

Call for Papers – LIMINA 4:1 (Spring 2021)

# Religious fundamentalism

Current manifestations, approaches and solutions

ENGLISH



The first 2021 edition of [LIMINA – Theological Perspectives from Graz](#) will investigate the topic of religious fundamentalism. Since the beginning of this century, we have witnessed rising tendencies of radicalisation, polarisation and ideologisation across society. From a perspective of religion, this involves different sets of phenomena and influences that take on different forms depending on the specific religious, societal and political environment.

This edition of [LIMINA](#) seeks to understand religious radicalisation in its current iteration. It sets out to analyse underlying motives, objectives, patterns of behaviour and tactics, and considers possible approaches and solutions in theory and practice. The term fundamentalism forms the common thread in this discussion. It describes the unyielding conviction in selectively chosen principles or religious beliefs and the categorical rejection of change, discussion, dialogue or compromise. It also often goes hand in hand with a strong belief in the idea of being chosen and that of proselytisation. Across different religions, various religious communities and groups anchor these hard-line attitudes in supposed origins of unassailable truth that even the most traditional-minded representatives of a given religion consider overreaching. This strategy is characterised by a radical focus on narrow definitions of religious identity and practice, which are considered to be the only valid way of life and faith and which must be disseminated, often at all cost. Further, religious fundamentalism is also often linked to nationalist movements.

These observations raise a number of questions regarding the manifestation and strategies of current fundamentalist religious movements and explores approaches and solutions that can be applied in theory and practice:

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- Which radical religious communities and groups of different affiliations are currently predominantly active in Europe? How does religious fundamentalism currently manifest itself? What are the driving forces? How is this addressed within theology? What role do political, cultural and societal factors play and in how far do interreligious and interdenominational polarisations and confrontations contribute to the emergence and rising prevalence of fundamentalist tendencies? How are religious fundamentalism and nationalist movements connected?
- What are the tactics currently employed by fundamentalist communities and groups in order to communicate and implement their principles and goals? Which discursive and practical methods do they use to increase their following? What strategies are successful or unsuccessful?
- What countermeasures are being put in place by religious and secular institutions? Are there specific measures that can curb and deescalate rising fundamentalism? Are these successful or do they cause further polarisation and radicalisation? What role do the church, religious communities, theology, religious education and ethics play and assume in the face of new forms of fundamentalism? Are there examples where deradicalization of religious extremists and fundamentalist groups has been successful? What was essential for their success and what can we learn from them?

We are looking for topical and innovative scientific articles addressing one or several of the above questions for our next issue of [LIMINA – Theological Perspectives from Graz](#). Please submit your outline (max. 4,000 characters) to [redaktion@limina-graz.eu](mailto:redaktion@limina-graz.eu).

The final article should not exceed 40,000 characters. For more information about the journal, the peer review process and publication guidelines please visit: <http://unipub.uni-graz.at/limina>.

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