

Preface

This issue of *JISMOR* offers eight contributions, six of which were authored by research fellows of the Center for Interdisciplinary Study of the Monotheistic Religions (=CISMOR). All articles present our research activities during the 2017 and 2018 academic years.

The first part of the volume includes two papers delivered at a public seminar on July 18, 2017 at the Divinity Hall of the School of Theology, by Prof. Junya Shinohe and Dr. Taiji Abe, discussing the meaning of the Arabic terms Ḥalāl and Ḥarām, and dealing with economic benefits and business in Islamic religious thought, as well as contemporary business conduct. On the topic of religious restrictions we also held a symposium on June 16, 2018 with the participation of Emeritus Prof. Rabbi Jonathan Magonet and Prof. (Retired) Yoshiko Oda, who dealt specifically with restrictions relating to food in Judaism and Islām in relation to people's daily life. The two scholars who lectured at this symposium introduced the audience to practices of Judaism and Islām largely unfamiliar in Japan, and their papers are given here in the second part.

Also included in the second part are two articles relating to texts from the ancient world, concerning the Hittites, the Hebrew Bible and Jewish rabbinics, by Associate Prof. Etsuko Katsumata and Prof. Ada Taggar Cohen, offering a view of those ancient societies' concepts of wisdom and social institutions.

In the last two parts of this issue we added a research note by Dr. Asuka Nakamura on a study excursion in Iran, indicating the innovations in tourism occurring there in recent years, and a book review by Dr. Kotaro Hiraoka on a recently published Japanese language book on Martin Buber.

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