



## Chaplaincy, Judaism, Ukraine, COVID-19 and *JORH* Jubilee

Lindsay B. Carey<sup>1,2,3</sup> · Jeffrey Cohen<sup>4,5</sup> · Ezra Gabbay<sup>6</sup> · Harold G. Koenig<sup>7,8</sup> · Terrence Hill<sup>9</sup> · Carl Aiken<sup>10,11</sup> · David Drummond<sup>12</sup> · Jacinda R. Carey<sup>1</sup> · Curtis Hart<sup>6</sup> · John W. Fisher<sup>13</sup>

Accepted: 4 January 2023 / Published online: 19 January 2023

© The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Science+Business Media, LLC, part of Springer Nature 2023

### Abstract

This first issue of *JORH* for 2023 considers (1) the ministry of chaplains, (2) Judaism, (3) the people of war-torn Ukraine, (4) the ongoing saga of COVID-19 and, on a happier note, (5) we celebrate a belated jubilee by presenting a bibliometric analysis of the *Journal of Religion and Health* (1961–2021). To conclude this issue, a book review is presented, “*The Desperate Hours*” by award winning journalist Marie Brenner, focusing on one hospital’s fight to save New York City during COVID-19. A reminder is also provided to readers on the call for papers regarding a future issue on religion, spirituality, suicide and its prevention.

**Keywords** Chaplaincy · Judaism · Religion · Ukraine · COVID-19 · Bibliometric analysis

### Introduction

In this issue, we belatedly celebrate 60 years of *JORH* with the help of three independent reviewers from India, Malaysia, and the USA, who (along with the Editor-in-Chief) have prepared a bibliometric analysis of *JORH*’s articles from inception to 2021 (Carey et al., 2023). The 60th year of *JORH* was barely celebrated at the actual time of its jubilee, as much was occurring given the effects of COVID-19, necessitating a delay in any celebration (*JORH*, 2021a, b). The bibliometric analysis of *JORH* in this issue provides an insightful analysis into *JORH*’s publication trends, citation records, prominent themes, authors’ collaboration and its aggregate and substantial contribution to the field of religion and health over 60 years.

This issue also reexamines chaplaincy—previously covered in *JORH* (*JORH*, 2022). Despite some secularists who are strongly opposed to this institutional

---

✉ Lindsay B. Carey  
Lindsay.Carey@latrobe.edu.au

Extended author information available on the last page of the article

ministry, chaplaincy research is nevertheless thriving and clearly proving the benefits of chaplaincy pastoral and spiritual care. The outcomes of this chaplaincy research challenges the rationalist philosophies and sabotaging activities of those secularists who deliberately or subtly discriminate against people needing or wanting the provision of pastoral and spiritual care interventions—particularly for people with religious affiliations—whether they are in hospitals, aged care facilities, welfare, mental health care, educational institutions, refugee centers, correctional facilities, the military, police force, firefighter or paramedical services. It is important to note that *JORH* is not the only journal testifying to the breadth of chaplaincy research and its institutional value (e.g., *Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy* in the US; *Health and Social Care Chaplaincy* in the UK).

The second main topic in this issue concerns the Jewish faith tradition. Over the years *JORH* has presented numerous articles relating to Judaism. For the first time, with the help of Associate Professors Ezra Gabbay and Jeffery Cohen, *JORH* has collated twelve articles together in one issue, covering a diverse range of topics, from religious to secular. Thirdly, also for the first time, this issue of *JORH* considers the people of Ukraine. Despite the hardships of enduring the Russian invasion of their homeland, several academics have contributed articles to inform *JORH* readers about different aspects of the Russian–Ukraine war, which would otherwise go unheard. We thank guest editor Dr. John Fisher (Honorary Senior Fellow, University of Melbourne) for facilitating this section. While only four articles discuss Ukraine, each is a story reflecting the impact of an atrociously evil war; no doubt there will be more articles in subsequent issues.

The fourth topic we revisit is that of COVID-19. Rather than abating, the COVID-19 pandemic (with its numerous variants) continues to spread globally. Thus far, over 12 issues of *JORH* have now included research relating to COVID-19. It should be of no surprise that the bibliometric analysis presented within this issue identified COVID-19 as one of *JORH*'s main thematic clusters, namely “Religious Community Responses to COVID-19” (Cluster 11). This cluster identified 681 citations of *JORH* articles with regard to COVID-19. The articles in this cluster focus on the impact of COVID-19 upon religiosity, the role of clerics and chaplains, as well as pilgrimages and religious tourism during the COVID-19 crisis.

## Chaplaincy

As already mentioned, a previous issue of *JORH* brought together articles relating to chaplaincy for the first time (*JORH*, 2022). Likewise, this *JORH* issue presents a variety of chaplaincy research concerning the: (1) relationships between the number of chaplain visits and hospitalized patient characteristics; (2) embedding chaplaincy services in primary care for immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers; (3) chaplaincy support of ICU survivorship with clinicians; (4) an ICU expansion of a novel chaplain intervention, “This is My Story,” to support interdisciplinary medical teams delivering care to non-communicative patients; (5) a comparative study of chaplain and paramedic perspectives regarding the role and value of chaplains in an Australian ambulance service; (6) healthcare chaplaincy and spiritual care policy

in Aotearoa New Zealand; (7) ethical conflicts in healthcare chaplaincy among protestant chaplains in Switzerland, Germany and Austria; (8) Muslim chaplains—their authority, function and identity; and (9) a qualitative content analysis of Danish hospital chapel guest books.

In this section on chaplaincy, we also revisit the topic of moral injury—which formed a special *JORH* issue in 2021 (*JORH*, 2021b). Wesley Fleming presents his “Moral Injury Experience Wheel: An Instrument for Identifying Moral Emotions and Conceptualizing the Mechanisms of Moral Injury” which may prove very helpful in assisting chaplains with the recognition and treatment of moral injury. We also congratulate Dr. Fleming for this article being awarded by the *JORH* Editors as one of the “*JORH* Articles of the Year 2022”. Lastly, there have been a number of articles over the years published in *JORH* with respect to Anton Boisen, we conclude this section to reconsider Boisen as a “psychiatric survivor” or “mad prophet”—either way, his contribution to chaplaincy—particularly mental health care chaplaincy—will always be considered invaluable.

## Judaism

While Judaism has a very small number of adherents compared to other world religions (approximately 0.2% of the world population), it has had a profound and longstanding influence on Western civilization and world history. Moreover, this small population is also extremely diverse in terms of its religious, ethnic, social and cultural characteristics and in its geographical spread (see Table 1). These traits make the study of Judaism’s relevance to health and illness both complicated and fascinating. As you will observe from the articles in this issue, scholars have examined a myriad of different denominations within Judaism from Haredi (sometimes called Ultra-orthodox) through to Reform and secular Judaism. Our *JORH* articles cover three main themes (1) clinical, (2), biblical and (3) various Jewish responses to COVID-19.

In the *clinical realm*, articles consider: (1) whether Ultra-Orthodox Israeli Jews suffer more than secular Israeli Jews from obesity; (2) the symptoms of avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder in Orthodox and Secular Jewish communities in Israel; (3) the cardiovascular implications of social and religious practices associated with donning phylacteries; (4) the determinants of the negative consequences of secondary exposure to trauma in caregivers of holocaust survivors in Poland. In the *biblical realm*, we present research studies that have: (5) compared the biblical Job with Zeno the stoic; (6) the sufferings of Job as an icon of postmodernity with respect to human beings living in a consumerist paradise; and (7) eating and drinking narratives in Biblical-Rabbinic versus Graeco-Roman Writings.

In the *COVID-19 realm*, articles in this section examine: (8) the religious beliefs, trust in public figures, and adherence to COVID-19 health guidelines among American Orthodox and Non-Orthodox Jews; (9) the religious doctrine and attitudes toward vaccination in Jewish law; (10) sociocultural and religious perspectives

**Table 1** Countries with the estimated largest Jewish population (2021)

Rank	Country	Population
1	USA	7,300,000
2	Israel	7,069,000
3	France	446,000
4	Canada	393,500
5	UK	292,000
6	Argentina	175,000
7	Russia	150,000
8	Germany	118,000
9	Australia	118,000
10	Brazil	91,500
11	South Africa	52,000
12	Hungary	46,800
13	Ukraine	43,000
14	Mexico	40,000
15	Netherlands	29,700

AICE (2023). *Vital Statistics: Jewish Population of the World*. Jewish Virtual Library. American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jewish-population-of-the-world>

toward the COVID-19 pandemic in the Haredi Jewish community; (11) religious minorities' perceptions of official COVID-19 health guidelines with respect to ultra-orthodox society in Israel; and lastly and rather sadly, (12) health, religiosity and hatred—a study of the impact of COVID-19 on world Jewry. Additional articles relating to COVID-19 are also presented in a subsequent section in this issue (see COVID-19).

## Ukraine

As previously noted in an earlier issue, both Springer Science Media and the *JORH* Editors fully condemned the unwarranted and unnecessary Russian invasion of Ukraine “regressing the world to a twentieth-century military and humanitarian catastrophe similar to WWII” (Carey et al, 2022, p. 921). This unlawful invasion has resulted in thousands of refugees spread across more than 20 different countries—the majority, however, have migrated to Poland (Statistica, 2023). The specific topics covered herein include: (1) The Catholic Church in Poland’s assistance to refugees from Ukraine during Russia’s invasion; (2) Media religiosity and war coping strategies of young people in Ukraine; (3) PTSD as a moderator of the relationship between the distribution of personal resources and spiritual change among participants of hostilities in Ukraine; (4) the role of pets in preserving the emotional and spiritual well-being of Ukrainian residents during Russian hostilities.

## COVID-19

To understand the depth of struggle experienced within the hospital sector—and particularly in New York—it is well worth reading the book “Desperate Hours” (Brenner, 2022). A review has been provided in this issue by former *JORH* editor Curtis Hart (2023) to introduce you to the story of the New York Presbyterian Hospital and all that has been suffered by its staff and patients. As a helpful overview of the current status of COVID-19 in relation to religion, this section commences with a well-presented systematic review in two parts: “Turning to religion during COVID-19” Part I and Part II, both of which provide a meta-analysis and meta-regression of studies on the relationship between religious coping and mental health during COVID-19.

These are then followed by: (1) the Polish Catholic Church in Martin Coronado, Buenos Aires, and its role in the life of the Argentinian Polish community during COVID-19; (2) face mask acceptability for communal religious worship during COVID-19 in the UK—results from the CONFESS study; (3) Indonesian Ulema Council Fatwa on religious activities during COVID-19: an investigation of Muslim attitudes and practices; (4) transmission analysis of COVID-19 outbreaks associated with places of worship in Arkansas; (5) experiences of patients in Turkey with breast cancer throughout COVID-19 and their coping mechanisms; (6) Asian hate, minority stress, and religious coping: a study of Asian and Asian American adults in the USA during COVID-19; (7) religiosity and the naturalness bias in drug and vaccine choices; and finally, (8) coping with stress during the COVID-19 outbreak: the contribution of self-control skills and religiosity in Arab Israeli–Palestinian students in Israel.

## Call for Papers—Religion, Spirituality and Suicide

While the Editors welcome all topics from potential and regular authors, we would particularly welcome submissions regarding an upcoming special issue on suicide. Please refer to the link: <https://www.springer.com/journal/10943/updates/23471166>. If you would like to make a submission, please submit via the Editorial Manager on the *JORH* web site: <https://www.springer.com/journal/10943/submission-guidelines>.

**Funding** The production of this editorial is supported by Springer Science Media.

## Declarations

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare there are no competing interests.

## References

Brenner, M. (2022). *The Desperate Hours: One Hospital's Fight to Save a City on the Pandemic Front Lines*. Flatiron Books.

- Carey, L. B., Cohen, J., Aiken, C., Koenig, H., Hill, T., Gabbay, E., & Carey, J. R. (2022). Chaplaincy, cancer, aged care and COVID-19. *Journal of Religion and Health*, 61(2), 921–928. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-022-01546-0>
- Carey, L. B., Kumar, S., Goyal, K., & Ali, F. (2023). A bibliometric analysis of the Journal of Religion and Health: Sixty years of publication (1961–2021). *Journal of Religion and Health*. 62(1). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-022-01704-4>
- Hart, C. W. (2023). The desperate hours: One hospital's fight to save a city on the pandemic front lines [Book Review]. *Journal of Religion and Health*. 62(1). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-022-01733-z>
- JORH. (2021a). COVID-19, mental health and cancer. *Journal of Religion and Health*, 60(4), 2191–2976. <https://link.springer.com/journal/10943/volumes-and-issues/60-4>
- JORH. (2021b). Moral injury. *Journal of Religion and Health*, 60(5), 2977–3160. <https://link.springer.com/journal/10943/volumes-and-issues/60-5>
- JORH. (2022). Chaplaincy, cancer, aged care and COVID-19. *Journal of Religion and Health*, 61(2), 921–1766. <https://link.springer.com/journal/10943/volumes-and-issues/61-2>
- Statistica. (2023). *Cumulative Number of People Who Crossed the Polish Border from the War-Stricken Ukraine as of January 2023*. Hamburg: Statistica Research Services. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1293228/poland-ukrainian-refugees-crossing-the-polish-border/>

**Publisher's Note** Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

## Authors and Affiliations

Lindsay B. Carey<sup>1,2,3</sup> · Jeffrey Cohen<sup>4,5</sup> · Ezra Gabbay<sup>6</sup> · Harold G. Koenig<sup>7,8</sup> · Terrence Hill<sup>9</sup> · Carl Aiken<sup>10,11</sup> · David Drummond<sup>12</sup> · Jacinda R. Carey<sup>1</sup> · Curtis Hart<sup>6</sup> · John W. Fisher<sup>13</sup>

Jeffrey Cohen  
Jeffery.Cohen@nd.edu.au

Ezra Gabbay  
Ezg9002@med.cornell.edu

Harold G. Koenig  
Harold.Koenig@duke.edu

Terrence Hill  
Terrence.Hill@utsa.edu

Carl Aiken  
CAiken@drew.edu

David Drummond  
david.drummond@barwonhealth.org.au

Jacinda R. Carey  
Jacinda.Carey@gmail.com

Curtis Hart  
cuh9001@med.cornell.edu

John W. Fisher  
jwfisher@unimelb.edu.au

- <sup>1</sup> Public Health Palliative Care Unit, La Trobe University, Melbourne, VIC, Australia
- <sup>2</sup> Centre for Spiritually, Theology and Health, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA
- <sup>3</sup> Institute for Ethics and Society, The University of Notre Dame, Sydney, NSW, Australia
- <sup>4</sup> School of Medicine, University of Notre Dame, Sydney, NSW, Australia
- <sup>5</sup> St Vincent's Private Hospital, Sydney, NSW, Australia
- <sup>6</sup> Department of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY, USA
- <sup>7</sup> Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and Department of Medicine, Duke University Health Systems, Durham, NC, USA
- <sup>8</sup> Division of Psychiatry, Department of Medicine, King Abdulaziz University, Jidda, Saudi Arabia
- <sup>9</sup> The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX, USA
- <sup>10</sup> Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide, SA, Australia
- <sup>11</sup> Drew University Alumni, Madison, NJ, USA
- <sup>12</sup> McKellar Centre, Barwon Health, Geelong, VIC, Australia
- <sup>13</sup> Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, Australia