



# Call for Papers

## *International Journal of Catholic Studies*

### Special Issue: Critical Edition and Translation of Ancient Texts

Publication: June 2026

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The *International Journal of Catholic Studies*, published by The Chinese University of Hong Kong Press and the Centre for Catholic Studies, invites contributions for a special issue dedicated to the critical edition and translation of ancient texts. This thematic volume aims to foster scholarly dialogue between Western and Chinese academics, bringing together diverse methodological approaches to textual criticism and translation studies.

**Central Questions:** How do we establish reliable ancient texts—whether biblical, patristic, or medieval? What constitutes the best way of practicing textual criticism (ecdotics)? How should we evaluate translation choices and methodologies? This issue seeks to address these fundamental questions through cross-cultural scholarly exchange.

**Scope and Approach:** We welcome contributions from scholars affiliated with major editorial projects, including Sources Chrétiennes, Patrologia Orientalis, the Leonine Commission, and Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium, alongside colleagues from École nationale des chartes and distinguished Chinese philologists specializing in ancient languages (Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Syriac and Classical Chinese). The volume will examine how different scholarly traditions approach stemma codicum construction, manuscript evaluation, and editorial decision-making.

**Thematic Structure:** The issue will follow a chronological framework, starting with biblical texts and moving on to patristic literature, medieval sources, and finally extending to the early modern period. This temporal progression will illuminate the evolution of textual transmission and editorial practices across different historical contexts.

**Submission Guidelines:** Articles must be original work that has not been published publicly. The word count for the Chinese essay is preferably between 8,000 and 15,000 Chinese characters, with a maximum of 20,000 characters, including comprehensive apparatus criticus where relevant. Chinese book reviews should be more than 3,000 characters. Essays in English should be between 6,000 and 10,000 words, with a maximum of 15,000 words, including comprehensive apparatus criticus where relevant. The English book reviews should be more than 1,000 words. Papers in either language must also include a 300-500 words/characters abstract in both Chinese and English and a few keywords. After receiving the manuscript, the editorial board will invite a blind peer review by two scholars. Review opinions will be returned to the author within two months.



Contributions may address specific case studies, comparative methodologies, or theoretical frameworks in textual criticism. We particularly encourage submissions that highlight divergent approaches between Western and Chinese scholarly traditions, examine digital humanities applications in textual criticism, or present innovative solutions to complex editorial problems.

This collaborative endeavour promises to advance international scholarship in textual criticism while fostering meaningful dialogue between diverse academic traditions.

### Topics of Interest:

- Manuscript tradition analysis and stemmatology
- Translation theory and practice for ancient texts
- Digital tools in critical edition work
- Cross-cultural perspectives on textual authenticity
- Editorial principles for multilingual corpora
- Paleographical and codicological considerations

**Submission Deadline:** 28 February 2026; **Publication:** June 2026

The Journal is divided into three categories: special issue articles, regular articles, and book reviews. Please submit papers related to this special issue to Dr. Alexis Balmont, Centre for Catholic Studies, CUHK ([alexis.balmont@gmail.com](mailto:alexis.balmont@gmail.com)), and the other regular articles and book reviews to Antoine Ren ([antoineren@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:antoineren@cuhk.edu.hk)), chief editor of the Journal. Manuscripts should follow the *International Journal of Catholic Studies*' standard academic format, which can be downloaded from the Centre for Catholic Studies' website.