

Religion & Spirituality



AMERICAN
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Application Guide

Introduction

The bibliographic database, PsycINFO, produced by the American Psychological Association, has a great deal to offer researchers, faculty, students, and professionals in a wide range of disciplines. PsycINFO serves as an invaluable finding and linking tool for psychology and the behavioral sciences.

Researchers in a variety of settings, including the mental health and religious professions, are interested in the relationship between aspects of religion, spirituality, and theology and health and well-being. PsycINFO is a source for finding research and theory about the interrelationships between religion and psychology.

Topics in PsycINFO of Relevance to Religion and Spirituality

Example 1. The Role of Spirituality in Substance Abuse Treatment

Rehabilitation professionals may be interested in the role spirituality plays in substance abuse treatment and the recovery process. A search using the terms **Spirituality**, **Drug Rehabilitation**, and **Alcohol Rehabilitation** in PsycINFO returned results including the following:

Arévalo, S., Prado, G., & Amaro, H. (2008). Spirituality, sense of coherence, and coping responses in women receiving treatment for alcohol and drug addiction. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 31, 113-123. doi: 10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2007.05.009

Galanter, M. (2007). Spirituality and recovery in 12-step programs: An empirical model. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 33, 265-272. doi: 10.1016/j.jsat.2007.04.016

Holleran Steiker, L. K., & Pape, P. A. (Col) (2007). Spirituality and substance abuse treatment. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*, 7, 117-126. doi: 10.1300/J160v07n01_07

Example 2. Healing and Prayer

Many religious traditions (e.g., Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Unitarianism) ascribe curative power to prayer on behalf of another person as a medium of healing. A search of PsycINFO using the search terms **Prayer** and **Faith Healing** includes results such as the following:

Hodge, D. R. (2007). A systematic review of the empirical literature on intercessory prayer. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 17, 174-187. doi: 10.1177/1049731506296170

McBee, C. H. (2007). Film review of *The Power of Prayer: How it can help to influence your healing*. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*, 38, 48.

Schlitz, M., & Radin, D. (2007). Prayer and intention in distant healing: Assessing the evidence. In I. A. Serlin, K. Rockefeller, & S. Brown (Eds.), *Whole person healthcare. Vol. 2: Psychology, spirituality, and health* (pp. 177-190). Westport, CT: Praeger.

Example 3. Religious and Faith-Based Organizations in the Community

Recent government programs and initiatives have supported a role for faith-based organizations in community issues. What research is available on the role these organizations, and other religious programs, play in communities? A PsycINFO search using the search terms **Religious Organizations** or **Faith Based Organizations** and **Community Services** or **Community Involvement** yielded the following citations:

MacMaster, S. A., Crawford, S. L., Jones, J. L., Rasch, R. F. R., Thompson, S. J., & Sanders, E. C. (2007). Metropolitan Community AIDS Network: Faith-based culturally relevant services for African American substance users at risk of HIV. *Health & Social Work*, 32, 151-154.

Netting, F. E., O'Connor, M. K., & Singletary, J. (2007). Finding homes for their dreams: Strategies founders and program initiators use to position and sustain faith-based programs. *Families in Society*, 88, 19-29.

Palacios, J. M. (2007). Bringing Mexican immigrants into American faith-based social justice and civic cultures. In P. Hondagneu-Sotelo (Ed.), *Religion and social justice for immigrants* (pp. 74-90). New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

For additional search strategies and training tools visit www.apa.org/databases/training/homepage.html

Sample Citations

Alcorta, C. S. (2008). Music and the miraculous: The neurophysiology of music's emotive meaning. In J. H. Ellens (Ed.), *Miracles: God, science, and psychology in the paranormal: Parapsychological perspectives* (pp. 230–252). Westport, CT: Praeger.

Azadarmaki, T. (2008). Television, religious media, and the mirror relationship between family, government, and religion in Iran. *Journal of Media and Religion*, 7, 45–55. doi: 10.1080/15348420701838335

Bock, G. L. (2008). Medically valid religious beliefs. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 34, 437–440. doi: 10.1136/jme.2007.021964

Bukay, D. (2008). *From Muhammad to Bin Laden: Religious and ideological sources of the homicide bombers phenomenon*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.

Chou, H. G. (2008). The religious life and happiness of Protestants involved with the charismatic movement. *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, 11, 359–367. doi: 10.1080/13674670701391078

Csordas, T. J., Storck, M. J., & Strauss, M. (2008). Diagnosis and distress in Navajo healing. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 196, 585–596. doi: 10.1097/NMD.0b013e3181812c68

Devinsky, O., & Lai, G. (2008). Spirituality and religion in epilepsy. *Epilepsy & Behavior*, 12, 636–643. doi: 10.1016/j.yebeh.2007.11.011

Dollahite, D. C., & Thatcher, J. Y. (2008). Talking about religion: How highly religious youth and parents discuss their faith. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 23, 611–641. doi: 10.1177/0743558408322141

Exline, J. J. (2008). Beliefs about God and forgiveness in a Baptist Church sample. *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, 27, 131–139.

Franklin, M. D., Schlundt, D. G., & Wallston, K. A. (2008). Development and validation of a religious health fatalism measure for the African-American faith community. *Journal of Health Psychology*, 13, 323–335. doi: 10.1177/1359105307088137

Frederick, T. V. (2008). Solution-focused brief therapy and the Kingdom of God: A cosmological integration. *Pastoral Psychology*, 56, 413–419. doi: 10.1007/s11089-008-0123-4

Fredrickson, B. L., Cohn, M. A., Coffey, K. A., Pek, J., & Finkel, S. M. (2008). Open hearts build lives: Positive emotions, induced through loving-kindness meditation, build consequential personal resources. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 95, 1045–1062. doi: 10.1037/a0013262

Gubi, P. M. (2008). *Prayer in counselling and psychotherapy: Exploring a hidden meaningful dimension*. London, England: Jessica Kingsley.

Kozasa, E. H., Radvany, J., Barreiros, M. A. M., Leite, J. R., & Amaro Jr., E. (2008). Preliminary functional magnetic resonance imaging Stroop task results before and after a Zen meditation retreat. *Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences*, 62, 366. doi: 10.1111/j.1440-1819.2008.01809.x

Loser, R. W., Klein, S. R., Hill, E. J., & Dollahite, D. C. (2008). Religion and the daily lives of LDS families: An ecological perspective. *Family & Consumer Sciences Research Journal*, 37, 52–70. doi: 10.1177/1077727X08322809

Miller, M. K., & Hayward, R. D. (2008). Religious characteristics and the death penalty. *Law and Human Behavior*, 32, 113–123. doi: 10.1007/s10979-007-9090-z

Padela, A. I., Shanawani, H., Greenlaw, J., Hamid, H., Aktas, M., & Chin, N. (2008). The perceived role of Islam in immigrant Muslim medical practice within the USA: An exploratory qualitative study. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 34, 365–369. doi: 10.1136/jme.2007.021345

Ruback, R. B., Pandey, J., & Kohli, N. (2008). Evaluations of a sacred place: Role and religious belief at the Magh Mela. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 28, 174–184. doi: 10.1016/j.jenvp.2007.10.007

Shtulman, A. (2008). Variation in the anthropomorphization of supernatural beings and its implications for cognitive theories of religion. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 34, 1123–1138. doi: 10.1037/0278-7393.34.5.1123

Selected Search Terms

From the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*, 11th edition, www.apa.org/databases/thesaurus.html

Religious Groups

- Buddhists
- Catholics
- Christians
- Hindus
- Jews
- Muslims
- Protestants
- Sikhs

Religious Practices

- Asceticism
- Confession (Religion)
- Faith Healing
- Meditation
- Mysticism
- Prayer
- Yoga

Religious Personnel

- Chaplains
- Clergy
- Evangelists
- Lay Religious Personnel
- Ministers (Religion)
- Missionaries
- Nuns
- Priests
- Rabbis
- Seminarians

Religious Beliefs and Concepts

- Atheism
- Evil
- Forgiveness
- God Concepts

- Religiosity
- Religious Affiliation
- Religious Fundamentalism
- Sin
- Soul

Religious Affiliation

- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Protestantism
- Roman Catholicism
- Shamanism
- Sikhism
- Zen Buddhism

Religion and Theology

- Bible
- Faith Based Organizations
- Pastoral Counseling
- Religious Beliefs
- Religious Buildings
- Religious Conversion
- Religious Education
- Religious Experiences
- Religious Groups
- Religious Literature
- Religious Organizations
- Religious Personnel
- Religious Practices
- Religious Prejudices
- Spirituality
- Theology



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