

“Fascinating, resourceful, and thoughtful from beginning to end. This book belongs in all kinds of courses because it demonstrates how to do cultural history, study the senses and modernity, and compare religious traditions in the concrete registers of daily life. We will never hear sacred noise in the same way again.”

—DAVID MORGAN, DUKE UNIVERSITY

“Remakes the religious history of the senses as legal history. . . . With deftness and discerning insight, Weiner reveals the politics involved in defining noisy religion as public nuisance.”

—LEIGH ERIC SCHMIDT, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

“Offers a brilliantly researched and intellectually nuanced account of the sounds of religion in the United States and the legal standing of religious noise over time. . . . A fascinating and immensely valuable contribution to the scholarship of sensory studies, public religion, secularism, sonic technologies, and material practice. In sum: a pleasure to read and to ponder.”

—SALLY M. PROMEY, YALE UNIVERSITY

Throughout U.S. history, complaints about religion as noise have proven useful both for restraining religious dissent and for circumscribing religion's boundaries more generally. At the same time, religious individuals and groups rarely have kept quiet. They have insisted on their right to practice religion out loud, implicitly advancing alternative understandings of religion and its place in the modern world.

In *Religion Out Loud*, Isaac Weiner takes such sonic disputes seriously. Weaving the story of religious “noise” through multiple historical eras and diverse religious communities, he convincingly demonstrates that religious pluralism has never been solely a matter of competing values, truth claims, or moral doctrines, but of different *styles* of public practice, of fundamentally different ways of using body and space—and that these differences ultimately have expressed very different conceptions of religion itself. Weiner's innovative work encourages scholars to pay much greater attention to the publicly contested sensory cultures of American religious life.

**Isaac Weiner** is Assistant Professor of Religion and Culture in the Department of Comparative Studies at the Ohio State University.