

Curriculum Vitae

Brian Malley

Office Address: Department of Psychology
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Interests: Religion, formal systems, information, adaptation

Languages: Ancient Greek, Latin

Education

- 2003 Cert. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan (Culture & Cognition)
- 2002 PhD. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan (Anthropology)
Thesis: *The Bible in Evangelical Christianity: Toward an Anthropological Theory of Scripture.*
- 1998 M.A. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan (Anthropology)
- 1994 M.A. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan (Comparative Religion)
- 1991 B.A. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan (Religion, Latin)

Publications

Book

- 2004 *How the Bible Works: An Anthropological Study of Evangelical Biblicism.* AltaMira.

Articles

- 2014 Agents (Superhuman / Counterintuitive). In R. Segal & K. von Stuckrad (Eds.), *Vocabulary for the Study of Religion*. Leiden: Brill.
- 2009 Biblicism. *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. de Gruyter.
- 2008 Some cognitive origins of cultural order. With Nicola Knight. *Journal of Cognition & Culture* 8(1-2): 49-70.
- 2007 A cognitive typology of religious actions. With Justin Barrett. *Journal of Cognition & Culture* 7(3-4): 201-211.
- 2006 The Bible in British folklore. *Postscripts* 2(2-3): 241-272. Reprinted in James W. Watts (ed.), *Iconic Books and Texts*. Sheffield: Equinox.
- 2005 An interpretation observed. *Historical Reflections/Reflexions Historiques* 32(1), 271-282.
- 2003 Can ritual form be predicted from religious belief? A test of the Lawson-McCauley hypotheses. With Justin Barrett. *Journal of Ritual Studies* 17(2), 1-14.
- 1996 The emerging cognitive psychology of religion. *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* 8(2), 109-141.
- 1995 Explaining order in religious systems. *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* 7(1), 5-22.
- 1994 Reduction and religion: Lessons from eliminative materialism. *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* 6(1), 5-33.

Chapters

- 2022 Scripturalism: A theory. In Justin Barrett (e.d.) *Oxford Handbook to the Cognitive Science of Religion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2019 How are rituals thought to work? In Jason Slone (ed.), *The Cognitive Science of Religion: A Methodological Introduction to Key Empirical Studies*. Scientific Studies of Religion: Inquiry and Explanation. Bloomsbury.
- 2015 The Bible in North American Folklore. In Vincent Wimbush (ed.), *Scripturalizing the human*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.
- 2011 Biblical authority: A social scientist's perspective. In Carlos R. Bovell (ed.), *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Authority of Scripture: Historical, Biblical, and Theoretical Perspectives*. Wipf & Stock.
- 2009 Understanding the Bible's influence. In James Bielo (ed.), *The Social Life of Scriptures: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Biblicalism*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.
- 2004 The doctrinal mode and evangelical Christianity in the US. In Harvey Whitehouse & James Laidlaw (eds.), *Ritual & Memory: Toward a Comparative Anthropology of Religion*. AltaMira.
- 2003 What is "the Bible"? Analysis of a text concept. In Timothy Light and Brian Wilson (eds.), *Religion as a Human Capacity*. Brill.

Book Reviews

- 2022 The devil's in the details. [Review essay in response to Purzycki, Benjamin & Sosis, Richard, *Religion Evolving: Cultural, Cognitive, and Ecological Dynamics*.] *Journal of the Cognitive Science of Religion*.
- 2010 Review of James Bielo, *Words upon the Word: An Ethnography of Evangelical Group Bible Study*. *American Anthropologist* 112(2).
- 2003 Review of Richard Nisbett, *The Geography of Thought: How Asians and Westerners Think Differently. . .and Why*. *Journal of Cognition and Culture* 3(4).
- 2002 Review of Harvey Whitehouse, *Arguments and Icons: Divergent Modes of Religiosity*. *Journal of Ritual Studies* 16(2), 5-7.
- 2001 Review of Ian Hacking, *The Social Construction of What?* *Journal of Cognition and Culture* 1(3), 283-284.
- 2001 Review of Dan Sperber, *Metarepresentations: An Interdisciplinary Perspective*. *Journal of Cognition and Culture* 1(2), 216-217.

Papers Presented (* invited talks)

- 2014 *"The origins of mind." Psi Chi Induction Ceremony. Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2010 *"An anthropological theory of scripture." Iconic Books Conference. Syracuse, NY. October.
- 2009 *"Why do people believe in gods?" (Keynote address). Grand Dialogue in Science & Religion. Grand Rapids, Michigan. March.
- 2007 "Scripture as text and artifact." Society of Biblical Literature. San Diego, CA. November.
*"Scripturalism: An anthropological model." American Anthropological Association. Washington, DC. November.
- 2006 "Bibliomancy in English folklore." Society of Biblical Literature. Washington DC. November.
- 2005 *"An interpretation observed." Religion and US Culture Group. Michigan State University. September.
- 2004 *"How the Bible works." Institute of Cognition & Culture. Queen's University of Belfast. October.
- 2003 *"Two steps toward a cognitive model of scripturalism." Cognitive Science of Religion. Atlanta, August.
*"Can ritual form be predicted from religious belief?" Midwest Meeting of the American Academy of

Religion. Chicago, April.

“Why some texts are sacred” Midwest Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Chicago, April.

2002 “Problems of scripture.” Midwest Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Chicago, April.

2001 * “The doctrinal mode: Evangelical Christianity in the US.” British Academy Networks Project on Modes of Religiosity. Cambridge, December.

“Reading the mind of God.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Columbus, October.

2000 “Rethinking Biblical literalism.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Houston, October.

1999 “The cognitive optimality of religious concepts: An experimental report” (with Ara Norenzayan). Conference on the Transmission of Religious Ideas, Culture & Cognition Program, University of Michigan.

1998 “Fixed text, adapting agents: Midwestern Baptists’ use of the Bible.” American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December.

1997 * “How cultural transmission builds cultural adaptation.” International Conference on Cultural Transmission, Belfast, September.

1996 * “How religious people think About sacred texts.” Conference on the Transmission of Religious Ideas, Kalamazoo, Michigan, February.

1994 “Explaining order in religious systems.” American Academy of Religion, April.

1993 “Modeling religious ideas.” American Academy of Religion, April.

Organizational activities

2006–2009 Chair, Scripture as Artifact Consultation, Society of Biblical Literature.

1999 Organizer, Conference on the Transmission of Religious Ideas, Culture & Cognition Program, University of Michigan.

Community outreach

2014 Renew seminar: Psychological dynamics of spiritual development. St. Andrew United Church of Christ. Detroit. October–November.

2011 “Why is it so hard to make good decisions?” Jackson Congregational Church. Jackson, MI.

2005 “Why do people believe in gods?” Lithuanian Catholic Student Association, April.

“Religion and ethics” Learning in Retirement Program, February.

Honors

2009 Award for Innovative Use of MERLOT

2001 Michigan Society of Fellows Associate Fellowship

1996 Distinguished Article Award for “Explaining Order in Religious Systems,” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

1991 Presidential Scholar in Religion, Western Michigan University

Cornelius Loew Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion, Western Michigan University