

JRFM: Planning, Reviewing, Producing and Publishing an Issue

JRFM publishes articles in English that focus on visual and audio-visual media, feature films, documentaries, advertising, interactive internet-based media and other forms of communication and their interdependence with contemporary or historical forms of religion. It critically reflects on theories and methods, studies on inter-mediality, and phenomenological and comparative approaches to media and religion across different cultures and periods. The main focus lies on contemporary phenomena, but diachronic analysis of the interaction between film, media and religion are also promoted as an essential facet of study. The journal also focuses on the transmission of visual and audio-visual media on the internet, which has significant impact on the reception processes of feature films, art and music in relation to religion.

JRFM is edited by a network of international film, media and religion experts from different countries and with professional experience in research, teaching and publishing in an inter-disciplinary setting, linking perspectives from the study of religion and theology, film, media, visual and cultural studies, and sociology. It emerges from the cooperation between different institutions in Europe, particularly the University of Graz and the University of Munich in cooperation with the Schüren publishing house in Marburg. It is an online, open-access publication with print-on-demand as an option. It appears twice a year in May and November and includes generally 6 articles and 2-3 book/film reviews.

TOPICS OF THE ISSUES

The editorial board discusses and supervises the profile of the different issues and of the journal in general in workshops that take place regularly once a year. Usually, an issue explores a particular topic in some articles, and has an open section. One or two members of the editorial board are responsible for the production process of an issue. They are chosen according to their particular field of research and their competences in relation to the topic of the issue. In some cases, guest editors may cooperate with a member of the editorial board. As a first step, they formulate the call for paper for the issue they are responsible for.

CALL FOR PAPERS (CFP)

The call for papers solicits articles on the topic of an issue. The CFP presents in a concise abstract the topic, outlines the main focus and contains general questions to inspire articles that may ensure a successful submission.

The CFP is posted on the JRFM website under the section announcements. It can be read online or downloaded as a pdf. It is also distributed by means of a mailing list. In addition, the CFP is also published in a previous issue or issues of the journal. To provide potential authors and readers with information about the profile of the journal, usually the next two CFPs are published on the website.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

Only original articles not under review elsewhere are considered for publication. The incoming articles are first reviewed by the journal manager in order to assure that they formally correspond to the style sheet published on the journal website; then they are sent to the editors responsible for the issue for a first review focussing on content, argumentation and overall quality. In a second step, the responsible editors send the articles for a second (blind) peer review to other members of the editorial board, of the advisory board or to another expert in the respective field.

Reviewers evaluate the articles whether they may be published with no changes, minor changes, major changes, or be rejected. If an article is rejected, it is returned to the author. If major revisions are required, the article has to be re-submitted in order to make sure that all requests for revision were satisfactorily addressed. If this is not the case, the article may be rejected.

CRITERIA FOR THE REVIEW

Reviewers are expected to comment the articles critically, but constructively, taking into account the standards of academic writing and argumentation. They are invited to make suggestions to improve the quality of the articles, strengthening the argument and its consistency. JRFM provides the reviewers with a catalogue of questions to take into account in order to ensure that the review will provide constructive feedback to the authors:

- Are the article and its argumentation relevant?
- Does the article give an innovative, substantial contribution to the field of religion, film and media?

- Are the methodological and theoretical aspects of the article consistent with the questions it deals with?
- Which are the main positive aspects of the article?
- Which are the critical aspects of the article?
- Are there other crucial aspects that may be worth of particular attention?

Every review is expected to conclude with a recommendation by the peer-reviewer. For this purpose, the reviewer can choose one of the following options:

- I recommend that the article should be published in the present form. The article is strong, innovative and contributes in original ways to the contemporary debate.
- I recommend that the article should be published with minor revisions. It provides a very good perspective on the field and can be published with minor revisions by the author. Please clearly identify the revisions you recommend and aspects that need to be improved.
- The article should be reviewed again after substantial revision. The text is promising but cannot be published in the present form. The authors are invited to resubmit their article after substantial revisions. They are strongly encouraged to consider the suggestions made by the reviewers.
- I recommend that the article is to be rejected. The article does not fit the profile of the journal and/or does not correspond to the required criteria.

The reviewing standard of JRFM is double-blind. Therefore, identities of authors and reviewers are hidden throughout the review process.

As a matter of policy, any relevant comments that were intended for the authors are transmitted in an anonymised form. Reviewers are asked to phrase their critique and suggestions for revision in an appreciative way and to avoid comments that may cause offence. If an article is rejected, the editors offer reasons for the rejection and might make suggestions for submission elsewhere. Authors are always encouraged to consider the journal for submission of future work.

PRODUCTION AND PUBLICATION PROCESS

Once the review process is concluded, the author is informed by the issue editors about the results and asked to revise their contribution in response to the comments of the two reviewers. The final version of the article is checked by the editors and sent to the journal manager for copyediting. In a next step the article is submitted for a final revision of the language quality to a native speak-

er. Before publication, the proofs are sent to the authors, and the whole issue to all members of the editorial board. The journal manager makes the corrections, and the pdf is ready for publication.

The pdf is published on the website and is also available as a *print on demand* by Schüren publishing house in Marburg.

DETAILS AND CONTACT

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CONTACT

Institut für Fundamentaltheologie / JRFM

Heinrichstrasse 78/B/1

A-8010 Graz, Austria

e-mail: jrfm@uni-graz.at

www.jrfm.eu

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