



Heinz Streib / Ralph W. Hood Jr. /
Barbara Keller / Rosina-Martha Csöff /
Christopher F. Silver

Deconversion

Qualitative and Quantitative Results from Cross-Cultural Research in Germany and the United States of America

With a foreword by James T. Richardson.

Research in Contemporary Religion, Vol. 5.

2009. 262 pages with numerous figures and tables, hardback

€ 62,- D / series price: € 55,80 D

ISBN 978-3-525-60439-7

This book presents case studies and empirical data of a 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 orientations in the U.S.A. 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 from 2002 to 2005. In the focus of the study are 100 deconverts from the U.S.A. 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” selfidentification – 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 U.S.A. and Germany.

THE AUTHORS

Heinz Streib, PhD, is professor for religious education and ecumenical theology at Bielefeld University and directs the Research Center for Biographical Studies in Contemporary Religion. **Ralph W. Hood, Jr.**, PhD, is professor for psychology at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. **Barbara Keller**, Dr. Dipl.-psych., works as a clinical psychologist at the Zentrum für Psychotraumatologie in Krefeld. **Rosina-Martha Csöff**, Dipl.-Soz., is research assistant at the Ludwigsburg-Reutlingen Protestant University of Applied Sciences. **Christopher F. Silver**, MS, MA, is currently a doctoral student in religious education and teaches psychology at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Order Form

The David Brown Book Company
Distributor of scholarly books

PO Box 511
OAKVILLE, CT 06779
USA

Tel. : (860) 9 45 93 29
Fax: (860) 9 45 94 68
queries@dbbconline.com

Sender:

For orders from other countries than USA please use the following adress:

To
Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht

D-37070 Göttingen

I herewith order from Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, D-37070 Göttingen, Tel. +49 (0) 551/5084-444, Fax -454

Qty	Author	Title	ISBN
_____	_____	_____	978-3-525-_____
_____	_____	_____	978-3-525-_____
_____	_____	_____	978-3-525-_____
_____	_____	_____	978-3-525-_____

Informational material:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Theologie | <input type="checkbox"/> Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft/Medien (10158) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altes Testament (10157) | <input type="checkbox"/> Klass. Altertumswissenschaft / Philosophie (10158) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neues Testament (10157) | <input type="checkbox"/> Geschichte / Politik (10158) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kirchengeschichte (10157) | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychologie in Medizin und Beratung (10156) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Systematische Theologie (10157) | <input type="checkbox"/> Führung und Entwicklung (10127) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Praktische Theologie (10103) | <input type="checkbox"/> Schulbücher Religion & Ethik (10143) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religiöses Sachbuch (10103) | <input type="checkbox"/> Schulbücher Alte Sprachen (10142) |

V&R-Newsletter: Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter about the latest releases in my subject area.

Email adress

Subject area

Date

Signature