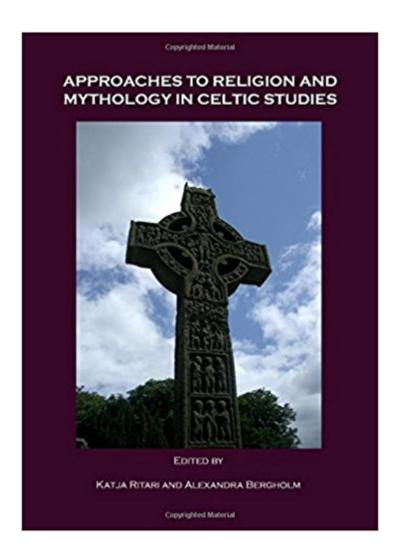


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Approaches To Religion And Mythology In Celtic Studies





Synopsis

This publication is the first interdisciplinary collection of articles focusing on religion and mythology in Celtic studies. The first part presents various current viewpoints within the field from scholars of history, art history and literary studies. In addition to more traditional approaches, the other two parts of the book illustrate the possibilities of applying new theories and methods from the discipline of Comparative Religion to the analysis of Celtic materials. They introduce previously unpublished results of the international research network The Power of Words in Traditional European Cultures, and the research project Religion, Society, and Culture: Defining the Sacred in Early Irish Literature funded by the Academy of Finland at University of Helsinki. The present collection serves as a significant contribution towards a better understanding of issues that have not been previously brought together in a single volume. As such it is of interest to scholars in Celtic studies as well as other related disciplines.

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he present collection presents a stimulating range of new insights and new approaches to the study of Celtic religion and mythology. The enrichment of the discipline of Celtic Studies by interaction with the disciplinary theories and methods of comparative religion is clearly demonstrated. Moreover, non-Celticists get an invaluable introduction to the extent and variety of evidence about religion in sources from the Celtic-speaking world. The way is opened for advancement of research on a variety of fronts. Scholars of the University of Helsinki have made a significant contribution to disciplinary cross-fertilisation between religious studies and Celtic. It is a pleasure to welcome a

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Dr Katja Ritari is a postdoctoral researcher at the department of Comparative Religion at University of Helsinki, Finland. In her doctoral dissertation she studied the theological image of a good Christian in the earliest Lives of saints Brigit and Columba. She is currently working on eschatological thinking in early Irish literary sources. Alexandra Bergholm, MA, is a doctoral candidate at the department of Comparative Religion at University of Helsinki, Finland. She is preparing a dissertation on the scholarly reception history of the early Irish tale Buile Suibhne.

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