

# CALL FOR PAPERS

*Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*

## W.E.B. Du Bois Special Issue on Religion and Social Inequality

Following in the path of W.E.B. Du Bois, the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (JSSR) invites submissions for a special issue on the intersection of religion and social inequality in the contemporary world. Indeed, religion throughout history and across societies has been integral to the reproduction of social inequality. Yet, religion has also been the catalyst for social change and used to challenge social inequality in the world. We continue to see ample evidence of religion being used to reproduce social inequality and disrupt social inequality in modern societies.

The primary objective of this special issue is to promote **theoretically driven** and **methodologically rigorous** social scientific scholarship on the role of **religion for social inequality** in the **contemporary world** that is informed by a *Du Boisian scholarly tradition*.

Du Bois was a multi-methodologist. He drew upon a variety of methods and data in his work, including ethnography, interviews, surveys, census data, and content analysis. Sufficed to say, all social scientific methodologies are welcome for consideration for this issue. Du Bois looked at culture, group interaction, attitudes and ideologies, and social structure in his work. We will engage submissions that address all aspects of religion and social (in)equality.



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Image by Robert Ball for *The Undeclared* ([theundefeated.com](http://theundefeated.com))

W.E.B. Du Bois recognized this critical role that religion plays in the social organization of human life and consistently addressed this fact in his work. We see this in *The Philadelphia Negro* where he addresses the historical, economic and social role of religion in the community. In his classic volume, *The Souls of Black Folk*, Du Bois shines a light on how religion can be both a space of solace and cultural reproduction as well as a mechanism for the reproduction of social oppression and division. However, it is with *The Negro Church* that his focus on the importance of religion is on full display. Published in 1903, it is the first social scientific volume published on religion in North America. The empirical and methodological rigor of this book is astonishing, particularly considering the time-period when this study was conducted. Du Bois took religion seriously. Du Bois's scholarship on religion is an exemplar for all scholars interested in the social scientific study of religion and is thus a guide for contemporary research on not only the Black Church but religion generally.

Moreover, Du Bois recognized how religion mattered for social (in)equality at the micro-level, in say churches; at the community level, for say neighborhoods; at the meso-level, for example with denominational structures, and at the societal level, in say social segregation. We will thus consider submissions that address religion and social inequality at all levels of analysis.

Submissions should be **limited to 35 pages** and double-spaced. This limitation is inclusive of the main document, references, tables, and figures. The limitation does not include appendices that will be published online. Papers longer than the limitations are likely to be rejected without review. We also strongly encourage you to follow the format and structure of published JSSR articles. All manuscripts are subject to the normal anonymous peer-review process. When making your submission, please select the option to designate the manuscript as part of the W. E. B. Du Bois Special Issue.

**The deadline for submitting papers is June 1, 2022.**

This special issue is edited by Korie Little Edwards, Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, and Sandra Barnes along with the support of JSSR Associate Editors, Aida Ramos and Andrea Henderson.

More information available at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14685906>  
If you have any question(s) concerning this special issue feel free to contact the JSSR W.E.B. Du BOIS CO-EDITORS at [JSSRspecialissue@gmail.com](mailto:JSSRspecialissue@gmail.com).