

## **GUEST EDITORIAL: ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS OF THE DIVINE**

ANDREI BUCKAREFF (MARIST COLLEGE) AND  
YUJIN NAGASAWA (UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM)

Contemporary analytic philosophy of religion has focused primarily on the so-called traditional concept of God, according to which God is the all-powerful, all-knowing, and morally perfect creator of the universe. Many impressive works have explored this concept, thereby shaping the character of research on the nature of God. Recently, however, we have tried to shed light on oft-neglected alternatives to the traditional concept.<sup>1</sup> Our aim has not necessarily been to defend any specific type of alternative concept but to enrich the debate over the metaphysics of the divine by comparing and contrasting a variety of concepts.

The authors of the papers that fill this special issue discuss a wide range of concepts of the divine, including traditional theism (Diller), pantheism (Byerly, Leslie, Steinhart), panentheism (Crisp, Göcke, Meister) and nothing-elsism (Lebens). In discussing these concepts the authors also address important issues in the philosophy of religion, such as God's perfection (Diller), the emotion of awe (Byerly), the relationship between God and the universe/world (Crisp, Lebens, Meister, Steinhart), and the problem of evil (Göcke, Leslie, Meister).

Whether or not alternative concepts are ultimately tenable we hope this special issue will further expand the scope of philosophy of religion in a fruitful manner.<sup>2</sup>

---

1   Andrei A. Buckareff and Yujin Nagasawa, eds., *Alternative Concepts of God: Essays on the Metaphysics of the Divine* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2016)

2   We would like to thank the John Templeton Foundation for generously funding our initiative the Pantheism and Panentheism Project (Grant ID: 59140), which enabled us to edit this special issue.