

IAPR

International Association for the Psychology of Religion

Newsletter of the IAPR – November 2010

Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

this IAPR newsletter has become so voluminous that it seems to be necessary to address a short editorial. It is a very encouraging development that so many colleagues have provided our association's general secretary, Herman Westerink, and me with information for the newsletter, and we really appreciate that the IAPR newsletter thus seems to become a platform of growing importance for exchange of the recent developments in our academic field. Because there are so many announcements in this newsletter, however, for the sake of our own association we would like to direct your attention in particular to the announcements for the next IAPR congress in August 2011 in Bari/Italy (p. 11) and the new IAPR website (p. 3).

Kind regards,

Constantin Klein

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Announcements*

* Whoever wants to bring announcements under attention of the IAPR members, please email the text to the editor of the Newsletter.

Obituary to Joseph W. Ciarrocchi

Joseph W. Ciarrocchi, psychologist and educator, dies. A former priest, he dedicated his life to relieving others' suffering

Dr. Joseph William Ciarrocchi, a former priest, author, professor and chairman of pastoral counseling at Loyola University Maryland, died of multiple myeloma on Oct. 22 at Gilchrist Hospice Care in Baltimore. The Columbia resident was 66.

Dr. Ciarrocchi was born during World War II in San Francisco, where his father was stationed at the Presidio army post. The family of three later moved to Philadelphia, where his mother died when Dr. Ciarrocchi was 9. His father remarried, and Dr. Ciarrocchi gained two sisters whom he adored: stepsister Maria Greenwald, who grew up to be a

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mayor of Cherry Hill, N.J., and was killed in a car crash 1995, and a half-sister, Lucia Lawrence of Lyndhurst, N.J. The Ciarrocchis settled in New Jersey, where Dr. Ciarrocchi's father worked as an electrical engineer for RCA Broadcast Systems, helping develop technology that improved portable videotaping.

During his high school years, Dr. Ciarrocchi attended St. Fidelis College & Seminary in Herman, Pa., outside of Pittsburgh. He graduated at 17, having skipped a grade early in his education, and went on to earn a master's degree in theology from Capuchin College in Washington. From there, Dr. Ciarrocchi entered the seminary and was ordained a Catholic priest in September of 1969. He left the priesthood two years later, however, drawn to the idea of starting a family.

He married Tresa Johnson in the early 1970s, and they eventually had five children – two boys and three girls. They divorced about 20 years later, according to his widow and second wife, the former Anne Marie Bolzan, who married Dr. Ciarrocchi in 1995.

While at the seminary, Dr. Ciarrocchi took his first psychology course and "fell in love" with the topic, Mrs. Ciarrocchi said. He earned a doctorate in clinical psychology from the Catholic University of America in Washington and specialized in addiction and anxiety disorders. A Bible passage describing how Jesus took compassion on a confused shepherdess crowd became an inspiration, his wife said. "That was his motivation, to help people out of confusion and help them to clarity about their lives and to relieve their distress," Mrs. Ciarrocchi said, adding that his mother's early death was a likely motivator. "He's been very interested in helping to relieve the suffering and pain of others," she said.

Tricia Bishop, The Baltimore Sun

New IAPR Website

Since November 2010 the IAPR has a new website which can be found at www.psychology-of-religion.com. All relevant information about the aims, history, activities, and membership of the IAPR can be found there.

With the installation of the new website the old website (www.iapr.de) has been displaced. We would like to use this opportunity to thank Sebastian Murken and Sussan Namini who have successfully administered the old website for several years.

Constantin Klein

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Discount rate for 'Mental Health, Religion, and Culture' for members of IAPR for 2011-2015

The new discount rate for 'Mental Health, Religion and Culture' for members of IAPR for the period 2011-2015 will be \$100/€80/£60 per member, per volume – a saving of over \$400/€300/£200 from the full-price personal subscription. The Journal 'Mental Health, Religion and Culture' has 10 issues per volume.

Herman Westerink

Discount rate for 'The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion' for members of IAPR and/or APA Division 36 for 2011

The discount rate for 'The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion' for members of IAPR and/or APA Division 36 for 2011 will be 37%. While the regular personal price is USD \$68 for 2011, the discount rate for IAPR and/or APA Division 36 members will be only USD \$43.

Raymond F. Paloutzian

Job Advertisements*

* Whoever wants to bring job advertisements under attention of the IAPR members, please email the text to the editor of the Newsletter.

Full professor or tenure-track position at the level of full professor in the Social Science of Contemporary Religion at the University of Lausanne/Switzerland

Ort: University of Lausanne (Dorigny)

Start: August 1st, 2011

Deadline: January 31st, 2011

Description:

- <https://applicationsw.unil.ch/adminpub/?Mlval=PoIntHome&TypeIC=810&Pold=1897> (English)
- <https://applicationsw.unil.ch/adminpub/?Mlval=PoIntHome&TypeIC=810&Pold=1872> (French)

Prerequisites:

- Doctorate in religious studies, social psychology, sociology, anthropology or a comparable qualification
- Profound knowledge of qualitative and quantitative approaches as well as of the theories of the social religious studies
- Experience in empirical research (observation, data collection, data analysis etc.)

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- Experience in comparative research on European and/or non-European research sites
- Profound knowledge of different religious traditions, new spiritualities, personal development, new religious movements
- Excellent research performance and scientific publications in the areas mentioned above
- Good integration into international scientific networks

Duties and responsibilities:

- Teach courses in religious studies at the BA and MA in different faculties
- Research in the areas mentioned
- Supervise PhD students; participation in PhD courses
- Capacity to direct an institute

The courses are normally taught in French (during the first year, English is possible).

Letter of application:

Send a letter of interest, a CV, a list of publications and a copy of certificates in ten copies as well as two copies of principal publications to Prof. Pierre Gisel, Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, Bâtiment Anthropole, Quartier Unil-Dorigny, CH-1015 Lausanne. A pdf version of the letter of interest, the CV and the list of publications should also be sent to Maritza.Erb@unil.ch.

In keeping with the commitment to gender equality in academia, the University particularly encourages women to apply.

Further information:

- Professor Pierre Gisel, Dean of the FTSR, Pierre.Gisel@unil.ch
- Professor Jörg Stolz, Director of the ISSRC/ORS, Joerg.Stolz@unil.ch
- Maritza Erb, Administrator of the FTSR, Maritza.Erb@unil.ch
- Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies (FTSR; www.unil.ch/FTSR/)
- Institute for the Social Science of Contemporary Religion (ISSRC; www.unil.ch/issrc)

Pierre-Yves Brandt

Three faculty positions at Georgia Southern University

Georgia Southern University seeks to fill three faculty positions. The ads do not specifically mention religion, but the faculty welcomes applicants whose area of study involves religion and spirituality. In addition to Michael Nielsen, four other faculty members have done or are doing research that addresses some aspect of religion/spirituality. Please notice these searches:

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- Assistant Professor (area open)
<http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/psychology/subpages/Search59252.pdf>
- Associate or Full Professor (clinical, counseling or community psychology)
<http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/psychology/subpages/Search59311.pdf>
- Chair
<http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/psychology/subpages/Search59243.pdf>

Georgia Southern is a growing, dynamic institution. The Psychology Department is a very supportive and collegial group of people. For more information, please visit the department's website (<http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/psychology>) or email to mnielsen@georgiasouthern.edu.

Michael Nielsen

Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion is seeking a new editor

This is an early notification that the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion is seeking a new editor and home for the Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion when Marie Cornwall's term comes to an end in 2012. SSSR is extremely fortunate and grateful to both Professor Cornwall and Brigham Young University for the numerous years which they have contributed to SSSR as home for the Journal and, previously, for the Executive Office.

The new editor will begin in January 2012 a term that is four years long. Full details of the editor's responsibilities, the arrangement between the SSSR and the home institution, and the application procedure will be announced in November. Meanwhile, Marie Cornwall, current editor, has kindly agreed to answer any questions about the editorship of all those who may be interested in eventually submitting a formal application.

Nicholas J. S. Gibson

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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.

2011 Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Pre-conference on Psychology of Religion and Spirituality – Call for Posters

Date: January 27th, 2011, 08:00 a.m. – 04:30 p.m.

Location: San Antonio Convention Center, Room 213, San Antonio/TX, USA

Abstract: This pre-conference will highlight classic, contemporary, and emerging empirical research at the interface of social-personality psychology and the psychology of religion. The program will consist of invited research presentations, a poster session, breakfast, lunch, and informal opportunities for networking.

We are now accepting submissions of original research that address topics in the psychology of religion, preferably from a social-personality perspective. Approximately 20-25 submissions will be accepted based on standard SPSP content guidelines considering soundness of theory, methodology, relevance to the psychology of religion, clarity of presentation, significance, and originality. Final selection among submissions deemed meritorious will be made with an eye toward achieving a balanced and broadly representative program.

Conference Website: www.spspmeeting.org/

Submission Requirements:

- *Membership:* Authors of a poster are not required to be SPSP members, however, the benefits are many and they certainly are encouraged to join online at www.spsp.org/membership.
- *One submission rule:* An individual may be first author on only one poster submission. Individuals may, however, be co-authors on more than one poster.
- *Submission content:*
 - Title clearly defining the work discussed.
 - Author name(s), affiliations, and email addresses
 - 250 word (or less) abstract containing specific goals, methods, results, and conclusion.
 - If the first or sole author is a student, please indicate whether or not you would like to be considered for the student poster award.
 - Poster format FAQs: www.spspmeeting.org/?Page=poster_guidelines

N.B.: Data must be collected before submission; we will not consider abstracts for incomplete studies. Use only standard abbreviations per APA manual. Submissions must be in final form. Please check your work carefully. No errors will be corrected.

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- *Submission Location:* Please email submissions (pdf files preferred) to: Kevin L. Ladd (kladd@iusb.edu).

Registration: Presenters must register and pay (\$80) for this pre-conference:

<http://www.baylor.edu/psychologyneuroscience/index.php?id=77398>

Kevin Ladd, Wade Rowatt and Adam Cohen

Conference 'Spirituality in the 21st Century: At the Interface of Theory, Praxis & Pedagogy' in Prague/CZ

Date: 20-22nd March, 2011

Location: The conference takes place in the Mamaison Riverside Hotel, Janáckovo nábřeží 15, 150 00 Prague 5, Czech Republic

www.inter-disciplinary.net/critical-issues/ethos/spirituality-in-the-21st-century/venue-and-accommodation/

Abstract: The contemporary study of spirituality encompasses a wide range of interests. These have come not only from the more traditional areas of religious scholarship – theology, philosophy of religion, history of religion, comparative religion, mysticism – but also more recently from management, medicine, and many other fields.

This inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary conference seeks to examine and explore issues surrounding spirituality in regard to theory, praxis and pedagogy. Perspectives are sought from those engaged in the fields of Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation, Business, Counseling, Ecology, Education, Healing, History, Management, Mass/Organizational/Speech Communication, Medicine, Nursing, Performance Studies, Philosophy, Psychiatry, Psychology, Reconciliation/Refugee/Resettlement Projects, Social Work, and Theatre. These disciplines are indicative only, as papers are welcomed from any area, profession and/or vocation in which Spirituality plays a part.

Papers, reports, works-in-progress and workshops are invited on issues related to any of the following themes:

- Conceptualizations of Spirituality
- History(ies) of Spirituality
- Interpreting elements and examples of Spirituality
- The Liminal elements and facets of Spirituality
- Research methods for Spiritual Work
- Social and cultural aspects of Spirituality
- Spirituality and Children
- Spirituality Compassion and Reconciliation
- Spirituality and Cultural Identity
- Spirituality and Healing
- Spirituality in Medicine and/or Nursing
- Spirituality as Therapy
- Spirituality in Literature
- Spirituality in Art, Dance and/or Music
- Spirituality in Television and Film

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- Spirituality in the Age of the Internet
- Spirituality and Communication
- Spirituality and the Environment
- Spirituality in Hospice Care
- Spirituality and Gaia
- Teaching Spirituality
- Theology and Spirituality – use and/or abuse
- Teleology and Spirituality
- Comparisons and/or Contrasts between Spiritual Theory, Praxis and Pedagogy

The Steering Group particularly welcomes the submission of pre-formed panel proposals. Papers will be considered on any related theme. The conference is part of the 'At the Interface' programme of research projects. It aims to bring together people from different areas and interests to share ideas and explore various discussions which are innovative and exciting. All papers accepted for and presented at this conference will be eligible for publication in an ISBN eBook. Selected papers maybe invited for development for publication in a themed hard copy volume(s).

Conference Website: www.inter-disciplinary.net/critical-issues/ethos/spirituality-in-the-21st-century/call-for-papers/

John L. Hochheimer and Rob Fisher

2nd Announcement: 'International Congress on Psychology, Religion and Culture' in Tehran/Iran

Date: 14-16th May, 2011

Location: The conference will be held in Iran Summit Hall that is situated at the beautiful foot-hills of Alborz mountain range.

Abstract: The purpose of the Congress is to contribute to the establishment of the field of Psychology, Religion and Culture, and to provide an opportunity for interreligious, intercultural and interdisciplinary conversation. This conference is an attempt to explore the progresses and challenges concerning the studies of relations between the domains of religion, culture and psychology. We expect creative and critical presentations and discussions and welcome scholars and students from all related scientific disciplines, religious and cultural backgrounds to participate at the congress and exchange their views.

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Congress Topics:

- Basic Issues
 - Origins: Interdisciplinary studies with the aim of describing and explaining the principles, domains and relations of the fields of psychology, culture and religion
 - Issues in methodology: Considerations about historical-scientific development of the cultural and religious studies and the methodological issues in interdisciplinary research
 - Main concepts: Studies related to description and explanation of important concepts in the fields of psychology, religion and culture
- Theories/empirical research/work in progress
 - Scientific approaches to religion, spirituality and culture: Interdisciplinary studies with the aim to gain information about the system of belief, behavior, individual, group and institution, in one or many cultures or religious tradition, or in a historical stage.
 - Religious, theistic and philosophical approaches to human mental processes and behavior (incl. religion and spirituality); description and explanation of psychological processes, religion and spirituality in the view of religions, comparative studies

Conference Websites: <http://psyedu.ut.ac.ir/psyrelcul2011-en.htm>

<http://www.pcoiran.org/congress.htm>

G. Ali Afrooz and Shiva Khalili

2nd Announcement: Conference 'Dreams and Cultural Diversity – 28th Annual Conference of the International Association for the Study of Dreams' in Kerkrade/NL

Date: 24-28th June, 2011

Location: Rolduc Conference Center, Heyendallaan 82, 6464 EP Kerkrade,
The Netherlands

www.asdreams.org/2011

http://www.rolduc.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7&Itemid=81

Announcement: We are pleased to announce that IASD's Board of Directors has approved a proposal from the Dutch Conference Committee to hold the 2011 IASD International Conference at the Abbey of Rolduc's meeting facility in Kerkrade, the Netherlands, during the summer of 2011. Rolduc is a beautiful 11th century Abbey located in the southern part of the Netherlands which offers a spectacular setting for a dream conference and wonderful opportunities for international tourism. We anticipate an exciting conference and thank the Dutch dreamers and VSD ("Association for the

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Study of Dreams" in the Netherlands) for welcoming IASD as it revisits their beautiful country.

Call for Papers: High quality proposals are invited, particularly those that explore the conference theme, Dreams and Cultural Diversity. We request that submissions fall into one of the following tracks: Research & Theory; Arts & Humanities; Culture, Anthropology & History; Education; Religion, Spirituality & Philosophy; Clinical Approaches; Dreamwork Practices; Extraordinary, PSI and Lucid Dreams; and Conference Theme. While the conference is in the Netherlands there are two special themes within the conference theme track: one of them specifically Dutch and the other specifically European. A special session is dedicated to the famous Dutch psychiatrist, poet, lucid dreamer, and author on dreams Frederik van Eeden. A second theme emphasizes the visions on dreams in the philosophical tradition of Europe.

Conference Website: <http://asdreams.org/2011/index.htm>

Registration: <http://asdreams.org/2011/registration.htm>

E-Mail for Submissions Questions: submissions2011@asdreams.org

*Suzanne Wiltink, Barbara Roukema-Koning,
Marja Moors, Bart Koet, Yamuna Hollink and Willem Fermont*

IAPR 2011 Congress in Bari/Italy

Date: 21st–25th August, 2011

Location: Bari/Italy

Abstract: The next IAPR congress will be held in Bari, Italy, from Sunday, August 21st, until Thursday, August 25th, 2011. It is organized by the SIPR – the Italian Society of Psychology of Religion – (<http://www.psicologiadellareligione.it/sipr/>) in cooperation with the Department of Psychology, University of Bari (<http://www.uniba.it/>). The Congress will be arranged in plenary sessions (hold by the invited speakers), parallel sessions and poster sessions. Contributions can take the form of a paper, a panel or a poster. The call for papers will soon be available on the IAPR 2011 Congress homepage (<http://www.iapr2011.org>). On this homepage you will find ongoing additional information about program, accommodation, contacts and so on. Also, the online submission form could soon be filled in at the website.

International scientific committee: Mario Aletti, Hans A. Alma, Rosalinda Cassibba, Jozef Corveleyn, James W. Jones, Vassilis Saroglou, Marinus H.F. van Uden, Herman Westerink

Local scientific committee: Mario Aletti, Rosalinda Cassibba, Fabio De Nardi, Germano Rossi, Giuseppe Mininni

Local organizing committee: Caterina Balenzano, Germana Castoro, Lucia Elia, Daniela Fagnani, Alessandro Costantini, Carlo Lavermicocca, Amelia Manuti, Rosa Scardigno, Giovanna Sette

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Dates to remember:

- 1st November 2010: Start of Call for Papers.
- 1st February 2011: Deadline for Abstract Submission.
- 1st May 2011: Deadline for Communicating Acceptance of Papers, Panels and Posters
- 1st July 2011: Deadline for Registration.
- 21st August 2011 (*in the afternoon*): Opening of the Congress and Welcome Ceremony
- 25th August 2011: Departure of Participants

Further information:

- As for the submission and the scientific program, please contact Prof. Germano Rossi (germano.rossi@unimib.it).
- If you need for practical information about Bari, you can write to Rosa Scardigno (r.scardigno@psico.uniba.it).

Mario Aletti and Germano Rossi

Calls for Papers*

* Whoever wants to bring calls for papers under attention of the IAPR members, please email the data to the editor of the Newsletter.

Call for papers: Book on 'Constructs of Meaning and Religious Transformation'

Context: The book project is embedded in the research platform „Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society“. The platform is an interdisciplinary cooperation of the faculties of social sciences and theology at Vienna University, Austria. The book will be published at Vienna University Press (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht) in the series „Religion and Transformation“.

Content: In the psychology of religion the individual's capacity to construct meaning, or give meaning, and to be influenced by religious meaning systems and social constructs of meaning is generally regarded a key issue. This book aims bringing together various perspectives and approaches present in current discussions on the issue of the individual's capacity to construct meaning, its underlying affective and/or cognitive mechanisms, its well-being or coping advancing or inhibiting purposes or effects, as related to mental condition (mental health) and/or social environment (for example religious minority groups). The book thus aims at contributing to a key topic in the psychology of religion, by collecting papers from the variety of approaches in our field.

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The editors call for both theoretical and empirical papers reflecting individual constructs of meaning in relation to transformations in individual religiosity or spirituality. We welcome papers including clinical material and qualified data, as well as contributions that present historical, philosophical, sociological or theological perspectives and analyses.

Editors: Susanne Heine and Herman Westerink

Expected Publication: Spring 2012

Key Dates:

- December 1st 2010: Deadline for abstract submissions. Please submit your 300-500 word abstract to: herman.westerink@univie.ac.at.
- December 15th 2010: Notification of acceptance
- May 1st 2011: Deadline of submission of papers (5000-8000 words)
- May-June 2011: Review of the papers
- October 1st 2011 Deadline of submission of revised papers

Further Information: herman.westerink@univie.ac.at

Susanne Heine and Herman Westerink

Call for papers for the new journal 'Religion, Brain & Behavior'

The aim of the new journal 'Religion, Brain & Behavior' (RBB) is to provide a vehicle for the advancement of current biological approaches to understanding religion at every level from brain to behavior. RBB unites multiple disciplinary perspectives that share these interests. The journal seeks empirical and theoretical studies that reflect rigorous scientific standards and a sophisticated appreciation of the academic study of religion. RBB welcomes contributions from a wide array of biological and related disciplines, including:

- cognitive science
- cognitive neuroscience
- evolutionary psychology
- social psychology
- evolutionary anthropology
- genetics
- social neuroscience
- neurology
- demography
- bioeconomics
- neuroeconomics
- physiology
- developmental psychology
- psychology of religion
- moral psychology
- archaeology
- mimetics
- behavioral ecology
- epidemiology
- public health
- cultural evolution
- religious studies

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In summary, RBB considers high quality papers in any aspect of the brain-behavior nexus related to religion.

RBB will be edited by Patrick McNamara (Boston University), Richard Sosis (University of Connecticut), and Wesley J. Wildman (Boston University) and will be published by Routledge in association with the Institute for the Bio-Cultural Study of Religion (www.ibcsr.org). The first issue will be published in February 2011.

Instructions for authors: Papers for consideration should be sent to the Editors at: rbbsubmit@ibcsr.org. Authors should format articles using APA Style, being sure to submit a version suitable for blind refereeing. Target articles and review articles will be maximum 10,000 words in length, including notes and references. Invited commentaries on target articles will be at most 1,000 words in length, and author responses will be 2,500 words. Research articles and case studies should be no longer than 6,000 words in length, including notes and references. Papers should not have more than two layers of headings. Endnotes should be used rather than footnotes. Papers should include an abstract of no more than 200 words, furnishing a summary of background, methods, results, and conclusions, in that order, where applicable. Further, 4-8 key words or phrases should be included to help would-be readers find the article using web searches. Authors are responsible for obtaining permission to reproduce copyright material from other sources.

Please visit the journal's website for more information: www.tandf.co.uk/journals/rrbb.

Richard Sosis

Key Publications*

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

- **Beit-Hallahmi, B. (Ed.): *Psychoanalysis and Theism: Critical Reflections on the Grünbaum Thesis*. Lanham/MD: Jason Aronson.**

⇒ published in August 2010.

⇒ From the back cover: "How should we approach the psychological study of religion, and how relevant is classical psychoanalysis, identified with the writings of Sigmund Freud, to the understanding of religion? Freud's writings on religion have been discussed often and continue to attract attention and debate. Psychoanalysis and Theism starts with an essay by Adolf Grünbaum, one of the world's leading philosophers of science and an incisive critic of Freud's work. Grünbaum looks at Freud's general claims about the psychological mechanisms involved in religion and finds them lacking. Then, in a surprising turn, Grünbaum judges some of Freud's interpretations of concrete religious ideas and practices to be not only cogent, but indispensable. When it comes to the case of the belief in Virgin Birth, Grünbaum

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finds an Oedipal interpretation to be our only choice. This remarkable essay is the stimulus for a symposium with nine senior scholars, coming from the fields of philosophy, psychology, sociology, and psychoanalysis, who present their critical reflections on how we should study religion, how we should treat Freud's ideas, and what the future directions in psychological research on concrete religious behavior should be. The contributors bring to this effort their varied fields of expertise, from analytical philosophy to experimental psychology. Of special interest are essays which deal with the Virgin Birth doctrine and its possible psychological sources and with the potential for future psychoanalytic studies of faith and ritual. Other essays focus on Freud's conscious and unconscious motivations for studying religion as well as the hidden biases and lacunae found in the social science literature on religious practices. This volume adds a unique combination of critical and knowledgeable voices to the debate on Sigmund Freud's legacy."

- **Belzen, J. A. van: *Towards Cultural Psychology of Religion: Principles, Approaches, Applications*. Dordrecht: Springer.**

⇒ published in August 2010.

⇒ From the back cover: "This book takes a bold stand: All psychology should be culturally sensitive psychology, especially when studying religious phenomena. It explains that culture is not simply to be conceived of as a variable that possibly influences behavior. Rather, it stresses that cultural patterns of acting, thinking and experiencing are created, adopted and promulgated by a number of individuals jointly. As human subjectivity is different in different cultures, cultural psychology is not interested in comparatively investigating how experiences and behavior, attitudes and social relationships present themselves within different cultural conditions. By consequence, cultural psychology does not start from Western psychological constructs, testing for their presence in other cultures, but from human acts and activities in specific cultures, analyzing them in a hermeneutical way.

Like cultural psychology, psychology of religion currently enjoys more and more interest and rapid growth. But the two fields have remained rather unconnected in the recent past. Psychological research on religion has been pursued from a number of perspectives, among which a cultural psychological one has not yet become prominent. As religions, however conceptualized, are cultural entities of major importance, cultural psychology seems a natural ally to research on religion. Containing a number of studies, both theoretical and empirical, this volume takes a step towards a rapprochement of cultural psychology and psychology of religion."

⇒ cf. also James M. Day's comprehensive review of Jacob van Belzen's cultural-psychological approach to the psychology of religion and of his book: Day, J. M. (2010). Culture, Psychology, and Religion: Critically Appraising Jacob Belzen's Contributions. *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, 13, 359-363.

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Contact

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

Constantin Klein (Dipl.-Psych. Dipl.-Theol.)

Center for the interdisciplinary Research on Religion and Society (CIRRuS)/

Center for Biographical Research in Contemporary Religion

Theological Department

University Bielefeld

Universitätsstraße 25

D-33615 Bielefeld

GERMANY

Phone: 00 49 52 1/ 106 33 87

e-mail: constantin.klein@uni-bielefeld.de

[http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/\(en\)/theologie/forschung/religionsforschung/
personen/klein.html](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/(en)/theologie/forschung/religionsforschung/personen/klein.html)