

FOREWORD

The third issue of the *Researches in Religious Studies* covers a number of problems of the phenomenology of religion.

Chosen theme might surprise our readers. Phenomenological approach was a mainstream in the study of religion in the fifties and sixties, but today it has almost vanished from the scene. Nonetheless, it should be noticed that both the phenomenological approach itself and the criticisms towards it considerably enriched the enterprise of the scientific study of religion. It is absolutely impossible to understand the evolution of the academic study of religion in the twentieth century without taking the phenomenology of religion into account.

The articles collected in the present issue deal with juxtaposition of the Russian religious philosophy on the one hand and the phenomenology of religion on the other (Konstantin M. Antonov), the understanding of the category of “sacred” in contemporary western philosophy of religion (Maxim A. Pylaev), the role of phenomenology and theology in the study of religion (Egor S. Sokolov). A Russian translation of Arvind Sharma’s article “An Inquiry into the Nature of the Distinction between the History of Religion and the Phenomenology of Religion” is also published in the current issue.

The section “Academic Life” is divided into four subsections: “Works”, “Seminar”, “Discussion”, and “Reviews”. The subsection “Works” includes an article by Stanislav A. Panin on the genesis and evolution of the Aleister Crowley’s Thelema teaching. The selected contributions of the participants of the academic seminar “Second Temple Judaism and Early Christianity” are published in the subsection “Seminar”.

The subsection “Discussion” offers an argument about “postsecular”. Here one can find an interview with Peter Berger, one of the fathers of the secularization theory, and also articles by Russian scholars, Alexey V. Appolonov and Dmitry A. Uzlaner. Finally, the subsection “Reviews” covers a number of recent books on religious studies published in Russian and Ukrainian.

The forthcoming issue of the *Researches in Religious Studies* focuses on the psychology of religion and the cognitive study of religion. The information for contributors can be found on the last pages of the issue.

The Editorial Board