

# Religious Education Journal

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Publisher: Ahmet Çakmak

Kocaeli University, Faculty of Theology, Umuttepe Campus, İzmit-Kocaeli, Türkiye

[ahmet.cakmak@kocaeli.edu.tr](mailto:ahmet.cakmak@kocaeli.edu.tr)

Director of Publication: Mustafa Fatih Ay

Akdeniz University, Faculty of Theology, Konyaaltı-Antalya, Türkiye

[mustafafatihay@akdeniz.edu.tr](mailto:mustafafatihay@akdeniz.edu.tr)

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[editor@religiouseducationjournal.com](mailto:editor@religiouseducationjournal.com)

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## Editorial

### Why a new journal on religious education?

The world of thought has found expression through multiple avenues. Among these, books have long served as a central medium in both classical and modern contexts. With modernization, journals emerged as another vital channel of intellectual life, and in Türkiye, numerous journals appeared during the late Ottoman and Republican periods. With the establishment of universities, these institutions soon became the primary centers of academic publishing.

Theology faculties, too, established their own journals, many of which continue to be published today. Yet, various structural issues within these faculties—such as their composition of several distinct disciplines and the ongoing debate over the very nature of theology—have been reflected in these publications, resulting in broad-scope, multi-topic journals. In more recent decades, with the initiatives of individual scholars and institutions, thematic journals have begun to emerge. While thematic journals are well established in international academic practice, they are only beginning to take root in Türkiye and, similarly, in other non-Western academic contexts such as Malaysia and Indonesia.

In the field of religious education, there are several well-regarded international journals—such as the *British Journal of Religious Education*, *Religious Education*, *Journal of Religious Education*, *Journal of Beliefs and Values*, and *Religion & Education*. However, these journals operate within a paywall system, creating significant challenges for researchers, educators, and students at institutions unable to afford subscription fees. For this reason, we believe an open-access journal dedicated to religious education is not only timely but also necessary, as it ensures that scholarly knowledge and debate in this field remain accessible to all.

In light of these considerations, we have deemed it essential to launch an open-access journal devoted exclusively to the field of religious education, one that operates within a defined thematic framework. Our hope is that this endeavor will develop into a school of thought in religious education, establish a meaningful historical trajectory, and provide a platform for analyzing the historical development, contemporary challenges, future prospects, and global as well as local dynamics of religious education.