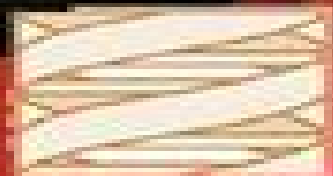


The Mystical Mind

*Probing the Biology
of Religious Experience*



**THEOLOGY
AND THE
SCIENCES**

*Eugene d'Aquili and
Andrew B. Newberg*

Mystical Mind Probing The Biology Of Religious Experience

Arri Eisen, Gary Laderman



Mystical Mind Probing The Biology Of Religious Experience:

The Mystical Mind Andrew B. Newberg, Eugene G. D'Aquili, 1999 How does the mind experience the sacred What biological mechanisms are involved in mystical states and trances Is there a neurological basis for patterns in comparative religions Does religion have an evolutionary function This pathbreaking work by two leading medical researchers explores the neurophysiology of religious experience Building on an explanation of the basic structure of the brain the authors focus on parts most relevant to human experience emotion and cognition On this basis they plot how the brain is involved in mystical experiences Successive chapters apply this scheme to mythmaking ritual and liturgy meditation near death experiences and theology itself Anchored in such research the authors also sketch the implications of their work for philosophy science theology and the future of religion

The Rabbi's Brain Andrew Newberg, David Halpern, 2018-10-23 The topic of Neurotheology has garnered increasing attention in the academic religious scientific and popular worlds However there have been no attempts at exploring more specifically how Jewish religious thought and experience may intersect with neurotheology The Rabbi's Brain engages this groundbreaking area Topics included relate to a neurotheological approach to the foundational beliefs that arise from the Torah and associated scriptures Jewish learning an exploration of the different elements of Judaism i.e. reform conservative and orthodox an exploration of specifically Jewish practices i.e. Davening Sabbath Kasher and a review of Jewish mysticism The Rabbi's Brain engages these topics in an easy to read style and integrates the scientific religious philosophical and theological aspects of the emerging field of neurotheology By reviewing the concepts in a stepwise simple yet thorough discussion readers regardless of their background will be able to understand the complexities and breadth of neurotheology from the Jewish perspective More broadly issues will include a review of the neurosciences and neuroscientific techniques religious and spiritual experiences theological development and analysis liturgy and ritual epistemology philosophy and ethics and social implications all from the Jewish perspective

Cave Paintings and the Human Spirit David S. Whitley, 2009-09-25 Whitley one of the world's leading experts on cave paintings rewrites the understanding of shamanism and its connection with artistic creativity myth and religion by interweaving archaeological evidence with the latest findings of cutting edge neuroscience

An Introduction to Religious and Spiritual Experience Marianne Rankin, 2008-12-10 This comprehensive new introduction looks at spiritual experiences from past to present from the experiences of the founders of the major world religious traditions to events in the lives of ordinary people today Mystical and Near Death Experiences are included Examples are drawn from a variety of sources including original accounts from the Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre Archive at the University of Wales Lampeter as well as many given to the author in person Interpretations of these experiences follow from religious philosophical and scientific viewpoints Various questions are considered Is there a common core to spiritual experience Do these experiences offer proof of the existence of God or of the possibility of survival of death This fascinating work concludes with an evaluation of what can be learned about

consciousness religion and what it is to be human

Religion and Psychology Diane Jonte-Pace, William B.

Parsons, 2002-09-26 Religion and Psychology is a thorough and incisive survey of the current relationship between religion and psychology from the leading scholars in the field This is an essential resource for students and researchers in the area of psychology of religion Issues addressed are The Psychology Theology Dialogue The Psychology Comparativist Dialogue Psychology Religion and Gender Studies Psychology as Religion Social Scientific Approaches to the Psychology of Religion The Empirical Approach International Perspectives

Evolving Brains, Emerging Gods E. Fuller Torrey, 2017-09-05

Religions and mythologies from around the world teach that God or gods created humans Atheist humanist and materialist critics meanwhile have attempted to turn theology on its head claiming that religion is a human invention In this book E Fuller Torrey draws on cutting edge neuroscience research to propose a startling answer to the ultimate question Evolving Brains Emerging Gods locates the origin of gods within the human brain arguing that religious belief is a by product of evolution Based on an idea originally proposed by Charles Darwin Torrey marshals evidence that the emergence of gods was an incidental consequence of several evolutionary factors Using data ranging from ancient skulls and artifacts to brain imaging primatology and child development studies this book traces how new cognitive abilities gave rise to new behaviors For instance autobiographical memory the ability to project ourselves backward and forward in time gave Homo sapiens a competitive advantage However it also led to comprehension of mortality spurring belief in an alternative to death Torrey details the neurobiological sequence that explains why the gods appeared when they did connecting archaeological findings including clothing art farming and urbanization to cognitive developments This book does not dismiss belief but rather presents religious belief as an inevitable outcome of brain evolution Providing clear and accessible explanations of evolutionary neuroscience Evolving Brains Emerging Gods will shed new light on the mechanics of our deepest mysteries

Science, Religion and Society Arri Eisen, Gary Laderman, 2015-03-04 This unique encyclopedia explores the historical and contemporary controversies between science and religion It is designed to offer multicultural and multi religious views and provide wide ranging perspectives Science Religion and Society covers all aspects of the religion and science dichotomy from humanities to social sciences to natural sciences and includes articles by theologians religion scholars physicians scientists historians and psychologists among others The first section General Overviews contains essays that provide a road map for exploring the major challenges and questions in science and religion Following this the Historical Perspectives section grounds these major questions in the past and demonstrates how they have developed into the six broad areas of contemporary research and discussion that follow These sections Creation the Cosmos and Origins of the Universe Ecology Evolution and the Natural World Consciousness Mind and the Brain Healers and Healing Dying and Death and Genetics and Religion organize the questions and research that are the foundation of the enormous interest and controversy in science and religion today

Contemporary Varieties of Religious Experience Lynn Bridgers, 2005 First published in 1902 William

James's *Varieties of Religious Experience* is considered a classic in religious studies and the psychology of religion. But how has James's classic study weathered decades of development in psychology and behavioral sciences? Do the assertions about religious experience in the *Varieties* still ring true in light of neurocognitive and neurohormonal research, resiliency studies, studies of temperament and traumatic studies? By extending William James's own research throughout the century since its publication, this volume seeks to answer those questions. In doing so, it revolutionizes our understanding of James's own view of psychology and reveals the extraordinary value of James's perspective for religion, psychology, and spirituality today. In doing so, it offers vital insights for pastoral care and faith development at both the individual and congregational level. From the Introduction by James Fowler, drawing on the authenticity of her own experience, Bridgers carries us into a remarkably clear and well-documented account that traces William James's evolution as a psychologist, philosopher, and a deeply engaged inquirer into the dynamics of spiritual development and transformation. This book has a major contribution to make. Bridgers's study illuminates the horizons of contemporary research in the study of religious experience in all its varieties and in the context of globalization.

Religious Experience Reconsidered Ann Taves, 2011-10-23 Annotation: Ann Taves addresses the subject of religious experience directly and the problems of reductionism and humanistic fears of the sciences indirectly and by example. The orientation of this book is practical more than philosophical.

Theological Neuroethics Neil Messer, 2017-10-19 Neil Messer brings together a range of theoretical and practical questions raised by current research on the human brain, questions about both the ethics of neuroscience and the neuroscience of ethics. While some of these are familiar to theologians, others have been more or less ignored hitherto, and the field of neuroethics as a whole has received little theological attention. Drawing on both theological ethics and the science and theology field, Messer discusses cognitive, scientific, and neuroscientific studies of religion, arguing that they do not give grounds to dismiss theological perspectives on the human self. He examines a representative range of topics across the whole field of neuroethics, including consciousness, the self, and the value of human life, the neuroscience of morality, determinism, free will, and moral responsibility, and the ethics of cognitive enhancement.

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