



# Religious Studies Review

A publication of Rice University, Department of Religious Studies

Please email your short review draft directly to your area editor:  
(name of area editor) \_\_\_\_\_

## STYLE SHEET FOR SHORT REVIEWS

Dear Book Reviewer:

Thank you very much for your willingness to contribute to *Religious Studies Review*. We look forward to receiving your short review. Please be so kind as to observe the following guidelines when writing your review:

- Include a balanced summary of the book's content and place it in the context of current scholarly debates, indicating who the intended readership of the book is, and whether book successfully addresses this audience. Elements of assessment may include the author's expertise, quality of evidence and argument, relation to other works or significance to field. Please avoid personal polemic. Brevity requires focusing on those features of the book that most require evaluation.
- **All reviews must have evaluative content.** Edited volumes must also have evaluative reviews. Simply listing the authors of the articles will not suffice.
- Short reviews are due to your Area editor within three months of receipt of book or as directed by your Area Editor. Do not email them to the RSR office or to the Short Reviews Editor. If uncertain about to whom you should send the note, please contact the RSR office (rsr@rice.edu).
- Please limit your short review to a strict maximum of 350 words, with 250 words or less a desideratum.
- At the top of your review, the header should read as follows (please note style and punctuation of text: title in bold and all caps; author in small caps,):

**TITLE OF BOOK (all caps):**

**SUBTITLE (all caps).**

By, Translated by, or Edited by First Name, Initial or Middle Name, Last Name.

Title of Series, number of volume in series.

Place(s) of publication:

Publisher(s), (if a book publisher abroad has a North American distributor, include this information in parenthesis)

Date of publication.

Pp. Roman + Arabic; plates, illustrations, maps (number of plates, etc., not needed).

Price (if price is not available, indicate N.p.; if there are both cloth and paper editions, include both), otherwise if you have the price for just one then you do not need to include 'cloth' or 'paper.'

Composite Example:

**A VERY COMPELLING BOOK TITLE: SUBTITLED CLEARLY.** By Susan Q. Author. Edited by Marc B. Editor. Series Name, 13. City, ST: Publisher, 2007. Pp. xvi + 486; plates, maps. Cloth, \$69.00; paper, \$14.95.

**BOOK TITLE: SUBTITLED CLEARLY.** Edited by Marc B. Editor. Series Name, 13. City, ST: Publisher, 2008. Pp. xvi + 486. \$59.00

- Double-space all text, and use ample margins (at least 1.5") left and right. Use a single space, not two spaces, at the end of sentences.
- The text is to be a single paragraph with an indent at the beginning of the body of the note.
- No page references to the book under review should be used even if a direct citation.
- Eliminate first names of well-known scholars referenced (Calvin, Luther, Freud, Eliade); use first names for those less known or with duplicate last names (John Donne; Reinhold Niebuhr, H. Richard Niebuhr).
- For brevity's sake, do not repeat full name of author or of book under review.
- For enumerating lists, use 1), 2), 3), etc. within a sentence (run-in lists)
- If the review references a book that we have reviewed in a prior RSR, cite the prior issue and page number (e.g., *RSR* 25:123).
- No periods used for US, UK, BCE, CE, etc.
- Avoid pejorative terminology ("cults," "heretical") and potentially libelous language. Use gender-inclusive language.
- Reviews will be edited by the Area Editor, Short Reviews Editor, and a copy editor for style and content.
- The following must be included at the end of the review:

Your name and location (either their primary school affiliation or the city, ST in which you are located) in italics and both lines indented. Keep information minimal.

Example:

*Andrew Fort*  
*Texas Christian University*

If you are not attached to an institution, give your city, state.

Thank you for sharing your time and expertise in providing your review and for your consideration in following these guidelines.

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**FREUD ON RELIGION.** By Marsha Aileen Hewitt. New York: Routledge, 2014. Pp. ix + 176. Paper, \$25.16.

It is common to hear the same (and tired) refrain when it comes to Freud and religion. For one, he was (of course) an arch reductionist (not to mention an atheist). One need only look at a single text (his famous *Future of an Illusion*) to see his definitive understanding of religion at work. But should we pigeonhole as complex and rich a thinker as Freud? It is this counter narrative that Marsha Hewitt runs with, adding her own unique voice to the growing chorus of those who seek to resurrect a more nuanced view of Freud on religion. In five wonderful chapters, Hewitt aims to show that there is not simply “one” Freud (the one who dismisses religion as regressive, childish, and an illusion) but “many” (each of which must be thoroughly contextualized with respect to text, figure, and topic). Adding contemporary voices (ranging from attachment theory to psychoanalytic anthropology to neuroscience) where needed, Hewitt accomplishes her aim: that of presenting “Freud on religion” in its rich and multi-layered totality. Perhaps such a book could only be penned from a masterful mind trained in both the academy (as a professor) and the clinic (as a practicing psychoanalyst). In any event, here is a book that presents not only a scholarly appreciation of the varieties of the letter (which is to say the text), but also the clinical apprehension of the psychoanalytic spirit (which is to say Freud’s psychoanalytically informed humanism). One comes away convinced that, unlike many, Hewitt truly “understands” Freud on religion. This book is an absolute must for advanced undergraduate and graduate classes on Freud.

*William B. Parsons*

*Rice University*