

Reading List 5:

NB: Many general books on religion or religious studies in general will contain chapters or articles on how these different perspectives relate to religious/spiritual/mystical experience.

GENERAL

Peter Donovan (1979; 2nd ed. 1998) *Interpreting Religious Experience*. Oxford, RERC.
A good overall introduction.

Gort, J., H. Vroom, R. Fernhout, & A. Wessels (eds.) (1992) *On Sharing Religious Experience: Possibilities of Interfaith Mutuality*. Grand Rapids MD, Eerdmans.

Hay, D. (1982; rev. ed. 1987) *Exploring Inner Space: Is God Still Possible in the Twentieth Century?* London, Mowbray.

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

Wach, J. (1958) *The Comparative Study of Religions*. New York, Columbia University Press.
See especially chapters II-V on religious experience.

----- (1951) *Types of Religious Experience*. Chicago University Press.

PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACHES

Argyle, M. (1999) *Psychology and Religion: An Introduction*. London, Routledge.

Antes, P. (2002) 'What do experience if we have religious experience?' *Numen* 49, 336-42.
Argues for a social constructivist interpretation of religious experience.

Batson, C.D., P. Schoenrade, & W.L. Ventis (1993) *Religion and the Individual: A Social Psychological Perspective*. Oxford University Press.
More concerned with the experience of being religious, than religious experiences per se, though important for the discussions of theoretical and methodological issues such as the study of the development of religiosity in the individual. Note that this is the revised, corrected version of Batson & Ventis' 1982 book, The Religious Experience: A Social Psychological Perspective. Contains a chapter on music and religious experience, relevant to the final Section of this module.

Beit-Hallami, B. & M. Argyle (1997) *The Psychology of Religious Behaviour, Belief and Experience*. London, Routledge.

- Bowker, J. (1973; rpt 1995) *The Sense of God*. Oxford, OneWorld.
See especially Ch. VII, 'Sociological, Anthropological and Psychological Approaches to The Origin of the Sense of God'.
- Brown, L. (1988) *The Psychology of Religion*. London, SPCK
Not specifically on religious experience, though provides useful background.
- Clark, W.H., H.N. Maloney, J. Daane, & A.R. Tippett (1973) *Religious Experience: Its Nature and Function in the Human Psyche*. Springfield IL, Thomas.
Clark's approach follows that of James, with the added dimension of advocating hallucinogenic drug use to bring about mystical experiences (discussed later in this module). While mostly superseded by later research, many of the issues are still current and the dialogues with the other authors are of interest, not least for the history of thought in the field.
- Francis, L. (2005) *Faith and Psychology: Personality, Religion and the Individual*. London, Dartman, Longman & Todd.
- Palmer, M. (1997) *Freud and Jung on Religion*. London, Routledge.
- Riley, B.T (1989) *The Psychology of Religious Experience in its Personal and Institutional Dimensions*. New York, Peter Lang.
- Spilka, B. R.W. Hood, R.W., B. Hunsberger, & R. Gorsuch (eds.) (3rd ed. 2003) *The Psychology of Religion: An Empirical Approach*. London, Guildford Press.
See especially Chapters 6-8, on Religious Experience, Mysticism, and Conversion, respectively. Chapter 6 contains a useful survey beginning with the work of William James and Alister Hardy. Also see Hood (1995), one of the core books for this module, which has a strong psychological slant.
- Taves, A. (1999) *Fits, Trances, and Visions: Experiencing Religion and Explaining Experience from Wesley to James*. Princeton University Press.
Focuses most specifically on the interpretation of religious experience in Anglo-American charismatic Christianity from psychology versus spiritual perspectives.

PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACHES

- Alston, W.P. (1993) *Perceiving God: The Epistemology of Religious Experience*. Cornell University Press.
Argues that religious experience is a valid justification for belief in the God, and that it contributes to religious belief in general.
- Bagger, M.C. (1999) *Religious Experience, Justification, and History*. Cambridge University Press.
A defense of reductionist interpretations of religious experience, with reference to their contexts within history and philosophy.
- Berger, P. (1979) *The Heretical Imperative*. New York, Doubleday.

----- (1969) *Rumor of Angels*. New York, Doubleday

Bloechl, J. (ed.) (2003) *Religious Experience and the End of Metaphysics*. Indiana University Press.

Anthology of articles by Continental philosophers, mostly from postmodern perspectives.

Davies, B. (2nd ed. 2003) *An Introduction the Philosophy of Religion*. Oxford University Press.

While not specifically on religious experience, contains much relevant material.

----- (ed.) (2000) *Philosophy of Religion: A Guide and Anthology*. Oxford University Press.

An extensive anthology of writing spanning scholarship from different eras and perspectives. See especially the section called 'God and Human Experience.'

Griffith-Dickson, G. (2001) *Human and Divine: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religious Experience*. London, Duckworth.

A recommended overview, and a good starting point for this topic.

Katz, S.T. (1992) *Mysticism and Language*. Oxford University Press.

Miles, T.R. (1972) *Religious Experience*. New Studies in the Philosophy of Religion series. London, Macmillan.

Peterson, M., W. Hasker, B. Reichenbach, & D. Basinger (2002) *Reason and Religious Belief: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*. Oxford University Press.

----- (eds.) (2nd ed. 2000) *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings*. Oxford University Press.

Section 1 contains six articles on Religious Experience, though much else in this anthology is relevant here, and to other topics of this module.

Pojman, L.P. (ed.) (2002) *Philosophy of Religion: An Anthology*. Belmont CA, Wadsworth.

Another general anthology, containing a section on Religious Experience.

Yandell, Y. (1993) *The Epistemology of Religious Experience*. Cambridge University Press.

Zackariasson, U. (2002) *Forces By Which We Live: Religion and Religious Experience from the Perspective of Pragmatic Philosophical Anthropology*. Uppsala, Studia Philosophiae Religionis.

A philosophical approach very different from that of Bagger (i.e. non-reductionist), though concerned with some of the same issues.

Zangwill, N. (2004) 'The myth of religious experience'. *Religious Studies* 40, 1-22.

Argues against the possibility that religious experience might be veridical, or indicative of the existence of God.

NEUROPHYSIOLOGICAL APPROACHES

- Andresen, A. (ed.) (2001) *Religion in Mind: Cognitive Perspectives on Religious Belief, Ritual, and Experience*. Cambridge University Press.
- Andresen, J. & R.K.C. Forman (eds.) (2001) *Cognitive Models and Spiritual Maps: Interdisciplinary Explorations of Religious Experience*. Thorverton, Imprint Academic.
- Alper, M. (1996; rev. ed. 2006) *The "God" Part of the Brain: A Scientific Interpretation of Human Spirituality and God*.
One of the key books to start the controversy, and one which has been criticised for being exceptionally anti-religion/anti-spirituality.
- Austin, J.H. (1998) *Zen and the Brain: Toward an Understanding of Meditation and Consciousness*. MIT Press.
Winner of the Scientific and Medical Network Book Prize. See also Austin's sequel on the subject Zen-Brain Reflections (2006), also published by MIT.
- Beauregard, M. & V. Paquette 'Neural correlates of a mystical experience in Carmelite nuns'. *Neuroscience Letters*, Vol. 405, No. 3 (September), 186-190.
- D'Aquili, E. & A.B. Newberg (1999) *The Mystical Mind: Probing the Biology of Religious Experience*. Minneapolis, Fortress.
- Fenwick, P. (2001) 'The neurophysiology of religious experience.' In I. Clarke, (ed.) *Psychosis and Spirituality*, 15-26. London, Whurr.
- Hick, J. (2006) *The New Frontier of Religion and Science: Religious Experience, Neuroscience, and the Transcendent*. Basingstoke, Palgrave.
- Joseph, R. (ed.) (2002) *NeuroTheology: Brain, Science, Spirituality, Religious Experience*. San Jose CA, University Press.
A useful historical anthology, with material from Nietzsche and James to more recent neurophysiological approaches by D'Aquili and Newberg.
- Ratcliffe, M. (2003) 'Scientific materialism and the neurology of religious experience.' *Religious Studies* 39, 323-45.
Argues against scientific objectivism as the default methodology for evaluating religious experience.