

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Johannis (Hans) J. Mol was born in the Netherlands in 1922 and is professor emeritus of the Social Scientific Study of Religion at McMaster University in Canada. He studied economics at the University of Amsterdam, but was jailed by the Gestapo for 'undermining the Nazi war economy' from 1943-1945. He did his MA with Reinhold Niebuhr at Union Seminary and obtained his doctorate in sociology with Robert Merton at Columbia University, New York. He was the minister of Bethel Presbyterian Church in White Hall, Maryland from 1956-1961.

He was lecturer in sociology at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand from 1961-1963 and fellow in sociology in the Institute of Advanced Studies of The Australian National University from 1963 until he came to McMaster in 1970.

He is the author of fourteen books and monographs in the sociology of religion and the editor of two more. The best known among these works are *Religion in Australia* (1971), *Western Religion* (1972), *Identity and the Sacred* (1976), *Meaning and Place* (1983) and *Faith and Fragility* (1985). He has also published close to fifty chapters in books and articles in refereed journals. In 1978 he was invited to give the Payne Lecture at the University of Missouri and the opening address at the International Conference for the Sociology of Religion in Tokyo. In 1985 he was the keynote speaker at the Fifteenth World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions in Sydney, Australia.

He has been very active in professional organizations. From 1963-1969 he was the secretary-treasurer of the Sociological Association of Australia and New Zealand. From 1972-1978 he was first secretary and subsequently president of the Sociology of Religion Research Committee of the International Sociological Association.

Hans Mol is married with four children and eleven grandchildren. He and his wife, Ruth, have retired on their property, Talpa, near Canberra, Australia.

Although retired Hans Mol is active in The Australian National University community and is a Visiting Fellow with the Research School of Humanities.