

James A. Van Slyke. *The Cognitive Science of Religion*. Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate, 2011.

The cognitive science of religion is a relatively new academic field in the study of the origins and causes of religious belief and behavior. The focal point of empirical research is the role of basic human cognitive functions in the formation and transmission of religious beliefs. However, many theologians and religious scholars are concerned that this perspective will reduce and replace explanations based in religious traditions, beliefs, and values. This book attempts to bridge the reductionist divide between science and religion through examination and critique of different aspects of the cognitive science of religion and offers a conciliatory approach that investigates the multiple causal factors involved in the emergence of religion.

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