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Social Sciences : Sociology of Religion

Waghorne, Joanne Punzo (Ed.), Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA

Place/No-Place in Urban Asian Religiosity

- Focuses on religious institutions and organizations within megacities in Asia as well as smaller urban areas within India
- Describes the changing contours of religiosity as part of the processes of urbanization
- Details the creation of “no-places,” defined as newer instantiations of older religious realms of the universal and the utopian in the form of cyberspace as well as new sites intentionally disconnected from place
- Discusses the (re)creation of shrines/temples/churches within new urban areas

This book discusses Asia's rapid pace of urbanization, with a particular focus on new spaces created by and for everyday religiosity. The essays in this volume – covering topics from the global metropolises of Singapore, Bangalore, Seoul, Beijing, and Hong Kong to the regional centers of Gwalior, Pune, Jahazpur, and sites like Wudang Mountain – examine in detail the spaces created by new or changing religious organizations that range in scope from neighborhood-based to consciously global. The definition of “spatial aspects” includes direct place-making projects such as the construction of new religious buildings – temples, halls and other meeting sites, as well as less tangible religious endeavors such as the production of new “mental spaces” urged by spiritual leaders, or the shift from terra firma to the strangely concrete effervesce of cyberspace. With this in mind, it explores how distinct and blurred, and open and bounded communities generate and participate in diverse practices as they deliberately engage or disengage with physical landscapes/cityscapes. It highlights how through these religious organizations, changing class and gender configurations, ongoing political and economic transformations, continue as significant factors shaping and affecting Asian urban lives. In addition, the book goes further by exploring new and often bittersweet “improvements” like metro rail lines, new national highways, widespread internet access, that bulldoze – both literally and figuratively – religious places and force relocations and adjustments that are often innovative and unexpected.

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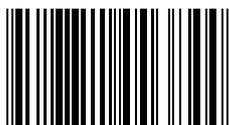
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