Black Autonomy Jennifer Goett 2016-11-30 Decades after the first multicultural reforms were introduced in Latin America, Afrodescendant people from the region are still disproportionately impoverished, underserved, policed, and incarcerated. In Nicaragua, Afrodescendants have mobilized to confront this state of siege through the politics of black autonomy. For women and men grappling with postwar violence, black autonomy has its own cultural meanings as a political aspiration and a way of crafting selfhood and solidarity. Jennifer Goett's ethnography examines the race and gender politics of activism for autonomous rights in an Afrodescendant Creole community in Nicaragua. Weaving together fifteen years of research, "Black Autonomy" follows this community-based movement from its inception in the late 1990s to its realization as an autonomous territory in 2009 and beyond. Goett argues that despite significant gains in multicultural recognition, Afro-Nicaraguan Creoles continue to struggle with the day-to-day violence of capitalist intensification, racialized policing, and drug war militarization in their territories. Community activists have responded by adopting a politics of black autonomy based on race pride, territoriality, self-determination, and self-defense. "Black Autonomy" shows how this political radicalism is rooted in African diasporic identification and gendered cultural practices that women and men use to assert control over their bodies, labor, and spaces in an atmosphere of violence.

getting to church sally k. gallagher 2017-08-04 why do people go to church? what about a congregation attracts new members? what is it that draws women and men differently into diverse types of congregations? getting to church assesses the deeply personal and gendered narratives around how women and men move toward identifying with three very different Christian congregations: one orthodox, one conservative, and one mainline. drawing on extensive research and ranging across layers of congregational history, leadership, architecture, new member process, programs, and service ministries, sally gallagher explores trajectories of joining, as well as membership loss and change over a seven-year period. by following both those who join a community and those who explore but choose not to, gallagher avoids the methodological limitations of other studies and assesses the degree to which the spaces, people, programs, and doctrines within distinctive traditions draw women and men toward affiliation and involvement. getting to church demonstrates that women are attracted to specific doctrines and ideas, opportunities for individual reflection, experience and expanded personal agency; while men find in these congregations a sense of community within which they experience greater connection with other men, appreciate beauty, and yield to something greater than themselves. drawing on extensive field work, personal interviews, and focus groups, getting to church challenges extant theories of gender and religious involvement.

understanding religious conversion lewis ray rambo 1993-01-01 looking at a wide variety of religions, this work offers an exploration of religious conversion. the phenomena is approached from a variety of disciplines, including psychology, sociology, theology and anthropology.

patriotism black and white nichole renée phillips 2018 american civil religion unifies the nation's culture, regulates national emotions, and fosters a storied national identity. american civil religion celebrates the nation's founding documents, holidays, presidents, martyrs and, above all, those who died in its wars. patriotism black and white investigates the relationship between patriotism and civil religion in a politically populist community comprised of black and white evangelicals in rural tennessee. by measuring the effort to remember national sacrifice, patriotism black and white probes deeply into how patriotism funds civil religion in light of two changes to america--the election of its first black president and the initiation of a modern, religiously inspired war. based on her four years of ethnographic research, nichole phillips discovers that both black and white evangelicals feel marginalized and isolated from the rest of the country. bound by regional identity, both groups respond similarly to these drastic changes. black and white constituents continue to express patriotism and embrace a robust national identity. despite the commonality of being rural and southern, phillips' study reveals that racial experiences are markers for distinguishable responses to radical social change. as phillips shows, racial identity led to differing responses to the war on terror and the obama administration, and thus to a crisis in american national identity, opening the door to new nativistic and triumphalist interpretations of american exceptionalism. it is through this door that phillips takes readers in patriotism black and white.

religious freedom and mass conversion in india laura dudley jenkins 2019-06-07 hinduism is the largest religion in india, encompassing roughly 80 percent of the population, while 14 percent of the population practices islam and the remaining 6 percent adheres to other religions. the right to "freely profess, practice, and propagate religion" in india's constitution is one of the most comprehensive articulations of the right to religious freedom. yet from the late colonial era to the present, mass conversions to minority religions have inflamed majority-minority relations in india and complicated the exercise of this right. in religious freedom and mass conversion in india, laura dudley jenkins examines three mass conversion movements in india: among christians in the 1930s, dalit buddhists in the 1950s, and mizo jews in the 2000s. critics of these movements claimed mass converts were victims of overzealous proselytizers promising material benefits, but defenders insisted the converts were individuals choosing to convert for spiritual reasons. jenkins traces the origins of these opposing arguments to the 1930s and 1940s, when emerging human rights frameworks and early social scientific studies of religion posited an ideal convert: an individual making a purely spiritual choice. however, she observes that india's mass conversions did not adhere to this model and therefore sparked scrutiny of mass converts' individual agency and spiritual sincerity. jenkins demonstrates that the preoccupation with converts' agency and sincerity has resulted in significant challenges to religious freedom. one is the proliferation of legislation limiting induced conversions. another is the restriction of affirmative action rights of low caste people who choose to practice islam or christianity. last, incendiary rumors are intentionally spread of women being converted to islam via seduction. religious freedom and mass conversion in india illuminates the ways in which these tactics immobilize potential converts, reinforce damaging assumptions about women, lower castes, and religious minorities, and continue to restrict religious freedom in india today.

religious diversity in post-soviet society ingo w schröder 2013-06-28 since the end of state repression against religion, two major processes have taken place in the formerly socialist countries: historically dominant churches strive to reassert their position in society, while new religious groups and ideas from various parts of the world are proliferating. this generates pluralism of religious communities and individual religious attitudes. religious diversity in post-soviet society presents the first collection of ethnographies of this new religious diversity for lithuania, a country that has a long history of a dominant catholic church. the authors reveal how catholicism has become increasingly diversified and other religions (charismatic protestantism, baltic paganism, eastern religions and other alternative spiritualities) are claiming their space in the religious field.

The Anthropology of Religious Conversion Devaka Premawardhana 2018-03-27 Recent reports on Pentecostalism in the global South give the impression of an inexorable trajectory of massive growth, but Faith in Flux examines the religion’s phenomenon which increasingly gains popularity in Western societies: deconversion. There is, the authors argue, no better word than deconversion to describe processes of disengagement from religious orientations because these have much in common with conversion. Termination of membership may eventually be the final step of deconversion, but it involves biographical and psychological dynamics which can and need to be reconstructed by qualitative approaches and analyzed by quantitative instruments. In the Bielefeld-based Cross-Cultural Study on Deconversion disengagement processes from a variety of religious backgrounds in the USA and in Germany were examined, ranging from well-established religious organizations to new religious and fundamentalist groups. Nearly 1,200 persons participated in the study and were interviewed in order to reconstruct the processes of disengagement. The book contributes to a new understanding of the complex processes of deconversion and disaffiliation as a dynamic process.
from 2002 to 2005. In the focus of the study are 100 deconverts from the USA and from Germany who were examined with narrative interviews, faith development interviews and an extensive questionnaire. For case study elaboration, the study followed a research design with an innovative triangulation of qualitative and quantitative data. Four chapters, corresponding to four types of deconversion, present 21 case studies. The highlights of the research project are new data on spirituality - the deconverts in particular appear to prefer a "more spiritual than religious" self-identification – and in-depth analyses of a variety of deconversion narratives with special focus on personality factors, motivation, attitudes, religious development, psychological well-being and growth, religious fundamentalism and right-wing authoritarianism. The results of this project which was funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft are of special relevance for counselling and pastoral care, for religious education and for people concerned with administration and management of religious groups and churches, but also for a wider audience interested in contemporary changes in the religious fields in the USA and Germany.

The Oxford Handbook of Religious Conversion
Lewis R. Rambo 2014-03-06 The Oxford Handbook of Religious Conversion offers an encyclopedic exploration of the dynamics of religious conversion, which for centuries has profoundly shaped societies, cultures, and individuals throughout the world. Scholars from a wide array of religious and disciplines interpret both the varieties of conversion experiences and the processes that inform this personal and communal phenomenon. This volume examines the experiences of individuals and communities who change religions, those who experience an intensification of their religion of origin, and those who encounter new religions through colonial intrusion, missionary work, and charismatic and revitalization movements. The thirty-two innovative essays provide overviews of the history of particular religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Sikhism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, indigenous religions, and new religious movements. The essays also offer a wide range of disciplinary perspectives - psychological, sociological, anthropological, legal, political, feminist, and geographical - on religious conversion, and in-depth analyses of methods and theories deployed in understanding conversion, and insight into various forms of deconversion.

This Is My Desire
Miranda Klaver 2011-05-20 In the Dutch late modern society, the presence of thriving indigenous religions, and new religious movements. The contributors have written an ethnographic excavation of the lens of two churches: an evangelical seeker church and a neo-Pentecostal, charismatic church. While both churches share an emphasis on conversion, there are substantial differences in their approach to and understanding of the Holy Spirit. By comparing the conversion experiences of newcomers with strategies of conversion employed by each church, this book sheds new light on the profound differences in orientation found within Dutch evangelicalism. Drawing upon theories of the body and embodiment, this sensitively written book, rich in understanding conversion, and insight into various forms of deconversion.

Amazing Conversions
Bob Altemeyer 2010-10-04 This groundbreaking study uncovers fascinating new data on sudden shifts in religious and nonreligious belief. Amazing Conversions explores, for the first time ever, the reasons why converts join, and apostates go. The focus of this absorbing study is on some amazing people, with unique stories to tell who join a religious group in spite of being raised in nonreligious (or even antireligious) families, and those who, at great personal cost, choose to leave religion in spite of having a deeply religious background. Why does this happen? Can a person become a Christian fundamentalist? Why would a person choose to be an atheist? Amazing Conversions uses data from over 1,000 interviews with religious and nonreligious psychologists, surveyed thousands of young adults to find that small number who were amazing believers or amazing apostates. These rare individuals tell their stories, which are supplemented by their responses to a detailed questionnaire. The resulting picture shows that amazing believers and amazing apostates are dramatically different groups of people, in spite of the fact that their lives now stand in opposition to previous (non)religious training. You, too, can complete the same questionnaire to learn more about yourself and your beliefs. Have you experienced an amazing conversion? Readers interested in the intellectual, emotional, and social influences on religious belief and non-belief will find the scenarios of individuals fascinating reading. - Small Press. . . thoroughly worthwhile. - Free Inquiry

Disenchanted Lives
E. Marshall Brooks 2018-08-27 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormons) once heralded as the fastest growing religion in American history, is facing a crisis of apostasy. Many members’ study of church history and scriptures has pushed them away from Mormonism and into a growing community of secular ex-Mormons. In Disenchanted Lives, E. Marshall Brooks offers a compelling account of 31 amazing apostates. These rare individuals tell their stories, which are supplemented by their responses to a detailed questionnaire. The resulting picture shows that amazing believers and amazing apostates are dramatically different groups of people, in spite of the fact that their lives now stand in opposition to previous (non)religious training. You, too, can complete the same questionnaire to learn more about yourself and your beliefs. Have you experienced an amazing conversion? Readers interested in the intellectual, emotional, and social influences on religious belief and non-belief will find the scenarios of individuals fascinating reading. - Small Press. . . thoroughly worthwhile. - Free Inquiry

Crossing Religious Boundaries
Marloes Janson 2021-06-10 A rich ethnography of lived religious experiences in Lagos, offering a unique look at religious pluralism in Nigeria’s biggest city. Versions of Deconversion
John D. Barbour 1994 In Versions of Deconversion John Barbour examines the work of a broad selection of authors in order to discover the reasons for their loss of faith and to analyze the ways in which they have related that loss. For some the experience of deconversion led to another religious faith, some turned to atheism or agnosticism, and others used deconversion as a metaphor or analogy to interpret an experience of personal transformation. The work of faith is closely related to such vital ethical and theological concerns as the role of conscience, the assessment of religious communities, the dialectical relationship between faith and doubt, and the struggle to reconcile faith with intellectual and moral integrity. This book shows the persistence and the vitality of the theme of deconversion in autobiography, and it demonstrates how the literary form and structure of autobiography are shaped by ethical critique and religious reflection. Versions of Deconversion should appeal at once to scholars in the fields of religious studies and theology who are concerned with narrative texts, to literary critics and specialists on
autobiography, and to a wider audience interested in the ethical and religious significance of autobiography. The Cambridge Companion to Pentecostalism Cecil M. Robeck, jr 2014-08-11 Pentecostalism is one of the fastest-growing religious movements in the world. Groups in the United States dominated early Pentecostal histories, but recent global manifestations have expanded and complicated the definition of Pentecostalism. This volume provides a nuanced overview of Pentecostalism's various manifestations and explores what it means to be Pentecostal from the perspectives of both insiders and outsiders. Leading scholars in the field use a multidisciplinary approach to analyze the historical, economic, political, anthropological, sociological and theological aspects of the movement. They address controversies, such as the Oneness-Trinity controversy; introduce new theories; and chart trajectories for future research. The Cambridge Companion to Pentecostalism will enable beginners to familiarize themselves with the important issues and debates surrounding the global movement, while also offering experienced scholars a valuable handbook for reference.

Spirituality in College Students’ Lives Alyssa Bryant Rockenbach 2012-08-21 Spirituality in College Students’ Lives draws on data from a large-scale national survey examining the spiritual development of undergraduates and how colleges and universities can be more effective in facilitating students’ spiritual growth. In this book, contributors from the fields of education, psychology, sociology, social work, and religion present research-based studies that explore the importance of students’ spirituality and the impact of the college experience on their spiritual development. Offering a wide range of theoretical perspectives and worldviews, this volume also includes reflections from distinguished researchers and practitioners which highlight implications for practice. This original edited collection explores: Emerging theoretical frames and analytical approaches; differences in spiritual expressions and experiences among sub-populations; the impact of campus contexts; and how college experiences shape spiritual outcomes. Spirituality in College Students’ Lives is an important resource for higher education and student affairs faculty, administrators, and practitioners and is a valuable guide for incorporating the inner lives of college students into their work.

Chinese Christians in America Fenggang Yang 2010-11-01 Christianity has become the most practiced religion among the Chinese in America, but very little solid research exists on Chinese Christians and their churches. This book is the first to explore the subject from the inside, revealing how Chinese Christians construct and reconstruct their identity—as Christians, Americans, and Chinese—in local congregations amid the radical pluralism of the late twentieth century. Today there are more than one thousand Chinese churches in the United States, most of them Protestant evangelical congregations, bringing together diasporic Chinese from diverse origins—Taiwan, Hong Kong, mainland China, and Southeast Asian countries. Fenggang Yang finds that despite the many tensions and conflicts that exist within these congregations, most individuals find ways to creatively integrate their evangelical Christian beliefs with traditional Chinese (most Confucian) values. The church becomes a place where they can selectively assimilate into American society while simultaneously preserving Chinese values and culture. Yang brings to this study unique experience as both participant and observer. Born in mainland China, he is a sociologist who converted to Christianity after coming to the United States. The heart of this book is an ethnographic study of a representative Chinese church, located in Washington, D. C., where he became a member. Throughout the book, Yang draws upon interviews with members of this congregation while making comparisons with other churches throughout the United States. Chinese Christians in America is an important addition to the literature on the experience of new immigrant communities.

Psychology and Religion Michael Argyle 2005-10-25 First published in 1999. Routledge is an imprint of

more surprising: marginalization of Pentecostals by “mainstream” Christians, the social location of Pentecostal Christians, and transnational flows of missionary personnel, theories, and funds. A detailed analysis of Indian Christian history, contemporary Indian politics, Indian social and cultural characteristics, and Pentecostal belief and practice, this volume sheds important light on a troubling fact of contemporary Indian life.

Handbook of Leaving Religion Daniel Enstedt 2019-10-21 The Handbook of Leaving Religion introduces a neglected field of research with the aim to outline previous and contemporary research, and suggest how the topic of leaving religion should be studied in the future. The handbook consists of three sections: 1) Major debates about leaving religion; 2) Case studies and empirical insights; and 3) Theoretical and methodological approaches. Section one provides the reader with an introduction to key terms, historical developments, major controversies and significant cases. Section two includes case studies that illustrate various processes of leaving religion from different perspectives, and each chapter provides new empirical insights. Section three discusses, presents and encourages new approaches to the study of leaving religion. Centred on the work of the libertine and Freccero of the late Dante; he held that the poet was the perfect companion for a reader of the poem. Throughout Freccero operates on the fundamental premise that the central concern is the question of whether the theories and practices needed to foster and secure the lives of transsexuals and transgendered persons will be promoted or undermined - a concern that raises broader social, political, and ethical questions surrounding assumptions about gender, sexuality, and sexual difference; perceptions of transgendered embodiments and identities; and conceptions of divergent desires, goals and visions.

Encyclopedia of Latin American Religions Henri Gooren 2019-08-12 This encyclopedia provides an overview of the main religions of Latin America and the Caribbean, both its centralized transnational expressions and its local variants and schisms. These main religions include (but are not limited to) the major world religions (Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Islam), transnational New Religious Movements (Scientology, Unification Church, Hare Krishna, New Age, etc.), and local religions (Brazil’s Igreja Universal, La Luz del Mundo from Mexico, etc.).

Dante John Freccero 1986 [The essays] are arranged to follow the order of the "Comedy," and they form the perfect companion for a reader of the poem. Throughout Freccero operates on the fundamental premise that there is always an intricate and crucial dialectic at work between Dante the poet and Dante the pilgrim. -- from cover.

New Ways of Being Pentecostal in Latin America Martin Lindhardt 2016-03-23 The explosive growth of Pentecostalism has radically transformed Latin America’s religious landscape within the last half century or so. In a region where Catholicism reigned hegemonic for centuries, the expansion of Pentecostalism has now resulted in a situation of religious pluralism and competition, bearing much more resemblance to the United States than to the Iberian motherlands. Furthermore, the fierce competition from Pentecostal churches has inspired significant renewals of Latin American Catholicism, most notably the growth of a Catholic Charismatic movement. However, another and more recent source of religious pluralism and diversity in Latin America is an increasing pluralization and diversification of Pentecostalism itself and of the ways in which it is practiced. This collection of fifteen essays provides a broad vision of current trends and debates within Latin American Pentecostalism. The contributors to this volume address important theoretical questions and offer detailed empirical analyses of specific cases. Together, they provide a comprehensive picture of the variety of religious expression in Latin America today.
which individual Pentecostals exercise their faith. By carefully exploring this diversification, the book at hand breaks new ground in the literature on Latin American Christianity. Particular attention is focused on new ways of being Pentecostal and on the consequences of recent transformations of Christianity for individuals, faith communities and societies. More specifically, the chapters of the book look into certain transformations of Pentecostalism such as: theological renewals and new kinds of religious competition between Pentecostal churches; a growing political and civic engagement of Pentecostals; an observed de-institutionalization of Pentecostal religious life and the negotiation individual Pentecostal identities, composed of multiple intra-and extra-ecclesial points of identification; and the emergence of new generations of Pentecostals (children of Pentecostal parents), many of whom have higher levels of education and higher incomes than the previous generations within their churches. In addition, Catholic responses to Pentecostal competition are also addressed in several chapters of the book. 

**Searching for Heaven in the Real World** Kathryn Ann Kraft 2013-02-24 Searching for Heaven in the Real World A Sociological Discussion of Conversion in the Arab World While adjusting to a new identity is akin to adjusting to a new set of skin, even more difficult is realising that this new skin may not be as comfortable or as pleasant as the old one. In Searching for Heaven in the Real World, Kathryn Kraft explores the breadth of psychological and societal issues faced by Arab Muslims after making a decision to adopt a faith in Christ or Christianity, investigating some of the most surprising and significant challenges new believers face. Arab Muslims arrive at a point of new faith with great expectations. With such high hopes for what they will experience in their new identity, they are bound to encounter a reality that is different. They need to invest a great deal of emotional energy in addressing their expectations and what they actually encounter. Even so, those who stay the course of faith usually hold on to their dreams, believing that heaven is not only for the afterlife but it is for the real world as well. 

**Women Embracing Islam** Karin van Nieuwkerk 2009-07-21 Many Westerners view Islam as a religion that restricts and subordinates women in both private and public life. Yet a surprising number of women in Western Europe and America are converting to Islam. What attracts these women to a belief system that is markedly different from both Western Christianity and Western secularism? What benefits do they gain by converting, and what are the costs? How do Western women converts live their new Islamic faith, and how does their conversion affect their families and communities? How do women convert transmit Islamic values to their children? These are some of the questions that Women Embracing Islam seeks to answer. In this vanguard study of gender and conversion to Islam, leading historians, sociologists, anthropologists, and theologians investigate why non-Muslim women in the United States, several European countries, and South Africa are converting to Islam. Drawing on extensive interviews with female converts, the authors explore the life experiences that lead Western women to adopt Islam, as well as the appeal that various forms of Islam, as well as the Nation of Islam, have for women. The authors find that while no single set of factors can explain why Western women are embracing Islamic faith traditions, some common motivations emerge. These include an attraction to Islam's high regard for family and community, its strict moral and ethical standards, and the rationality and spirituality of its theology, as well as a disillusionment with Christianity and with the unrestrained sexuality of so much of Western culture.