

IAPR

International Association for the Psychology of Religion

Newsletter of the IAPR – March 2010

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Conferences*

* Whoever wants to bring conference information under attention of the IAPR members, please email the data to the editor of the Newsletter.

International colloquium 'Psychologie du développement religieux: Questions classiques et perspectives contemporaines' ['Developmental Psychology of Religion: Classic questions and contemporary perspectives']

Date: 27-28th May, 2010

Location: L'Université de Lausanne, Unithèque, Salle de Conférence n° 511, Lausanne, Switzerland

<http://www.unil.ch/ftsr/page75037.html>

Since the very inception of psychological science, researchers have been interested in the relationship between religious and spiritual beliefs, attitudes, and practices, and indices of psychological well-being. For more than forty years, psychologists in the field of developmental psychology have asked whether and how religious and spiritual development might be studied, described, explained, measured, and predicted, and how such development is or could be related to other domains of human development (e.g. cognitive, affective, and moral development). This symposium brings together a group of scholars well-acquainted with the classical questions in this field, as well as being involved in some of the world's most interesting and innovative approaches to emerging

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questions and concerns. The symposium should be of interest not only to scholars in psychology and social and health and educational sciences, but also to practitioners; clinicians, educators, clergy, catechists, and the wider public with an interest in religious questions and questions about the goals, directions, pitfalls, and meaning of human development.

Registration: http://www.unil.ch/webdav/site/ftsr/shared/documents/activites/colloque_psycho_lausanne2010.pdf

Pierre-Yves Brandt & Newman Lao

Symposium about the relation between Psychology of Religion and Practical Theology

Date: June 4th, 2010

Location: VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands

www.noster.org/index.php?page_id=166&lang=1&txt_id=508&page=more

Abstract: The relation between practical theology and the social sciences – notably psychology of religion – is full of potential, but also full of tensions. In many academic contexts psychology of religion finds it home in the faculty of theology, juxtaposed to practical theology. Practical theology in return often builds on insights from psychology of religion but does not want to be equated with that. So what is it that demarcates the two and thus defines practical theology?

One could argue that – unlike psychology of religion – practical theology is defined by an epistemological hybridity in that it operates with both empirical and trans-empirical premises, carrying strong normative implications. It links with psychology of religion and other social sciences in describing religious practice and with other theological disciplines in interpreting and evaluating them. In this field some understand practical theology's task to be identifying the Christian message in a specific situation (coming close to simple proclamation), others come close to mimicking a psychological approach, baptizing empirical theories and dates without an explicit theological method. How then can these different forms of reasoning work together while respecting the differences? This pivotal question on the nature of practical theology and its relation with psychology of religion has not received adequate attention and the small symposium in Amsterdam will enter into this debate.

The morning program will offer lectures by Susanne Heine, Fraser Watts, and Ruard Ganzevoort, followed by a plenary discussion. In the afternoon we will have round table conversations on the interaction of the disciplines in research and teaching respectively.

Registration: Participation is free, registration is necessary (please contact rr.ganzevoort@th.vu.nl)

Susanne Heine, Herman Westerink, Joke van Saane & R. Ruard Ganzevoort

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Conference 'Spirituality, Theology & Mental Health: Myth, authority & healing power'

Date: September 13-16th, 2010

Location: St John College, University of Durham, Great Britain

Announcement: The 'Spirituality, Theology & Mental Health: Myth, Authority & Healing Power' conference takes place between 13-16th September 2010 at Durham University, and includes plenary speakers and workshops.

www.dur.ac.uk/spirituality.health/?p=141#more-141

Abstract: Spirituality, Theology & Mental Health: Myth, Authority & Healing Power will begin an ongoing dialogue between theology, anthropology, psychiatry and philosophy, and will be of interest to academics and practitioners (including religious ministers and counsellors) in these areas. It will address issues such as the importance of religion and spirituality in psychiatric treatment of mental illness and the necessity of treating the whole person, and form an ongoing mutually critical engagement between theology and psychiatry. These and related issues will be explored both through academic papers and also through praxis-based workshops such as meditation workshops.

Registration: www.dur.ac.uk/spirituality.health/wp-content/uploads/BookingForm.pdf

Anastasia Scrutton & Fraser Watts

Key Publications*

* Whoever wants to bring key publications under attention of the IAPR members, please email the bibliography to the editor of the Newsletter.

- Kalayjian, A. & Paloutzian, R.F. (Eds.): *Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Psychological Pathways to Conflict Transformation and Peace Building*. New York: Springer.

Anger, hatred, resentment, grudges – when the products of conflict smolder for years, decades, or centuries, the idea of peace may seem elusive and unrealistic. At the same time, people and societies need to move beyond these negative traumatic effects so they can heal. *Forgiveness and Reconciliation* explores in depth two different yet essential components of this peace-building process.

Unlike most books on the subject, which tend to focus on the individual's development of forgiveness from a single perspective, *Forgiveness and Reconciliation* reaches across the spectrum of approaches – sociopsychological, biopsychological, therapeutic, developmental, and spiritual among them – to offer examples of intervention at the individual, community, generational, and national levels. This inclusiveness (and a range of real-world illustrations from U.S. race relations to the Armenian genocide) gives readers access to not only the core issues of forgiveness and the dialogic nature of reconciliation, but also the intersecting psychological and social processes involved as they affect all participants in conflict.

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Highlights of the coverage:

- Reconciliation efforts in Rwanda, Darfur, India, and Pakistan
- Restorative conferencing and its role in fostering forgiveness
- Lessons in empathy and repentance from lifers in prison
- Promoting reconciliation through arts and the media
- The potential for forgiveness despite revisionism, denial, and continued injustice
- Reconciliation in the divided society

Forgiveness and Reconciliation breaks new ground as a volume that will enhance the work of social and peace psychologists, students and researchers in intergroup and international relations, and peace and conflict studies.

⇒ *new electronic download version available*

Contact

Please feel free to contact me or to email all information of interest to me:

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