



Our Primary Expertise

A Future for the Study of Religion

by Russell T. McCutcheon

DESCRIPTION

Our Primary Expertise: A Future for the Study of Religion brings the author full circle—from his first book in 1997, on how claims that religion was unique were used to establish the North America field to his present argument that its future is instead based on the degree to which its findings can be applied in a wide assortment of areas, both inside and outside of academia. Its previously uncollected essays, all with new introductions that frame this timely argument, make plain that longstanding critiques of how scholars go about their work have always been about the study of religion's odd home in the humanities—a place that's increasingly vulnerable in today's university. Calling on members of the field not just to revise their research methods but also the ways that they train the next generation, *Our Primary Expertise* is the only work in the field taking seriously that scholars of religion can help to secure the future of their own field, if only they're prepared to see "the life of the mind" as a rhetoric that they can no longer afford.

Paperback

9781978843929, \$39.95

Hardback

9781978843936, \$130.00

eBook

9781978843943, \$39.95

Date: October 2025

Pages: 226



AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

RUSSELL T. MCCUTCHEON is university research professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. He is the author of many books, including *Manufacturing Religion* and *Critics Not Caretakers*, and is the editor of *Teaching in the Study of Religion and Beyond* and *Religious Studies Beyond the Discipline*.

Get 30% OFF • Use code RUP30

Free Shipping in the USA • USA & Latin American: rutgersuniversitypress.org • 1-800-621-2736

Canada: <https://www.ubcpublishing.com/rutgers-university-press> • Rest of the World: <https://mngbookshop.co.uk/publisher/rutgers-university-press/>

Booksellers / bulk sales: sales@rutgersuniversitypress.org • Examination and desk copies: rutgersuniversitypress.org/educator