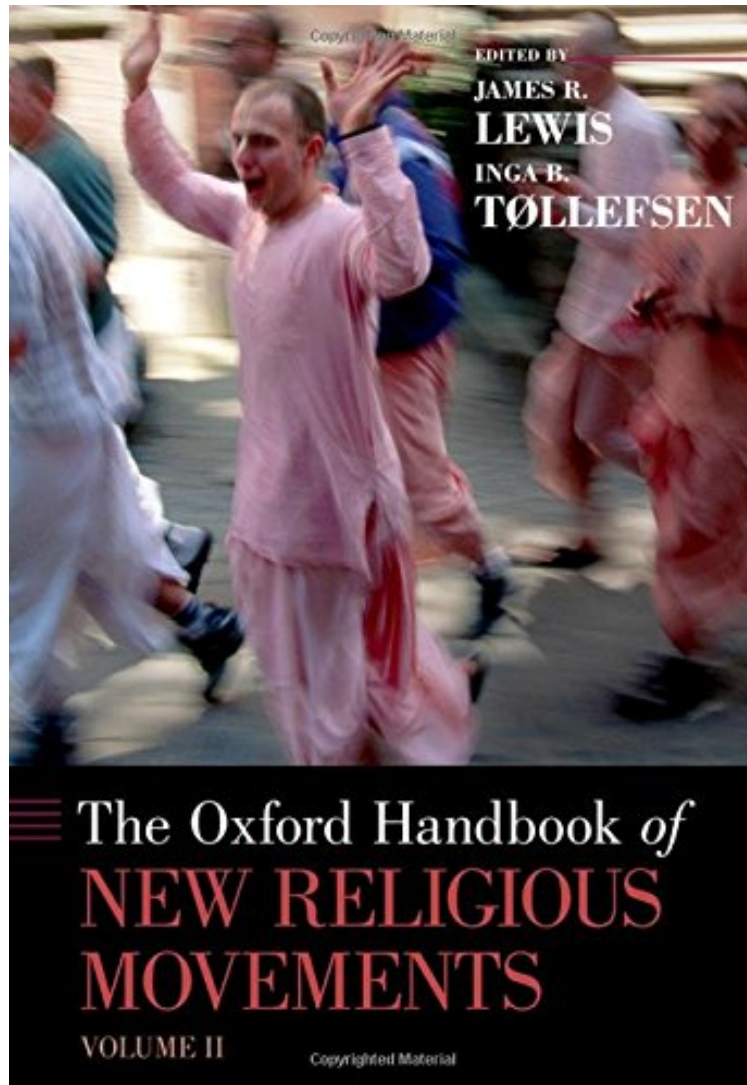


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The study of New Religious Movements (NRMs) is one of the fastest-growing areas of religious studies, and since the

release of the first edition of *The Oxford Handbook of New Religious Movements* in 2003, the field has continued to expand and break new ground. In this all-new volume, James R. Lewis and Inga B. Tillefsen bring together established and rising scholars to address an expanded range of topics, covering traditional religious studies topics such as "scripture," "charisma," and "ritual," while also applying new theoretical approaches to NRM topics. Other chapters cover understudied topics in the field, such as the developmental patterns of NRMs and subcultural considerations in the study of NRMs. The first part of this book examines NRMs from a social-scientific perspective, particularly that of sociology. In the second section, the primary factors that have put the study of NRMs on the map, controversy and conflict, are considered. The third section investigates common themes within the field of NRMs, while the fourth examines the approaches that religious studies researchers have taken to NRMs. As NRM Studies has grown, subfields such as Esotericism, New Age Studies, and neo-Pagan Studies have grown as distinct and individual areas of study, and the final section of the book investigates these emergent fields.

"Enhanced by excellent notes, bibliography, and index, this handbook is without equal...Essential."--CHOICE About the Author James R. Lewis is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Troms (Norway). He currently co-edits three book series and is the general editor for the *Alternative Spirituality and Religion*. Recent publications include: (with Henrik Bogdan) *Sexuality and New Religious Movements* (2014), (with Carole Cusack) *Sacred Suicide* (2014), (with Bengt-Ove Andressen) *Textbook Gods* (2014), *Sects Stats: Overturning the Conventional Wisdom about Cult Members* (2014), (with Siv Ellen Kraft and Trude Fonneland) *Nordic Neoshamanisms* (2015), and (with Inga B. Tillefsen) *The Brill Handbook of Nordic New Religions* (2015). Inga B. Tillefsen is a Ph.D. student at the University of Troms (Norway). Her main research interest is NRMs and gender, and her thesis work focuses on gender in the the Amma movement, as well as other Hindu-inspired global meditation movements. She has published several articles on the Art of Living Foundation, and she is a co-editor of several anthologies, such as *Nordic New Religions* (with James R. Lewis), and *Female Leaders in New Religious Movements* (with Christian Giudice).