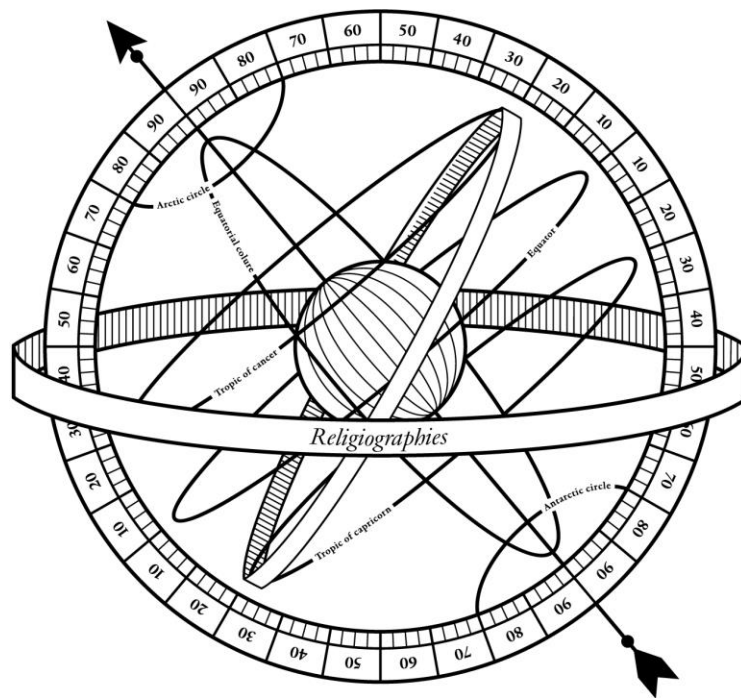


# *Religiographies*



Call for Articles

## **Special Issue**

# **Zoroastrian Esotericism**

Vol 2, no. 1, December 2023

The works of scholars who have explored esotericism in the context of the Zoroastrian religion, whether ancient or contemporary, are few. Shaul Shaked and James R. Russell respectively examined Zoroastrian mysticism as a secret element in Sasanian literature and as a special knowledge to be acquired by inducing emotionally fulfilling non-ordinary states. By means of philological inquiry, Gherardo Gnoli, Antonio Panaino and Shaked have analysed the cosmological and astrological correspondences in Zoroastrianism and its ritual symbolism as well as the presence of Zoroastrian elements in the Aramaic magic amulets, bowls, and incantations from Late Antiquity (Gnoli 1965, Panaino 2002, 2015; Naveh and Shaked 1985; Russell 1993; Shaked, 1969, 1985). Henry Corbin's interpretation of the relationship between Zoroastrian thought and Islamic esotericism has been debated (Corbin 1946, 1961; Walbridge 2001; Crone 2012). Nevertheless, scholarly work has never led to the establishment of a theoretical framework for the study of Zoroastrian esotericism. In particular, the way the followers of the Zoroastrian religion understand, experience, and make sense of the esoteric has never been explored.

This Call for articles invites contributions that discuss case studies and answer some of the following questions: can Zoroastrian esotericism exist as a field of research? Are geographical or cultural criteria sufficient to define its boundaries? In the light of the constituting characteristics of the old Iranian religion, is Zoroastrian esotericism to be intended as a dimension of religious scriptures and beliefs, of their performative aspect or of some other dimension? How do Zoroastrian dualism, ethnicity and purity inform the esoteric? How have Persianate, South Asian, Western, and Global esoteric currents shaped Zoroastrianism? To what extent do the esoteric dimensions of Zoroastrianism draw upon and/or contribute to the theoretical framework of an esotericism beyond the West? Interdisciplinary methods of investigation are encouraged together with an emphasis on emic categories of the esoteric. This Special Issue aims at orienting the scholarly debate towards the assessment of Zoroastrian esotericism as a field of research in its own right.

#### **Guest Editors:**

Yuhan Sohrab-Dinshaw Vevaina (University of Oxford)

Daniel J. Sheffield (Princeton University)

Mariano Errichiello (SOAS University of London)

#### **Abstracts and Timetable:**

You are invited to submit an **abstract** of max **300 words**, accompanied by a CV by the **1<sup>st</sup> of September 2022** to [religiographies@cini.it](mailto:religiographies@cini.it) A notification of acceptance will be forwarded by the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. Following the notification of acceptance, we will require you to send us the manuscript by the 15<sup>st</sup> of May 2023. The manuscripts will send to blind peer-review and published in December 2023.