

# International Association for the Psychology of Religion

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*The International Association for the Psychology of Religion (IAPR) is an international organization promoting the scientific research and exchange within the field of the psychology of religion. The Association is not partial to any particular trend but aspires to provide a platform for the entire spectrum of the scientific-psychological study of religion for psychologists of religion from all over the world.*

Website: [www.iaprweb.org](http://www.iaprweb.org)

**Become a member or renew your membership :**

<http://www.iaprweb.org/membership.html>

Benefits of membership:

1. Regular membership with the IAPR includes the subscription to the *Archive for the Psychology of Religion*. For regular members, print and online version are free.
2. Members of the IAPR pay reduced conference fees for the organization's conferences.
3. IAPR members receive special discounts for their subscriptions to:
  - a) The *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*: \$43/£26/€34 instead of \$62/£37/€49.
  - b) *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*: \$100/£60/€80 instead of \$386/£231/€441.
4. IAPR members receive the Association's e-mail newsletters which keep you in touch with the scientific community and inform you about conferences, job advertisements, funding opportunities, key publications, and the Association's latest developments and activities.

## Announcements



Dear IAPR members,

If you would like to add information in future newsletters please e-mail me the text. This may concern general announcements, conferences (future and report from past ones), job opportunities, key publications, or any other information you think IAPR members might be interested in.

If you are an early career researcher (PhD student or postdoc) and would like to see your work featured in the newsletter, contact me also.

Thank you,

Valerie van Mulukom  
*Editor of the IAPR newsletter*

Contact information:

Dr Valerie van Mulukom  
Coventry University  
Centre for Advances in Behavioural Science  
Brain, Belief and Behaviour Lab  
E-mail address: [valerie.vanmulukom@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:valerie.vanmulukom@coventry.ac.uk)



*Newly updated & revised book*

## **The Buddha Pill: Can Meditation Change You?**

*Dr Miguel Farias & Dr Catherine Wikholm*

Fully updated and revised, this new edition of The Buddha Pill includes new research and an entirely new section on meditation and children.

Millions of people meditate daily but can these practices really make us 'better' people? In The Buddha Pill, Farias and Wikholm put meditation and mindfulness under the microscope. Separating fact from fiction, they reveal what scientific research - including their own groundbreaking study on yoga and meditation in prisoners - tells us about the benefits and limitations of these techniques for improving lives. As well as illuminating the potential, the authors argue that these practices may have unexpected consequences and that peace and happiness may not always be the end result.

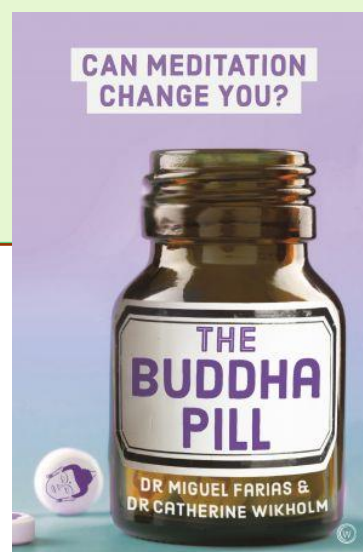
Offering a compelling examination of research on Transcendental Meditation to recent studies on the effects of mindfulness and yoga, with fascinating contributions from spiritual teachers and therapists, Farias and Wikholm weave together a unique story about the science and the delusions of personal change. This isn't simply another book about the route to enlightenment and happiness, nor is it a 'how to'. Farias and Wikholm challenge assumptions about the uses and effects of meditation and yoga. Controversially, The Buddha Pill argues that personal change effected by these spiritual practices can vary widely from one individual to another, and that peace and compassion may not always be the end result.

Combining insights from decades of scientific research with fascinating accounts from gurus and prisoners, The Buddha Pill weaves together a unique story about the science and delusions of personal change.

Publication date: 19 February 2019

Publisher's website:

<https://www.watkinspublishing.com/shop/the-buddha-pill/>





*Call for papers*  
**Spiritual Care for People with Cancer**

Dear colleagues,

I would like to invite you to contribute to a special issue of *Religions*: “Spiritual Care for People with Cancer”.

The diagnosis and treatment of cancer raise spiritual needs, that much is clear from decades of research on the relationship between religion/spirituality and mental health among cancer patients. However, by what means do we care for these needs? Who should address them (psychologists, nurses, social workers, chaplains, physicians, ...)?

In this Special Issue, I aim to bring together research on various effective approaches to spiritual care in the oncology setting. Most existing research involves mono-disciplinary types of spiritual care in patients with advanced cancer. Therefore, special consideration will be given to studies on spiritual care among people with early-stage or chronic/returning types of cancer and to studies on multi- or interdisciplinary forms of spiritual care.

Please find information on deadlines and author guidelines on the special issue website:  
[https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special\\_issues/SpiritualCare](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/SpiritualCare)

Looking forward to your contribution,  
With kind regards

,  
Dr. A. (Anja) Visser  
*Guest Editor*

[a.visser-nieraeth@rug.nl](mailto:a.visser-nieraeth@rug.nl)





*Call for papers*

**Existential social psychology and mental health: Theory and research.**

Dear colleagues,

The *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology* (JSCP) is seeking submissions for a forthcoming special issue titled, “Existential social psychology and mental health: Theory and research.”

The past several decades have seen a growing interest in the connection between mental health and the motivational and cognitive processes involved in navigating basic existential concerns, with major topical themes surrounding: (1) freedom, control, and authenticity; (2) death awareness; and (3) the presence or lack of meaning and purpose in life. This special issue of JSCP will provide a forum to highlight the implications of existential social psychology for mental health, featuring leading theory and empirical research with broad appeal across clinical and social disciplines and their respective applications.

Submissions must address at least one of the abovementioned existential psychology domains, and must intersect with either traditionally defined psychopathology (e.g., depression, OCD, PTSD), common emotional problems (e.g., anxiety), or the enhancement of subjective well-being (e.g., satisfaction with life). We anticipate the vast majority (if not all) of this special issue’s articles will report original empirical quantitative research, but we will also entertain secondary data (meta-analyses), systematic reviews, and theoretical or integrative pieces. Authors are welcome to inquire whether a paper would qualify for the special issue. Articles must conform to the [JSCP author guidelines](#), with the one exception that they should not exceed 25 pages (not including title page, abstract, references, tables, figures).

**Submissions and inquiries** can be made electronically (MS Word format) to Kenneth E. Vail III at [k.e.vail@csuohio.edu](mailto:k.e.vail@csuohio.edu).

**Submissions deadline:** June 1, 2019.

**Guest editors**

1. Kenneth E. Vail III, Cleveland State University, [k.e.vail@csuohio.edu](mailto:k.e.vail@csuohio.edu)
2. Daniel Sullivan, University of Arizona, [swolf22@email.arizona.edu](mailto:swolf22@email.arizona.edu)
3. Mark J. Landau, University of Kansas, [mjlandau@ku.edu](mailto:mjlandau@ku.edu)
4. Jeff Greenberg, University of Arizona, [jeff@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jeff@email.arizona.edu)

**Journal website:** [Click here for JSCP website](#)

**Call for submissions:** [https://www.guilford.com/periodicals/jscp\\_call.pdf](https://www.guilford.com/periodicals/jscp_call.pdf)

Thank you,

Kenneth E. Vail III (Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Cleveland State University)  
Email: [vail.kenneth@gmail.com](mailto:vail.kenneth@gmail.com) & [k.e.vail@csuohio.edu](mailto:k.e.vail@csuohio.edu)

## Conferences



### Cultures of Unbelief

*Understanding Unbelief conference 2019*

**Location:** Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome

**Date:** 28-30 May, 2019

The capstone conference of the *Understanding Unbelief* programme:  
<https://research.kent.ac.uk/understandingunbelief/>



As the global population of religious ‘unbelievers’ continues to grow, the Cultures of Unbelief conference brings together leading academics, leaders of religious and nonreligious groups, journalists, educators and many others to understand what it really means to be a religious ‘unbeliever’. Cultures of Unbelief will explore how ‘unbelievers’ engage with religion, their diverse existential, metaphysical and moral beliefs, and prospects for dialogue and collaboration between believers and unbelievers.

Cultures of Unbelief also marks three significant anniversaries in the academic study of ‘unbelief’: the 50th anniversary of the Vatican’s pioneering ‘Culture of Unbelief’ conference in 1969; the 10th anniversary of the Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network’s (NSRN) 1st conference (Oxford University, 2009); and, the work of the landmark \$3m research programme, Understanding Unbelief, funded by the John Templeton Foundation (University of Kent, 2017-20).

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Vatican’s first symposium on the study of atheism, the conclusion of the landmark Understanding Unbelief programme, and 10 years of the Nonreligion & Secularity Research Network, there will also be a public lecture on Tuesday 28 May 2019, 3pm-8pm, at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.

**To register visit:**

<https://kenthospitality.kent.ac.uk/Register/Registration/Welcome.aspx?e=54AB6564250778CC1E3DC371DCE2F77F>

Lois Lee, Miguel Farias, Stephen Bullivant, & Jon Lanman



## Call for data

### *Measures of religiosity*

Dear colleagues,

The Association of Religion Data Archive (<http://www.thearda.com/>) is building a database of measures of religiosity, building on the work that Peter Hill and Ralph Hood undertook in their book *Measures of Religiosity* (Religious Education Press 1999). When completed, the resource will make available the scales themselves, and also information about the construction, validation, and use of the scales. More ambitiously, in the spirit of open data, we also want the ARDA to host or link to data that researchers can re-analyse, whether to replicate findings or to test novel hypotheses.

Therefore, we would like to invite you to submit relevant data files or links to data files in repositories (e.g., OSF.io). We are most interested in files that include the scores for each scale item, as well as demographic information such as sex, age, and religious affiliation. If you would prefer to submit minimal data files, you may choose only to include these variables: scale items, age, sex, and religious affiliation. Please also indicate if this dataset has been used in any publications. In this initial phase of this ambitious effort, we are looking for data sets containing one or more of the following scales:

- The Spiritual Well-Being Scale (Paloutzian & Ellison 1982)
- The Intrinsic\Extrinsic-Revised Scale (Gorsuch & McPherson, 1989)
- The Duke University Religion Index (DUREL; Koenig & Büssing 2010)
- The Brief Religious Coping Scale (RCOPE; Pargament et al 1998, 2011)
- Religious and Spiritual Struggles Scale (Exline et al 2014)

For more information, or to submit links or data sets in .xlsx format, please contact Dr Jonathan Jong ([jonathan.jong@anthro.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.jong@anthro.ox.ac.uk))

Thank you,

Jonathan Jong, PhD.  
Peter C. Hill, PhD.  
Ralph W. Hood, PhD.  
Kevin A. Harris, PhD.