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# Introduction

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The articles in this year's issue of *ARC* were selected in part to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the field of religious studies. We begin with an article by Douglas J. Hall, originally presented as the Birks Lectures for 1995, addressing the relationship between theological education and the academy. While the precipitating issue for Hall's discussion is recent controversy over the future of the Faculty of Religious Studies within McGill University, the wider issue—namely the place of religious studies within the academy—is of pressing concern on many campuses across North America.

We follow Hall with articles by the two German theologians best known in North America today—Wolfhart Pannenberg and Jürgen Moltmann. These articles, along with contributions in previous years by such figures as Paul Ricoeur and Gustavo Gutierrez, reflect *ARC*'s ongoing commitment to its theological readership. In addition, I have invited David Lyon to respond to his two critics in last year's volume of *ARC*. Although Lyon is a sociologist, his respondents directed their critiques principally to his theology, and thus Lyon's response is as theological as sociological.

*ARC* is also committed to the study of other disciplines within religious studies. This edition particularly emphasizes sociological inquiry, for along with Lyon are articles by two other sociologists. Both these articles—on the Bahá'í faith, by van den Hoonaard, and on the "i & I" movement, by Bedford—bring to the scholarly literature groups previously unstudied in Canada. In addition, we have an article on Buddhist ethics and an article on the Hebrew Bible. The Book Reviews section further reflects *ARC*'s interdisciplinary mandate.

Numerous people have assisted in the production of this issue. A particular word of appreciation is due to Marina Costain and Helen Shepherdson for their cheerful administrative assistance, and to our team of editorial assistants. I would like to express my gratitude to all in the McGill Faculty of Religious Studies who contributed to the production of this year's issue.

Christian J. Barrigar

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