

Reading List 3:

Ahern, G. (1990) *Spiritual/Religious Experience in Modern Society*. Oxford, RERC.

Beardsworth, T. (1977) *A Sense of Presence*. Oxford, RERU.

Using the RERC archive, categorises religious experiences into types linked with 'senses' (visual, auditory, tactile, and inwards sensations), as well as the sense or feeling of presence which is based on no sensory evidence at all. Unfortunately, Beardsworth did not provide archival reference numbers, and thus it is difficult to go back to his primary sources for further research.

Franklin, J. (2006) *Exploration Into the Spirit: A History of the Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre and Society*. Lampeter, RERC.

Grosso, M. (1992) *Frontiers of the Soul: Exploring Psychic Evolution*. Wheaton IL, Quest.

Hardy, A. (1975) *The Biology of God*. London, Collins.

----- (1984) *Darwin and the Spirit of Man*. London, Collins.

----- (1966) *The Divine Flame*. Oxford, RERC.

His first series of Gifford lectures, developing his method and 'natural theology'.

----- (1965) *The Living Stream*. London, Collins.

His first series of Gifford lectures, focusing on the biological and evolutionary relevance of religious experience.

----- (1979) *The Spiritual Nature of Man*. Oxford, RERC.

A useful survey of his first eight years of research at the Centre.

Fox, M. (forthcoming, 2008) *Lightforms*. Cardiff, University of Wales Press.

----- (2003) *Religion, Spirituality, and Near-Death Experience*. London, Routledge.

Knight, H. (2003) *The Apophatic Experience with Special Reference to The Cloud of Unknowing, and an Analysis of the Evidence in the Alister Hardy Archives that this Experience is Available to Ordinary People*. Unpublished Thesis. University of Wales, Lampeter.

A recent Lampeter theses which you may wish to see (perhaps before embarking upon your dissertation).

Marshall, P. (2005) *Mystical Encounters With the Natural World: Experiences and Explanations*. Oxford University Press.

Maxwell, M. & Tschudin, V. (1990; rpt. 1996) *Seeing the Invisible*. Oxford, RERC.

A compilation of selected accounts from the archive. Contains a useful introduction with a summary of the field, and considerations of methodology. Their discussion of common features to such experiences is relevant to the next Section, though should be read critically.

Robinson, E. (1978) *Living the Questions*. Oxford, RERU.
Focuses on archive accounts indicating a theme of 'growth'.

----- (1977) *This Time-Bound Ladder: Ten Dialogues on Religious Experience*.
Oxford, RERU.

Starbuck, E. (1899) *Psychology of Religion: An Empirical Study Of The Growth Of Religious Consciousness*. London, Scott.
With a forward by William James (who was initially doubtful about the value of such a project, but ended up drawing upon Starbuck's work for his own).

Weibe, P. H. (2004) *Intimations of Transcendence in Christian Experience*.
Oxford University Press.