

Vassilis Saroglou The Psychology of Religion

Routledge 2021 (Oct 8, 2020)

The Psychology of Everything Series
142 pp.

#### **CONTENTS**

## Chapter 1. Can we study religion in the lab?

Psychology's curiosity for religion

A topic for open-minded individuals

Religion as shaping (some) individuals' lives and all cultures

The meaningful variety of religious aspects and forms

Believing, bonding, behaving, and belonging

From spirituality to fundamentalism: The structured diversity of religious forms

How we study religion in the lab

Book chapters and questions

### Chapter 2. Believers and atheists: What makes the difference?

Socialization

Family, peers, and society

Cultural factors: Secularism and minority religion

Individual characteristics (or dispositions)

Personality traits and religiosity

Cognition, religious beliefs, and religiosity

Women and men

Specific forms: Spirituality, fundamentalism, and emotionality-based religion

Spirituality

Fundamentalism

Neurotic versus "healthy-minded" religion

Significant life experiences

Negative life events and threats to the self

Positive emotional experiences and self-transcendence

Conclusion

# Chapter 3. Theist children, apostate adolescents, bigot late adults?

Are children naturally or culturally (a)theists?

Beliefs and cognitive development

Children's faith as not so childish

Children's skepticism and adults' religious testimony

Rituals and emotional, relational, and social development

Awe and God as loving and judging

Trust and secure attachment to God and the world

Relatedness and prayer

Religious identification and intergroup relations

Religion detrimental for children: Cults, fundamentalism, and abusive clergy

New religious movements and fundamentalist families

Clergy's sexual abuse

Are adolescents apostates and late adults bigots?

Adolescence and emerging adulthood: A critical age for atheism or spirituality?

Decline or transformation of religiosity

Religion, identity, and sexuality

Adulthood and late adulthood: A diversity of pathways

Status change: From recipient to provider of services

Middle and late adulthood: Reconsidering life and facing the perspective of its end

Conclusion

#### Chapter 4. Does religion make us more moral?

Religion does not create but orients morality

Religion and children's morality

Religion and morality: Connections, independence, and conflict

Religious prosociality: Limited but real

Priming religious ideas

Prosociality of religious believers

Competing principles, moralization, and self-control

Religion and "extended" – mostly restrictive – morality

Values and moral foundations

Moralization and deontology

A self-control-oriented morality

Moral opposition, hostility, and prejudice Moral opposition and hostility Ethnoreligious prejudice

Conclusion

# Chapter 5. Is religion good for you?

Religion, psychopathology, and negative (mental) health

A vulnerable connection to reality

A fearful submission to (purity) norms

Obsessionality Sexual repression

Religion, well-being, and positive (mental) health

Well-being across societies

Specific aspects of (mental) health

Explanatory psychological mechanisms

Universal mechanisms and specificity of religion Cognitive, emotional, moral, and social factors Self-related positive "illusions" and positive coping

Conclusion

### Chapter 6. Will religion survive?

Further reading Notes

References