

FORWORD

The present issue of “Researches in Religious Studies” concerns philosophy of religion. Editorial board intended to ask Russian study of religion community what kind of – if any kind at all – philosophy of religion is appreciated by the study of religion, and whether it is needed in the scientific study of religion at all. However, the number of materials received, unexpectedly, was not very large. This fact itself intents several conclusions.

For now disciplinary differences between the study of religion and philosophy are distinctly shaped, and this state of affairs in Russian study of religion – which traditionally is very closely connected to philosophy – appears to be the most desirable. However, philosophy is often (again, traditionally for Russia) associated with the methodology of the study of religion and for the last decades this condition have not been seriously debated. But at the same time this condition could be the reason why the status of philosophy of religion is not determined. Methodology analysis not infrequently anticipates the solution of normative matters that are opening the way for normative cognitive attitudes into the study of religion. These attitudes are traditionally associated either with religious apologetics or with criticism of religion. In this context we suppose Kevin Schilbrack's interview to be very representative as it demonstrates this not determined status of philosophy of religion.

Current issue also includes articles by Vsevolod Zolotukhin (philosophical roots of the Müllerian concept of the science of religion), Anastasia Belyaeva (Kant's philosophy of religion), Stephen J. McKinney, Federico Zannoni, and Vasil Sakaev (religious minorities in Russia and the European Union), Elizaveta Smirnova (the functions of religion and ideology in the modern society).

Section "Conferences" introduces some materials presented at the Russian Society for the Study of Religion congress (June 2017): Irina Bulanova examines religious norms; Larisa Latysheva analyzes Nenets sanctuaries; Nikolai Pavlyuchenkov compares Rudolph Otto's and Pavel Florensky's models of religious experience. Some reviews of recent books in the field conclude the issue.

The next issue of the journal is scheduled for April 2018 and will be focusing on the studying of Old Believers.

Editorial Board