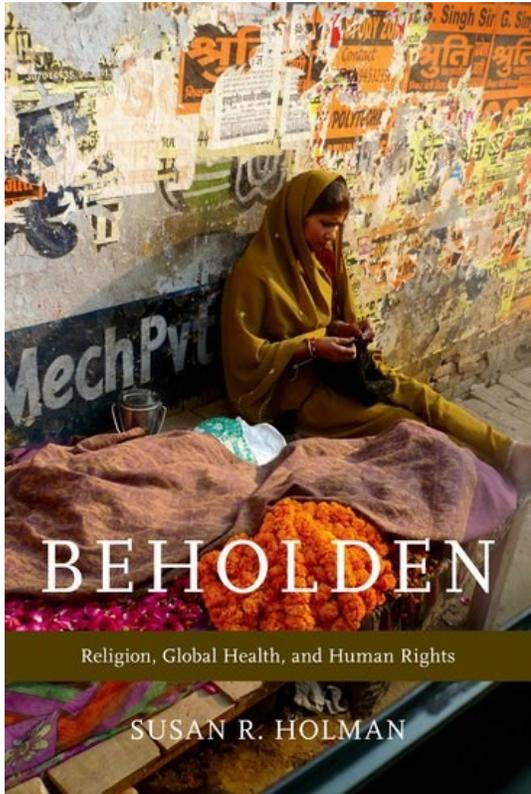


# NEW FROM OXFORD

## BEHOLDEN

### RELIGION, GLOBAL HEALTH, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

By Susan R. Holman



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312 pages

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**G**lobal health efforts today are usually shaped by two very different ideological approaches: a human rights-based approach to health and equity—often associated with public health, medicine, or economic development activities; or a religious or humanitarian “aid” approach motivated by personal beliefs about charity, philanthropy, missionary dynamics, and humanitarian “mercy.” The underlying differences between these two approaches can create tensions and even outright hostility that undermines the best intentions of those involved.

In *Beholden: Religion, Global Health, and Human Rights*, Susan R. Holman—a scholar in both religion and the history of medicine—challenges this traditional polarization by telling stories designed to help shape a new perspective on global health, one that involves a multidisciplinary integration of religion and culture with human rights and social justice. The book’s six chapters range broadly, describing pilgrimage texts in the Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, and Islamic traditions; the effect of ministry and public policy on nineteenth-century health care for the poor; the story of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as it shaped economic, social, and cultural rights; a “religious health assets” approach based in Southern Africa; and the complex dynamics of gift exchange in the modern faith-based focus on charity, community, and the common good. Holman’s study serves as an insightful guide for students and practitioners interested in improving and broadening the scope of global health initiatives, with an eye towards having the greatest impact possible.

### Advance Praise of *Beholden*

*Beholden* is a rich tapestry of stories deftly woven into a textured examination of religious faith and global health work. The meanings we give to charity, justice, human rights, obligations, and respect—and their material effects—come alive in threads plaited across time and place. *Beholden* invites us to deepen the moral integrity of global health relations; it should be read by all who care to do so.”

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“Susan Holman gives us what we need so urgently—a recovery of the relationship between public health and public faith, between the local and the global. *Beholden* is a work for our time, filled with rich and experiential insights for the flourishing and healing of our world.”

—Mark R. Gornik, City Seminary of New York

“Susan Holman weaves theology, history, ethics, and her own fascinating pilgrimage as a public health specialist and scholar of religion to produce a book that is a swirling, sumptuous tapestry. Not only a feast of vivid prose, *Beholden* is an unmatched account of why the often separate worlds of religion, health, and human rights need each other—urgently—at a time of desperate crises and grave inequities in global public health.”

—Timothy Samuel Shah, Georgetown University

Susan R. Holman is Senior Writer at the Harvard Global Health Institute. Formerly writer and editor at Harvard School of Public Health, she has also worked in clinical nutrition and holds a PhD in religious studies from Brown. She is the author of *The Hungry Are Dying: Beggars and Bishops in Roman Cappadocia* and *God Knows There's Need: Christian Responses to Poverty*.

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