

Philosophy Department Guest Speaker

“What Does Empirical Research on Spirituality Reveal About Human Nature?”



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Psychiatry has maintained a close relationship with spiritual experiences since its emergence as a modern discipline in the early nineteenth century. More recently - and challenging reductionist notions of spiritual experiences as merely pathological or culturally contingent beliefs - research in the health sciences and empirical psychology has produced substantial evidence of a correspondence between spirituality and better health outcomes, particularly mental health. Consequently, empirical studies and theoretical debates concerning the ontological status of spiritual experiences and competing interpretations of them have intensified, fostering new questioning on the implications of such clinical and psychological frameworks to our anthropological models. Philosophy must therefore take this growing empirical body of evidence seriously when developing contemporary views on human nature.

Friday, Sept 04th

Science & Engineering Classroom Building (SEC) - 206

03:00 PM – 05:00 PM