



### The Anthem Companion to Robert N. Bellah

*Edited by Matteo Bortolini*

**Pub Date:** 28 June 2019

**Binding:** Hardback

**Price:** £80.00 / \$125.00

**ISBN:** 9781783089628

**Extent:** 232 pages

**Size:** 153 x 229 mm /  
6 x 9 inches

**Series:** Anthem Companions to Sociology

**BISAC CATEGORY:** SOCIAL SCIENCE / Sociology of Religion  
SOCIAL SCIENCE / Sociology / Social Theory,  
BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Social Scientists & Psychologists

**BISAC CODE:** SOC039000

**BIC CODE:** JHB

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### The first major collection of writings on the life and work of Robert N. Bellah

"The Anthem Companion to Robert N. Bellah" is the first major collection of essays on the life and work of Robert N. Bellah (1927–2013), one of the foremost sociologists of religion of the twentieth century. Bellah's work was central to many fields: the sociology of Japanese religion; the relationship between sociology and the humanities; the relationship between American religion and politics; the cultures of modern individualism; evolution and society. Bellah's seminal work on "civil religion" in the early 1970s created a huge debate across the disciplines that continues into the present times; his coauthored book "Habits of the Heart" (1985) was a best seller and the object of sustained discussion in the general public sphere; his last magnum opus, *Religion in Human Evolution*, published at 84, was a monument to an extraordinary scholarly and intellectual career. The object of this collection of essays by top American and European scholars from the social sciences and humanities is to highlight the richness of Bellah's work. Each essay has a double character: it introduces a single topic in an accessible and complete way and then presents a reflection on the viability and import of Bellah's ideas for interpreting contemporary phenomena.

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Matteo Bortolini is associate professor of sociology at the University of Padova, Italy. His main areas of research are the sociology of knowledge and sociological theory, with particular focus on intellectuals, history of disciplines, social practices and reputational processes. Bortolini's latest publication is the coauthored book, 'Italian Sociology 1945–2010' (2017).

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