

This book is part of a three-volume overview of methodological and conceptual issues in the study of Chinese religions. It starts with an assessment of the major historical and ethnographic earliest texts, and move to the religious practitioners, academic figures, explorers and photographers who developed the study of the different religious traditions in modern China. The second part of the volume discusses methodological and disciplinary approaches that are currently used, with constructive conclusions on potential changes in research trajectories. These final chapters address methodological disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, political science and history: they do so by discussing progress made in their specific fields, but also by addressing broader issues in the study of Chinese religions. Special attention is paid to non-Western, and in particular Chinese, scholarship.

THE SERIES: RELIGION AND SOCIETY

The series *Religion and Society* (RS) contributes to the exploration of religions as social systems – both in Western and non-Western societies; in particular, it examines religions in their differentiation from, and intersection with, other cultural systems, such as art, economy, law and politics. Due attention is given to paradigmatic case or comparative studies that exhibit a clear theoretical orientation with the empirical and historical data of religion and such aspects of religion as ritual, the religious imagination, constructions of tradition, iconography, or media. In addition, the formation of religious communities, their construction of identity, and their relation to society and the wider public are key issues of this series.