

Flagging enrollments. Disappearing majors. Closed departments. The academic study of religion is in trouble. *No Bosses, No Gods* argues that Karl Marx is essential for reversing course—but it will take letting go of what most scholars think they know about him.

The book's first half draws on the scholarship of international specialists—as well as new translations of the original German texts—to present Marx the anti-theorist, a political journalist deeply skeptical about what happens when the professoriate sits down to “theorize” about social worlds. The second half appeals to this modified portrait of Marx and charts a new course beyond both actually existing religious studies and contemporary genealogies of the religion category. The result, perhaps, is an academic study of religion worth having in the twenty-first century.

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