



Brain, Consciousness, and God: A Lonerganian Integration

Daniel A. Helminiak

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A constructive critique of neuropsychological research on human consciousness and religious experience that applies the thought of Bernard Lonergan.

Brain, Consciousness, and God is a constructive critique of neuroscientific research on human consciousness and religious experience. An adequate epistemology—a theory of knowledge—is needed to address this topic, but today there exists no consensus on what human knowing means, especially regarding nonmaterial realities. Daniel A. Helminiak turns to twentieth-century theologian and philosopher Bernard Lonergan’s breakthrough analysis of human consciousness and its implications for epistemology and philosophy of science. Lucidly summarizing Lonergan’s key ideas, Helminiak applies them to questions about science, psychology, and religion. Along with Lonergan, eminent theorists in consciousness studies and neuroscience get deserved, detailed attention. Helminiak demonstrates the reality of the immaterial mind and, addressing the Cartesian “mind-body problem,” explains how body and mind could make up one being, a person. Human consciousness is presented not only as awareness of objects, but also as self-presence, the self-conscious experience of human subjectivity, a spiritual reality. Lonergan’s analyses allow us to say exactly what “spiritual” means, and it need have nothing to do with God.

Daniel A. Helminiak is Professor of Psychology at the University of West Georgia. He is the author of many books, including *Religion and the Human Sciences: An Approach via Spirituality* and *The Human Core of Spirituality: Mind as Psyche and Spirit*, both also published by SUNY Press.

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