

Links To Readings: Reli 106 2013, Trimester 2

Joseph Bulbulia

Abstract

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PART I. Religious Belief

July 18 What can we learn from the psychology of religion?

Theory

W. James. The varieties of religious experience: a study in human nature, Lecture 1. Religion and Neurology. Amazon Digital Services Inc., Seattle, WA, 1902. Website: <http://www.psywww.com/psyrelig/james/toc.htm>

Evidence

A. Norenzayan, J. Henrich, and E. Slingerland. Religious prosociality: A synthesis. In P. Richerson and M. Christiansen, editors, Cultural Evolution. The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, In press. [PDF](#)

July 25 How are religions transmitted?

Theory

P. Boyer. Religious thought and behaviour as by-products of brain function. Trends in Cognitive Sciences, 7(3):119-124, 2003. [PDF](#)

Evidence

J. Barrett and F. Keil. Conceptualizing a nonnatural entity. Cognitive Psychology, 31:219-247, 1996. [PDF](#)

August 1 How does 'spirituality differ from 'religion' (and where does atheism fit in)?

Theory

J. Bulbulia. Are there any religions? Method and Theory in the Study of Religion, 17(2):71-100, 2005. [PDF](#)

Evidence

M. Wilson, J. Bulbulia, and C. G. Sibley. Differences and similarities in religious and paranormal beliefs: a typology of distinct faith signatures. Religion, Brain and Behavior, (ahead-of-print):1-23, 2013 [PDF](#)

August 8 Why do people believe in the unseen?

Theory

R. McKay and D. Dennett. The evolution of misbelief. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 32(06):493-510, 2010. [PDF](#)

Evidence

M. Bateson, D. Nettle, and G. Roberts. Cues of being watched enhance cooperation in a real-world setting. *Biology Letters*, 2(3):412-414, 2006. [PDF](#)

August 15 How do children learn about religion?

Theory + Evidence

D. Kelemen. Are children intuitive theists? Reasoning about purpose and design in nature. *Psychological Science*, 15:295-230, 2004. [PDF](#)

Evidence + Theory

P. Harris and M. A. Koenig. Trust in testimony: How children learn about science and religion. *Child Development*, 77(3):505-524, 2006. [PDF](#)

August 22 In class test worth 25%

Mid-trimester break August 26– September 8

PART II. Religious Action/Feeling

September 12 How do high and low arousal rituals affect memory?

Theory + Evidence

Q. D. Atkinson and H. Whitehouse. The cultural morphospace of ritual form examining modes of religiosity cross-culturally. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 32(1):50-62, 2011. [PDF](#)

Evidence + Theory

D. Xygalatas, U. Schjoedt, J. Bulbulia, I. Konvalinka, P. Reddish, E. Jegindoe, A. Geertz, and A. Roepstorff. Autobiographical memory in a firewalking ritual. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, 2013 (ahead-of-press). [PDF](#)

September 19 How does religious action affect the brain?

Theory + Evidence

J. Bulbulia and U. Schjoedt. The neural basis of religious belief. In F. Krueger and J. Grafman, editors, *The Neural Basis of Human Belief Systems*. Psychology Press, 2012. [PDF](#)

Evidence + Theory

U. Schjoedt, H. Stodkilde-Jorgensen, A. W. Geertz, and A. Roepstorff. Highly religious participants recruit areas of social cognition in personal prayer. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, 4(2):199-207, 2009. [PDF](#)

September 26 What are the social effects rituals?

Theory + Evidence

R. Sosis. Why aren't we all Hutterities? Costly signaling theory and religious behavior. *Human Nature-an Interdisciplinary Biosocial Perspective*, 14(2):91-127, 2003. [PDF](#)

Evidence + Theory

D. Xygalatas, P. Mitkidis, R. Fischer, P. Reddish, J. Skewes, A. W. Geertz, A. Roepstorff, and J. Bulbulia. Extreme rituals promote prosociality. *Psychological Science*, 2013 (ahead-of-print). [PDF](#)

October 3 How is religion affecting our neighborhoods?

Theory + Evidence

C. G. Sibley and J. Bulbulia. The proportion of religious residents predicts the values of nonreligious neighbours: Evidence from a national sample. *Religion, Brain and Behavior*, 2012 (ahead-of-print). [PDF](#)

Evidence + Theory

D. Wilson, D. O'Brien, and A. Sesma. Human prosociality from an evolutionary perspective: variation and correlations at a city-wide scale. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 30(3):190-200, 2009. [PDF](#)

October 10 Does religion matter to disaster recovery?

Theory

S. Freud. *The Future of an Illusion*. Norton, New York, 1927. Sections 1- 3 pp 5-20 [PDF](#)

Evidence

C. G. Sibley and J. A. Bulbulia. Faith after an earthquake: A longitudinal study of religion and perceived health before and after the 2011 Christchurch New Zealand Earthquake. *PLoS ONE*, 7(12):e49648 10.1371/journal.pone.0049648, 12 2012. Here: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0049648>

October 17 In class test worth 25%.