

'In this ground-breaking volume, George D. Chryssides and Amy R. Whitehead have assembled an impressive list of expert contributors who analyse how key concepts at the heart of religious studies have been used and misused, and how they can be re-framed in constructive ways. Teachers and seasoned researchers will find the contents essential reading.'

JAMES COX, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, UK

'This is a very useful book. Scholars can engage critically with essays that fall near their own interests but they can also quickly get up to speed on topics that may be further afield from their own research. Students will benefit from the brief, lucid essays on an array of topics that are relevant to a variety of courses. Highly recommended.'

EUGENE V. GALLAGHER, ROSEMARY PARK PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES, CONNECTICUT COLLEGE, USA

'*Contested Concepts in the Study of Religion* is a much-needed text that will be valuable to scholars and students of all levels. By delving into the ways that concepts related to religion are used variously over time and in differing contexts, the authors lay bare core problems in any study of religion that does not grapple with these realities as a first step. Every scholar working on a form of modern religion should have this book on their shelf for reference!'

MARIE W. DALLAM, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, USA

This book offers a clear, concise introduction to the meaning of problematic terms, and the ways in which they should be handled legitimately. Each entry considers the following:

- Why is this concept problematic?
- What are the origins of the concept?
- How is it used or misused, and by whom?
- Is it still a legitimate concept in the study of religion and, if so, what are its legitimate uses?
- Are there other concepts that are preferable when writing on religion?

Concepts covered include: belief, religion, magic, secularization and violence.

This is a jargon-free, indispensable resource for students and scholars that encourages the critical use of terms in the study of religion.

GEORGE D. CHRYSSIDES is Research Fellow in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at York St John University, UK. His publications include *Jehovah's Witnesses* (Bloomsbury, 2022) and *The Bloomsbury Companion to Studying Christians* (Bloomsbury, 2020).

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