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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Preface -- Contents -- Understanding Religion -- Introduction / Gothóni, René -- Major Contributions of Philosophical Phenomenology and Hermeneutics to the Study of Religion / Allen, Douglas -- Phenomenology of Religion: Between 'Given' and Constructed / Laitila, Teuvo -- "Going, going, gone" - Or How I Fail to Gain Hermeneutic Understanding / Sjöblom, Tom -- Phenomenology as a Preliminary Method / Utriainen, Terhi -- Response / Allen, Douglas -- Explaining Religion -- Introduction / Pyysiäinen, Ilkka -- Beyond Thick Descriptions and Interpretive Sciences: Explaining Religious Meaning / Wiebe, Donald -- The Limits of Explaining in Religious Studies / Holm, Nils G. -- Science/Religion Controversy - Are the Grounds of Naturalism Still Valid for Their Confrontation? / Anttonen, Veikko -- Understanding the Other / Gothóni, René -- Response / Wiebe, Donald -- Critical Approaches in the Comparative Study of Religion -- Introduction / Sakaranaho, Tuula -- Methodology - Tool or Trap? Comments from a Feminist Perspective / Gross, Rita M. -- Research and Sexual Difference / Heinämäki, Elisa -- When is Methodology a Trap? / Ketola, Kimmo -- Skyhooks and Toeholds in the Study of Religion / Taira, Teemu -- Response / Gross, Rita . -- Summary -- Religion and Relations. The Social Dimension of Methodological Argumentation / Vesala, Kari Mikko / Pesonen, Heikki -- Index of Authors -- Index of Subject

Renommierter Religionswissenschaftler erläutern und diskutieren die drei wichtigsten Ansätze der vergleichenden Religionswissenschaft auf dem neuesten Stand der Forschung: den hermeneutischen, den kognitivistischen und den kritischen. Die Ansätze, Standpunkte und Methoden der Religionswissenschaft werden unter kritischer Abwägung des Für und Wider gründlich und offensiv diskutiert. Das ermöglicht ein grundlegendes Verständnis des aktuellen Dialogs und künftiger Herausforderungen.

Well-known scholars in the study of religions bring up to date and elucidate the discussion on the three most debated approaches in comparative religion, namely, the hermeneutical approach, the explanatory or cognitivist approach, and the critical approach. The approaches and methods of studying religion are disputed in an outspoken and challenging way, critically and radically arguing pros and cons. This work is unique, unrivalled, and full of essential insights into the dialogue of today and of the challenges of tomorrow.
