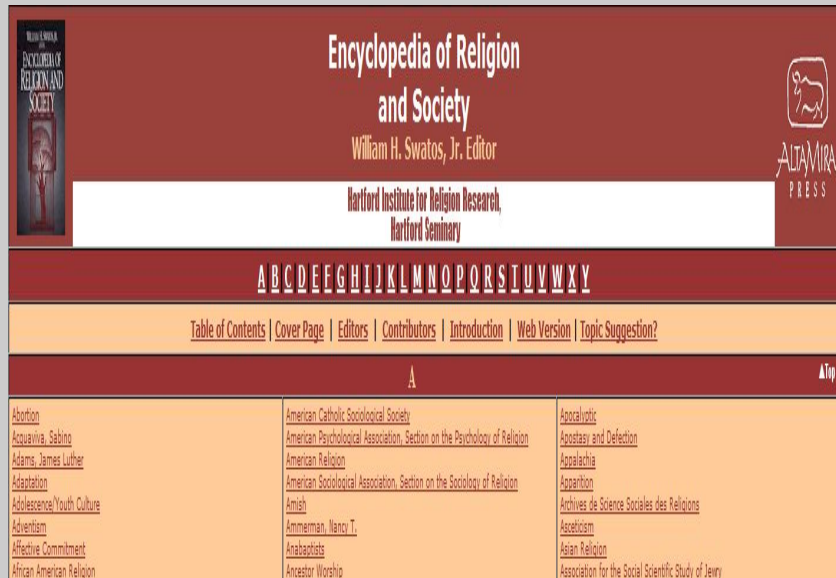


Home Page



Encyclopedia of Religion and Society
William H. Swatos, Jr., Editor
Hartford Institute for Religion Research,
Hartford Seminary

ALTA MIRA PRESS

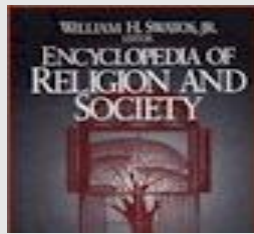
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Logo



URL

<http://hrr.hartsem.edu/ency/>

Subject

Religion-Encyclopedias;
Society-Encyclopedias

Accessibility

On subscription

Language

English

Publisher

Altamira Press

Brief History

The encyclopedia began its course initially in the spring of 1993. Charting new ground called for a number of decisions to be made about inclusion and exclusion; some of the decisions were purely practical, but for most at least an attempt was made at rationality. The work began with an extensive

citation study of various journal indexes, texts, and bibliographies in the field. These generated a quantitative measure from which decisions about

initial subject inclusion and the length of subsequent entries were determined. To these were added the names of those persons who had been elected president of any one of the major societies mentioned above, even if the individual did not qualify by the quantitative index. Subsequently, the publisher and editors consulted about modifications based upon more subjective criteria.

Scope and Coverage

This encyclopedia covers social sciences of religion, i.e., anthropology, psychology, sociology, religious social ethics. Although more heavily oriented toward North America, the scope is global and an effort has been made to address the major traditions of world religious experience. The encyclopedia has not taken up the philosophical background to the social sciences. There are no entries for Plato or Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas or Ibn Khaldun or Hobbes, Locke, Hume or Kant. The encyclopedia pick up with brief entries for Rousseau in the French tradition and Hegel in the German.

Kind of Information

Here the encyclopedia has tried to assemble articles, both lengthy and brief, that survey as broadly as possible the different theoretical traditions and research styles that have emerged over the century. As for example, under the entry "Abortion", the encyclopedia gives a lengthy article on that topic. At end of the article, there is a list of 13 references. Under another entry "Age", there is a small article along with 9 references.

The encyclopedia have attempted to provide a historical reference tool particularly with regard to the major professional societies in the social scientific study of religion: the Association for the Sociology of Religion, the Religious Research Association, the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and the Société Internationale de Sociologie des Religions and as much as possible the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry and Research Committee 22 (sociology of religion) of the International Sociological Association. Entries are also provided for the sections of the major professional organizations, the American Psychological Association and the American Sociological Association. This resource is intended to aid each of these organizations in historical retrieval, and that subsequent editions of this work may increase the detail that can be provided.

Special Features

- The encyclopedia invites people to become a participant in this project. If one would like to see the topic covered in the next edition of this encyclopedia, then he or she can send an email with his or her suggestion to the editor William H. Swatos, Jr. and he will consider it.

Arrangement Pattern

The articles are arranged alphabetically by the name of the articles. Example 1: Under alphabet A, there are following articles:

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All the hyperlinked titles of articles are arranged in the home page of the site. By clicking particular title one can access the article.

Remarks

The Encyclopedia of Religion and Society marks a unique venture in that it attempts to bring together in a single-volume compendium a state-of-the-art summary of the insights gained by the principal social sciences of religion: anthropology, psychology, and sociology.

This encyclopedia owes much to the goodwill of the contributors, none of whom was paid for his or her work. All have contributed from a sense of professional responsibility and dedication. Those of us who have worked closely over the years with the men and women who keep the social scientific study of religion alive and vital recognize a great esprit de corps among them, and this project has certainly benefitted from that. A total of 109 authors have contributed. These individuals range from some exceptionally talented students to world-renowned senior and emeritus professors. Most of the members of the editorial board also have contributed entries; all have worked enormously hard to bring out the best in the entries they have reviewed.

Comparable Tools

- Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion
(<http://religion.oxfordre.com/>)

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September 8, 2016