

Call for papers for the 6th issue of the *Carnets de Géographes*

"Spatial approaches of religious facts"

« *Ainsi la Géographie humaine (...) doit rendre compte de la part de ce labour qui est marquée du signe religieux; il y a donc nécessairement une section de la Géographie humaine qui s'appellera Géographie des Religions* ».

Pierre Deffontaines, 1948, *Géographie et religions*, Paris, Gallimard, p. 8.

This sixth issue of the *Carnets de Géographes* interrogates the spatial dimensions of contemporary religious phenomena. If geography has been interested in religion for a long time (Deffontaines, 1948; de Planhol, 1957), current research – especially in France – has only been interested in this topic on specific occasions, such as the *Festival de Géographie* in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges in 2002, in a few journal issues (*Annales de Géographie*, Num. 588, 1996; *Géographie et Cultures*, Num. 42, 2002; *Herodote*, Num. 119, 2005), or in isolated research. Such a lack of interest contrasts sharply with the number of passionate social debates surrounding religious phenomena.

In this issue, we would like to investigate the spatial dimensions of religious life, at different scales, following the lead of the growing number of research conducted in English-speaking countries (Kong, 2011). Instead of “geographies” of religious phenomena, we prefer to speak of “spatial approaches”, since the other social sciences – sociology and anthropology for instance – produce inspiring work for geographers. Moreover, if Pierre Deffontaines – focusing mainly on religious institutions – could speak of “geography of religions”, current pulverization of religious goods (Bastian, 2007), and the affirmation of “secular religiosities” (Piette, 1993) as well, lead to speak of “religious facts”. Such an expression allows us to account for the current complexity and diversity of the religious landscape, and to understand religious phenomena, “*being attentive both to their dimensions of collective and material facts, and to their dimensions of symbolic and tangible facts.*” (Willaime, 2010 : 367).

This issue will be an opportunity to outline the new trends in spatial approaches to religious facts and the potential appropriation of non-French-speaking research, as well as the emergence of new topics in spatial approaches.

Research on spatial dimensions of religious phenomena has explored many directions, which cannot be easily summarized. Nevertheless we propose three important threads that are milestones for potential articles:

- **The role religious facts play in space design and planning.** This area draws on a cultural and social approach that shows how the normative power of religious goods is reflected in specific place and time organizations, at different scales, from local to global.
- **Dialectical relations between globalization and religious facts.** We speak of dialectical relations in the sense that religious institutions have favored the emergence of a world system (of which the Catholic Church is a prime example), and many aspects of globalization (notably, new technologies of communication and international migrations) facilitate diffusion, circulation, exchanges and hybridization of religious goods, thus bringing about transnational religious communities. The pair globalization/religious phenomena has

to be tackled both at the global scale (logics of diffusion, transnationalization, repartition, geopolitical confrontations) and at the local scale (local transformations due to global phenomena). Papers may interrogate the role of the Nation in this articulation of global and local processes. Even if this level is often neglected, national affiliations can play a crucial role in the transnationalism logics of religious practices, and seem to be present in the actors' representations of these practices (Bava et Capone, 2010). Studies may also investigate the emergence of "antagonistic logics" accompanying globalization (homogenization vs heterogenization of belief systems and practices, transnationalism vs local features), as well as hybridization processes which are developed in the core of some transnational religions (Bava et Capone, 2010; Beyer, 2005; Mary, 2001).

- **New geographical dimensions of religious facts and their social issues in Northern and Southern cities.** This third area is an opportunity to present situations in which different religious communities share common spaces, and the new geographical dimensions of religious facts in a context of diversification of the religious market and of societies' secularization. In some Northern countries, the legitimacy of religious signs – whether it be clothing or physical places – in urban space is questioned, generating lively debates on the "rightful place" of religious minority groups (Hancock, 2009), and leading to transformations within religious institutions as well (Bonneville, 2001). In Northern and Southern countries, religious dynamics underline the role religious groups play in the integration of new immigrants, and their new functions in urban life.

Texts, in French or in English, can be submitted for different sections:

- *Carnets de recherches*: articles (30,000 to 50,000 characters) on completed or in-progress research which open new perspectives in the spatial approaches of religious phenomena from a theoretical and empirical point of view.
- *Carnets de terrain*: these shorter texts (5,000 to 20,000 characters) will be an opportunity to return to a classical theme of the social sciences of religion, namely the relationship with fieldwork and the conditions for a scientific approach to religion (Barker, 1995). These articles can focus on difficulties encountered in fieldwork and the strategies implemented to face them.
- *Carnets de lectures*: short texts (10,000 characters), which review seminal and/or current efforts on the spatial approaches of religious facts. This research may draw from geography or from related disciplines such as sociology, anthropology or history.

In addition, **this issue may include, in each section, a certain number of articles relevant to the journal's editorial agenda, but not directly related to this specific call for papers.**

Frédéric Dejean (Université de Montréal) and Lucine Endelstein (CNRS), issue editors

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The articles with a short presentation of the author(s) (including institution, status) must be sent by **November, 15th of 2012** to the following address: lescarnetsdegéographes@gmail.com.

This issue is scheduled for **May 2013**.

The articles will be accepted after appropriate blind review. Anonymous reviewers are members of the *Carnets de géographes*' boards or exteriors. Articles must respect the journal style; please find the guidelines online at this address: http://www.carnetsdegeographes.org/soumettre_article.php

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