

## PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION – CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

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**Abstract.** Taking as a starting point the historical "fact" of the research in the field of the religion problem, we shall try to determine, on the one hand, the object in front of the researcher, and on the other hand, his instruments, corresponding to the disciplinary position from which the approach is done. We take very seriously, therefore, that outlined above, namely the couple discussing religion/religions of the phrase "philosophy of religion/religions."

**Keywords:** philosophy of religion, religious experience, sacred, scientism.

The claims of this study did not aim, as it seems at first sight, a kind of conceptual analysis of the issue terms of 'philosophy of religion ', although bending the forms of singular/plural of those terms is concerned, but only as part of a strategy that goes beyond the strictly analytical type of research of these two terms. Our main purpose in this article concerns the attempt to detect, based on the concepts in question, possible explanations for the different types of reports on the complex issue of "religion"; ultimately, we will try to outline the legitimacy of the most relevant claims and their limits.

Firstly we will index below, from the apparent conceptual problem of our phrase, following discussions on the subject which is considered by the researcher ("religion/religions", etc.), the main types of approaches to the problem of religion – the historical-anthropological perspective, the phenomenological-hermeneutic perspective (M. Eliade and Codoban), and the most current view, related to the scientist vein, that of the "evolutionary science of religion" and the social sciences perspectives.

The effervescence in researching the issues of religion/religions was caused, in the last stage of the Western research on this matter, by (as Eliade noted) Rudolf Otto's book *Das Heilige* (1917) – *The Sacred*<sup>1</sup>. The originality and fascination caused by this volume consist primarily in the manner of approach "religion", as our historian and scholar of religions emphasizes "instead to lean on the *ideas* of God and religion, Rudolf Otto examines the modes of the religious experience". Theologian and historian of religions, Otto "had managed to

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<sup>1</sup> Rudolf Otto, *The Sacred*: this volume appeared in the last edition in the translation of Ioan Milea in 2005, Bucharest, Humanitas Publishing House.