

## ***Call for Papers – Zeitschrift für Pädagogik und Theologie (De Gruyter) 4/2027***

### **Shaping the Future of Religious Education: Contributions from Early Career Researchers**

Research in religious education has always been shaped by its social context. Current national and international research contexts are marked by profound transformations– such as increasing diversity and heterogeneity, digitalisation, diversification and polarisation, and the intensified sense of crisis. These also pose new challenges for the development of theory and practice in Religious Education. Research projects by early career scholars frequently generate innovative impulses for the field that further develop the subject in terms of content, concept and methodology.

The planned special issue aims to highlight these perspectives: What are the current social challenges that have led or are leading to the selection of a specific research topic? What new and innovative research approaches are being chosen to address these challenges? How is the current academic discourse reflected in the chosen research approach, and how is it changing as a result? And what future prospects does this hold for the theory and practice of religious education?

The editors of the ZPT invite The editors invite doctoral and postdoctoral researchersto present and reflect on their current research projects. Contributions from all areas of religious education and religious didactics, Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Islamic theology, as well as related disciplines (educational sciences, practical theology, educational research, etc.) are welcome.

Possible guiding questions:

- Which research questions are currently driving your research in religious education?
- Which theoretical, and possibly also normative and methodological assumptions underpin your project?
- What preliminary findings can be drawn from your research project and already presented or discussed?
- How does your research relate to contemporary practice in religious education?
- Which innovative perspectives for future developments in religious education and religious didactics might emerge from your work?

#### **Schedule:**

- Submission of an abstract (in German or English, approx. 500 words) by 15 May 2026 to [ZPT@DeGruyter.com](mailto:ZPT@DeGruyter.com), with the subject line “Future Call for Papers” 2027, including brief biographical information (tabular CV).
- Feedback on acceptance of the proposed contribution: by 30 June 2026
- Submission of the final manuscript (German or English) ready for publication and typesetting: by 1 April 2027 at the latest. It should be 25,000 characters in length, including spaces and bibliography.

For further inquiries, please contact the editors responsible for this call:

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The issue is expected to be published in December 2027.

Further information about the journal can be found at: [www.degruyter.com/view/j/zpt](http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/zpt)

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