

About the Authors

Michael Stoeber is Professor of Spirituality and the Advanced Degree Director at Regis College, Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto. He is interested in themes in comparative religion, including the nature of religious experience and the problem of evil. His publications include *Reclaiming Theodicy: Reflections on Suffering, Compassion and Spiritual Transformation* (Palgrave 2005), *Theo-Monistic Mysticism: A Hindu-Christian Comparison* (Macmillan Press 1994); and *Evil and the Mystics' God: Towards a Mystical Theodicy* (University of Toronto Press 1992).

Marianne Farina is a Catholic religious of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Notre Dame, Indiana. She is an assistant professor at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, California. She received a Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology from Santa Clara University and a Ph.D. in Theological Ethics from Boston College. With more than 20 years of experience in education and pastoral ministry, Sister Marianne has worked in education and social development projects that promote social justice and interfaith dialogue.

Kecia Ali is the author of *Sexual Ethics and Islam: Feminist Reflections on Qur'an, Hadith, and Jurisprudence* (Oxford: Oneworld, 2006) and the forthcoming *Marriage and Slavery in Early Islamic Law* (Harvard 2010). Her current project focuses on Muslim and Western biographies of the Prophet Muhammad. She teaches at Boston University.

Swami Tyagananda, a monk of the Ramakrishna Order, is the head of the Ramakrishna Vedanta Society in Boston, and is the Hindu chaplain at MIT and Harvard. He became a monk in 1976 soon after graduating from the University of Bombay in India. After an extensive training in Vedanta and its practice, Tyagananda was assigned to the Vedanta Society in Boston in 1998, where he shares the insights of his tradition through lectures, classes, personal interviews, and meditation instruction.

Robert Hunt has written numerous books and articles on interfaith dialogue, and has participated in and made presentations at interreligious dialogue conferences in China, Macedonia, Austria, Spain, Indonesia, Singapore, and many venues in the United States. Most recently he was a participant in the World Conference on Dialogue in Madrid, and a facilitator in the Buddhist - Muslim dialogue held at the United Nations. He is Director of Global Theological Education at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University.

Thomas Cattoi is Assistant Professor of Christology and Cultures at Santa Clara University, which is part of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. His interests are in the areas of Greek Patristics and Tibetan Buddhism, focusing in particular on the theme of divine embodiment and the role of images in spiritual practice. In the long term, he intends to develop a comparative theology of desire bringing together early Christian and Tibetan texts.

Sandra L. Barnes is a joint appointed Professor in the Department of Human and Organizational Development and the School of Divinity at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Her research and teaching areas include: Sociology of Religion, urban sociology, inequality, and African American studies. Some of her books include; *Black Mega Church Culture: Models for Education and Empowerment* (Peter Lang Press, forthcoming); *Subverting the Power of Prejudice: Resources for Individual and Social Change* (InterVarsity Press, 2006), and *The Costs of Being Poor: A Comparative Study of Life in Poor Urban Neighborhoods in Gary, Indiana* (SUNY Press, 2005).

Cia Sautter teaches World Religions classes at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and other area schools. She is also a dancer and yoga instructor. Her background informs her research into performance traditions in religions. She earned a master's degree from United Theological Seminary and her doctorate from The Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif.

Angelika Walser is a teaching and research assistant at Universität Wien, Department of Moral Theology. She specializes in bioethics, anthropology and gender studies, and has received a grant from the Austrian Academy of Sciences for a research project on “Questioning the autonomy of women in areas of bio-ethical conflict as an investigation into moral theology.” She has just returned to Austria from a three month research stay at Boston College.