

The Working Brain and the Work of Theology. PCC 819

Tuesday mornings, 8-11 a.m.

Room: TBD

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This reading seminar is designed to review theological issues emerging from recent and contemporary neuroscientific research, with a particular focus on practical theology. Students will develop or strengthen models of interdisciplinary research in the service of theology. Critical evaluation of themes such as brain lateralization, mirror neurons, and neuroplasticity will be explored in order to advance responsible application of these findings to the work of ministry and theological reflection. In addition to shared reading of several resources, the course will require that students review and present to the class other work particularly relevant to their own professional settings or goals. Extensive background in neuroscience or neuroanatomy is not required.

Participants will be expected to read the materials for each class session, participate in discussions, and prepare and present one class presentation toward the end of the semester. The topic of this presentation will be negotiated with the instructor based on the student's interest. That material will then form the basis for a 20-25 page paper due on the last day of the semester.

Schedule:

September 5

Theology and Neuroscience in Dialogue

Read: Ashbrook and Albright, 1997

September 12

Theology and Neuroscience, continued.

Read: Peterson, 2003.

September 19

The Evolutionary Arc of Contemporary Neuroscience

Read: Smail, 2008.

September 26

Evangelical Perspectives

Read: Jeeves, 2013 and Jeeves and Brown, 2009

October 3

Neuroscience and the Psychology of Religion

Read: Shantz, 2009

October 10

Psychology of Religion, continued

Read: Newberg, 2010

October 17

Psychology of Religion, continued

Read: McNamara, 2009

October 24

Neuroscience and Religious Practices

Read: Ashbrook, 1995

October 31

Religious Practices, continued

Read: Whitehead, 2015

November 7

Religious Practices, continued

Read: Bingaman, 2014

November 14

Religious Practices, continued

Read: Roozeboom, 2017

November 21 Thanksgiving Break

November 28 Student Presentations

December 5 Student Presentations and final evaluation. **Final Papers due December 12**

Bibliography

(All prices are from Amazon.com for paperback or hardback volumes; Kindle editions may also be available.)

Required Readings:

Ashbrook, James. 1995. *Minding the Soul: Pastoral Counseling As Remembering*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. ISBN-13: 978-0800626730 \$5.49

_____ and Carol Albright. 1997. *The Humanizing Brain: Where Religion and Neuroscience Meet*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press. ISBN-13: 978-0829812008 \$5.99

Bingaman, Kirk. 2014. *The Power of Neuroplasticity for Pastoral and Spiritual Care*. New York: Lexington Books. ISBN-13: 978-0739193976 \$37.82

Jeeves, Malcolm. 2013. *Minds, Brains, Souls and Gods: A Conversation on Faith, Psychology and Neuroscience*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic. ISBN-13: 978-0830839988 \$17.34

_____ and Warren Brown. 2009. *Neuroscience, Psychology, and Religion: Illusions, Delusions, and Realities about Human Nature*. Templeton Science and Religion Series. West Conshohocken, PA, USA: Templeton Press. ISBN-13: 978-1599471471 \$16.21

McNamara, Patrick. 2015. *The Neuroscience of Religious Experience*. 2009. Cambridge University Press. ISBN-13: 978-1107428010 \$33.52

Newberg, Andrew. 2010. *Principles of Neurotheology*. Ashgate. ISBN-13: 978-0754669944 \$28.26

Peterson, Gregory. 2003. *Minding God: Theology and the Cognitive Sciences*. Augsburg Fortress. ISBN: 0-8006-3498-5 \$24.00

Roozeboom, William. 2016. *Neuroplasticity, Performativity, and Clergy Wellness: Neighbor Love as Self-Care*. New York: Lexington Books. ISBN-13: 978-1498521277 \$22.19

Smail, Daniel. 2008. *On Deep History and the Brain*. University of California Press. ISBN-13: 978-0520258129 \$21.07

Whitehead, Jason. 2015. *Redeeming Fear: A Constructive Theology for Living Into Hope*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. ISBN-13: 978-0800699147 \$19.00

Supplementary Readings:

- Beauregard, Mario and Denyse O'Leary. 2007. *The Spiritual Brain: A Neuroscientist's Case for the Existence of the Soul*. New York: HarperOne.
- Bulkeley, Kelly. 2005. *The Wondering Brain: Thinking about Religion with and beyond Cognitive Neuroscience*. Routledge.
- Changeux, Jean-Pierre and Paul Ricoeur. 2000. *What Makes Us Think? A Neuroscientist and a Philosopher Argue About Ethics, Human Nature, and the Brain*. Princeton University Press.
- Costandi, Moheb. 2016. *Neuroplasticity*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press Essential Knowledge Series.
- Cozolino, Louis. 2006. *The Neuroscience of Human Relationships*. W.W. Norton & Company.
- d'Aquili, Eugene and Andrew Newberg. 1999. *The Mystical Mind: Probing the Biology of Religious Experience*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- Damasio, Antonio R. 1994. *Descartes' Error: Emotion, Reason, and the Human Brain*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.
- _____. 1999. *The Feeling of What Happens: Body and Emotion in the Making of Consciousness*. New York: Harcourt Brace & Co.
- De Waal, Frans. 2009. *The Age of Empathy: Nature's Lessons for a Kinder Society*. Harmony Books.
- Graziano, Michael. 2010. *God, Soul, Mind, Brain: A Neuroscientist's Reflections on the Spirit World*. Leapfrog Press.
- Hogue, David. 2017. "Because We Are: Practical Theology, Intersubjectivity and the Human Brain" in *Practicing Ubuntu: Practical Theological Perspectives on Injustice, Personhood and Human Dignity*. International Academy of Practical Theology. Olehile A. Buffel, Jaco Dreyer, Yolanda Dreyer and Malan Nel, eds.
- _____. 2015. "Imaging the Other: Neuroscientific Insights into Human Experiences of Culture and Race." *Complex Identities in a Shifting World, Practical Theological Perspectives*. Couture, Pamela; Robert Mager, Pamela McCarroll; Natalie Wigg-Stevenson, eds.
- _____. 2010. "Brain Matters: Neuroscience, Pastoral Theology and Empathy" in *Journal of Pastoral Theology*, Fall 2010, Society for Pastoral Theology.

- _____. 2003. *Remembering the Future, Imagining the Past: Story, Ritual and the Human Brain*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press.
- Ito, T. and Bruce Bartholow. 2009. The Neural Correlates of Race. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* vol. 13 no. 12, 524-531. DOI: 10.1016/j.tics.2009.10.002
- Kandel, Eric. 2006. *In Search of Memory: The Emergence of a New Science of Mind*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.
- Malabou, Catherine. 2008. *What Should We Do With Our Brain?* Fordham University Press.
- Newberg, Andrew and Waldman, Mark. 2009. *How God Changes Your Brain: Breakthrough Findings from a Leading Neuroscientist*. New York: Ballantine Books.
- Panksepp, Jaak. 2012. *The Archeology of Mind: Neuroevolutionary Origins of Human Emotions*. New York: W. W. Norton.
- Salzman, Mark. 2000. *Lying Awake: A Novel*. Alfred A. Knopf.
- Satel, Sally and Scott Lilienfeld. 2013. *Brainwashed: The Seductive Appeal of Mindless Neuroscience*. Basic Books.
- Schacter, Daniel. 1997. *Searching For Memory: The Brain, The Mind, And The Past*. New York: Basic Books.
- Schore, Allan. N. 1994. *Affect Regulation and the Origin of the Self: The Neurobiology of Emotional Development*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- .2012. *The Science of the Art of Psychotherapy*. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Shantz, Colleen. 2009. *Paul in Ecstasy: The Neurobiology of the Apostle's Life and Thought*. Cambridge University Press.
- Siegel, Daniel J. 2007. *The Mindful Brain: Reflection and Attunement in the Cultivation of Well-Being*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.
- _____. 2015. *The Developing Mind, Second Edition: How Relationships and the Brain Interact to Shape Who We Are*. New York: The Guildford Press.
- Trimble, Michael. 2012. *Why Humans Like to Cry: Tragedy, Evolution, and the Brain*. Oxford University Press.
- _____. 2013. *The Soul in the Brain: The Cerebral Basis of Language, Art, and Belief*. John Hopkins University Press.

Zak, Paul. 2012. *The Moral Molecule: The Source of Love and Prosperity*. Penguin Books.