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How Are Religious Concepts Created?: A Form of Cognition and Its Effect

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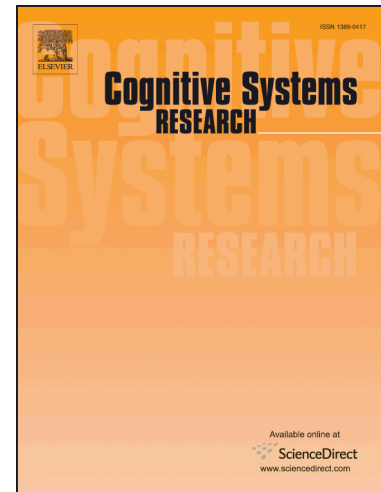
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How Are Religious Concepts Created? :

A Form of Cognition and Its Effect

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Abstract

Science that needs logical demonstration has failed to eliminate religious concepts. It is as if they have own validity that cannot be broken by scientific knowledge we trust the most at present. In this paper, I will attempt to establish a new cognitive theory to help explain the basis of belief in religious concepts. This form of cognition will be named simply unifying-induction or unifying-inductive cognition. As illustrations, I will consider some typical religious discourses involving concepts such as “all-in-one” or “one is everything.” It is these typically religious discourses that science has not been able to easily sweep away by its logical scientific proofs. In the end, although we perhaps cannot know if the religious beings such as gods really exist or not, we may understand these concepts are very the creation of the human imagination. If so, we must be able to explain the way of creation in some form.

Key words

Religious concepts; cognitive science of religion; unifying-induction; definition of religion, the concept of religion

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