

## 101 Essential Readings in the Study of Religion

- Assmann J., *Das kulturelle Gedächtnis. Schrift, Erinnerung und politische Identität in frühen Hochkulturen* (1992)
- Bateson G., *Steps to an Ecology of Mind* (1972)
- Bell C., *Ritual Theory, Ritual Practice* (1992)
- Bellah R., *Religion in Human Evolution: From the Paleolithic to the Axial Age* (2001)
- Benveniste É., *Le vocabulaire des institutions indo-européennes* (1969)
- Berlin I., *The Crooked Timber of Humanity: Chapters in the History of Ideas* (1991)
- Bernand & Gruzinski, *De l'idolâtrie. Une archéologie des sciences religieuses* (1988)
- Billeter F., *Études sur Tchouang-Tseu* (2004)
- Boas F., *Race, Language and Culture* (1940)
- Borgeaud P., *Aux origines de l'histoire des religions* (2004)
- Boyer P., *Religion Explained: The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Thought* (2001)
- Brelich A., *Paidés e Parthenoi* (1969)
- Brown P., *The Cult of the Saints: Its Rise and Function in Latin Christianity* (1981)
- Burkert W., *Homo Necans. Interpretationen Altgriechischer Opferriten und Mythen* (1972)
- Caillois R., *Les jeux et les hommes. Le masque et le vertige* (1958)
- Canetti E., *Masse und Macht* (1960)
- Cardona G.R., *La foresta di piume. Manuale di etnoscienza* (1995)
- Cassirer E., *Philosophie der symbolischen Formen* (1923)
- Certeau M. de, *L'écriture de l'histoire* (1975)
- Crossan J.D., *In Parables: The Challenge of the Historical Jesus* (1973)
- Culianu I.P., *Éros et magie à la Renaissance, 1484* (1984)
- Daube D., *The New Testament and Rabbinic Judaism* (1956)
- De Martino E., *Il mondo magico. Prolegomeni a una storia del magismo* (1948)
- Descola P., *Par-delà nature et culture* (2005)
- Detienne M., *L'invention de la mythologie* (1981)
- Dodds E.R., *Pagan and Christian in an Age of Anxiety: Some Aspects of Religious Experience from Marcus Aurelius to Constantine* (1965)
- Doniger W., *Other Peoples' Myths: The Cave of Echoes* (1989)
- Douglas M., *Purity and Danger: An Analysis of Concepts of Pollution and Taboo* (1966)
- Dumézil G., *Mythe et épopée* (1968-73)
- Dumont L., *Homo Hierarchicus. Essai sur le système des castes* (1966)
- Durkheim É., *Les formes élémentaires de la vie religieuse* (1912)
- Eisler R., *Man into Wolf. An Anthropological Interpretation of Sadism, Masochism and Lycanthropy* (1951)
- Eliade M., *Traité d'histoire des religions* (1949)
- Evans-Pritchard E., *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic Among the Azande* (1937)
- Febvre L., *Le problème de l'incroyance au XVIème siècle. La religion de Rabelais* (1942)
- Frazer J.G., *The Golden Bough: A Study in Magic and Religion* (1906-15)

- Freud S., *Der Mann Moses und die monotheistische Religion* (1939)
- Fustel de Coulanges N.D., *La cité antique* (1864)
- Geertz C., *The Interpretation of Cultures* (1973)
- Ginzberg L., *The Legends of the Jews* (1909-38)
- Ginzburg C., *Storia notturna. Una decifrazione del sabba* (1989)
- Girard R., *La violence et le sacré* (1972)
- Goodenough E.R., *Jewish Symbols in the Greco-Roman Period* (1953-68)
- Goody J., *The Domestication of the Savage Mind* (1977)
- Granet M., *La pensée chinoise* (1934)
- Grottanelli C., *Il sacrificio* (1999)
- Halbwachs M., *La Topographie légendaire des Évangiles en Terre Sainte. Étude de mémoire collective* (1941)
- Hazard P., *La crise de la conscience européenne, 1680-1715* (1935)
- Hollier D., *Le Collège de sociologie, 1937-1939* (1979)
- Huizinga J., *Homo Ludens* (1938)
- Illich I., *In the Vineyard of the Text: A Commentary to Hugh's Didascalicon* (1993)
- James W., *The Varieties of Religious Experience* (1902)
- Jolles A., *Einfache Formen* (1930)
- Kantorowicz E., *The King's Two Bodies: A Study in Mediaeval Political Theology* (1957)
- Kerényi K., *Die griechisch-orientalische Romanliteratur in religionsgeschichtlicher Beleuchtung* (1927)
- Lakoff & Johnson, *Metaphors We Live By* (1980)
- Latour B., *Face à Gaïa. Huit conférences sur le nouveau régime climatique* (2015)
- Léroi-Gourhan A., *Le geste et la parole* (1964-65)
- Lévi-Strauss C., *Anthropologie structurale* (1958) & *La Pensée sauvage* (1962)
- Lincoln B., *Theorizing Myth: Narrative, Ideology, and Scholarship* (1999)
- Lotman J.M., *Vnutri misljaščich mirov. Čelovek, tekst, semiosfera, kult'ura* (1990)
- Mair V.H., *Painting and Performance: Chinese Picture Recitation and Its Indian Genesis* (1988)
- Malamoud C., *Cuire le monde. Rite et pensée dans l'Inde ancienne* (1989)
- Malinowski B., *Argonauts of the Western Pacific* (1961)
- Mauss M., *Sociologie et anthropologie* (1950)
- Müller F.M., *Introduction to the Science of Religion* (1882)
- Neusner J., *Judaism: The Evidence of the Mishnah* (1981)
- Onians R.B., *The Origins of European Thought: About the Body, the Mind, the Soul, the World, Time, and Fate* (1954)
- Overbeck F.C., *Über die Anfänge des Mönchthums* (1867)
- Propp V.J., *Morfologija skazki* (1928)
- Queneau R., *Bâtons, chiffres et lettres* (1965)
- Rappaport R.A., *Ritual and Religion in the Making of Humanity* (1999)
- Rohde E., *Psyche. Seelencult und Unsterblichkeitsglaube der Griechen* (1892)
- Rozik E., *The Roots of Theatre: Rethinking Ritual and Other Theories of Origin* (2002)

- Rykwert J., *The Idea of a Town: The Anthropology of Urban Form* (1976)
- Sahlins M., *Islands of History* (1976)
- Said E.W., *Orientalism* (1978)
- Santillana & Dechend, *Hamlet's Mill: An Essay Investigating the Origins of Human Knowledge and Its Transmission Through Myth* (1969)
- Scholem G., *Sabbatai Ševi: The Mystical Messiah* (1973)
- Schweitzer A., *Von Reimarus zu Wrede. Eine Geschichte der Leben-Jesu-Forschung* (1906)
- Scott J.C., *Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts* (1990)
- Segal A.F., *Life After Death: A History of the Afterlife in Western Religion* (2004)
- Smith J.Z., *Imagining Religion* (1982) & *Relating Religion* (2004)
- Smith W.C., *What Is Scripture? A Comparative Approach* (1994)
- Stroumsa G.G., *Hidden Wisdom: Esoteric Traditions and the Roots of Christian Mysticism* (1996)
- Suzuki D.T., *Essays in Zen Buddhism* (1927-34)
- Taubes J., *Die politische Theologie des Paulus* (1993)
- Taylor C.M., *A Secular Age* (2007)
- Todorov T., *La conquête de l'Amérique. La question de l'autre* (1982)
- Tolkien J.R.R., *On Fairy-Stories* (1939; 1964)
- Turner V., *The Ritual Process: Structure and Anti-Structure* (1969)
- Usener H.K., *Götternamen. Versuch einer Lehre von der Religiösen Begriffsbildung* (1896)
- Van Gennep A., *Les rites de passage* (1909)
- Warburg A., *A Lecture on Serpent Ritual* (1939)
- Weber M., *Gesammelte Aufsätze zur Religionssoziologie* (1920)
- Whitehouse H., *Modes of Religiosity: A Cognitive Theory of Religious Transmission* (2004)
- Williams R., *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society* (1976)
- Wittgenstein L., *Bemerkungen über Frazers „The Golden Bough“* (1931)
- Yerushalmi Y.H., *Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory* (1982)
- Yu A.C., *Comparative Journeys: Essays on Literature and Religion East and West* (2008)
- Zipes J., *The Irresistible Fairy Tale: The Cultural and Social History of a Genre* (2012)

NOTE. There is no need to underline the idiosyncratic and 'non-canonical' character of the present list. For one thing, the selection does not include modern works that should be regarded as milestones in the critical study of religion, such as Montaigne's *Apologie de Raymond Sebond* (1588), Spinoza's *Tractatus theologico-politicus* (1680), or Vico's *Scienza Nuova* (1744). Textbooks and anthologies have been excluded as well: in this respect, highly recommended are W. Braun and R.T. McCutcheon (eds.), *Guide to the Study of Religion* (2000); H.G. Kippenberg and K. von Stuckrad, *Einführung in die Religionswissenschaft* (2003); J.J. Kripal (et alii), *Comparing Religion: Coming to Terms* (2014); R.A. Segal, *The Myth and Ritual Theory: An Anthology* (1998); M.A. Stausberg and S. Engler (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Study of Religion* (2016); M. Taylor (ed.), *Critical Terms for Religious Studies* (1998). On the very concept of religion, cf. also T. Asad, *Genealogies of Religion: Discipline and Reasons of Power in Christianity and Islam* (1993); C.A. Barton and D. Boyarin, *Imagine No Religion: How Modern Abstractions Hide Ancient Realities* (2016); D. Dubuisson, *L'Occident et la religion. Mythes, science et idéologie* (1998); J.S. Jensen, *What Is Religion?* (2014); J.A. Josephson Storm, *The Invention of Religion in Japan* (2012); T. Masuzawa, *The Invention of World Religions: Or, How European Universalism Was Preserved in the Language of Pluralism* (2005); B. Nongbri, *Before Religion: A History of a Modern Concept* (2013); and I. Strenski, *Understanding Theories of Religion* (2006; 2015). Last Updated: December 2021.