
Psychology of Religion

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What is Psychology of Religion ?

- Psychology is the study of behaviour, thought and feeling. On the other hand, psychology of religion is the study of religious behaviour, thought and feeling. This science describes the details, origins, and uses of religious beliefs and behaviors.
 - The psychology of religion first arose as recently as the late 19th century. William James is accepted as the father of the psychology of religion.
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Notable Theorists of Psychology of Religion

- William James (Institutional and personal religion)
 - Sigmund Freud (the idea of God as being a version of the father image)
 - C. Gustav Jung (Collective unconscious)
 - Alfred Adler (God or the idea of God motivates people to act, and actions)
 - Gordon Allport (Intrinsic and extrinsic religion)
 - Abraham Maslow (hierarchy of needs)
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Methods of Psychology of Religion

- Firstly, this science does not make any rules, but just describes religious life psychologically
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 - Psychology of religion uses methods of general psychology such as experiment, survey, case histories and clinical studies, observation and test method.
 - Also this science uses the **qualitative method** because religion is a subject of inner life, so it needs deeper understanding and explanation. The three most common qualitative methods are participant observation, in-depth interviews, and focus groups
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Some Applications of the Psychology of Religion

Psychology of religion focuses on not just theoretical study but practical study. There are some applications of this area.

- Religion and psychotherapy
 - Religion and Health
 - Religion and ritual
 - Religion and prayer
 - Religion and drugs
 - Pastoral psychology, etc.
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- Psychology of religion works with other areas of sciences such as general psychology, sociology, theology, anthropology, language, law etc..
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The Role of Religion in the field of Psychology of Religion

- It is important to understand the role of religion in our personal and social life. Psychology of religion is not focusing on just one religion but religions in general such as Cristianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Taoism etc.
 - Most psyhological research has been conducted within Judeo-Chistian framework. but there are also some studies in Islamic religion.
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Psychology of Religion and Islam

- Islam is both a religion and a complete way of life. Muslims follow a religion of peace, mercy, tolerance and forgiveness. Islam focuses on mature religiousity. Islam focuses on a secure attachment to the God which is “İman”.
 - Cultural issues are also important. Some notable' examples of important people are Mevlana, Hacı Bektaş Veli, Yunus etc.
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- Thanks...
