Aspects of Self Consciousness and Predicted Religious Identification Change in Romania – Roles for Psychology and Theology

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Abstract
This paper discusses the roles of consciousness, self-consciousness, and religious identification in the First and Second Axial Periods. Challenges to Modernity are outlined via constructivist critique. Religious identification in Romania seems, as it is in the West, to be in decline. The purported phenomenon needs to be studied to learn if the decline in Romania reaches the 60th percentile of believers by mid-Century compared to the present level of 81% claimed by Romanian Orthodox Christian adherents. Any such studies will be attacked by reactionary status quo forces as inimical to and prejudiced against Romanian Christianity if history repeats itself.

Keywords
self-consciousness, religious identification, belief, axial period, neuroscience

Setting the Argument in Motion

It has been argued that the First Axial Period in religious beliefs development took place between the 8th and 2nd Centuries BCE. There, one could account for the polytheism of the Greeks and Hindus, the monotheism of the Jews, and some of the roots of messianic thinking (Jaspers, 2012). Socrates, for example, argued for, as written by Plato, a simple non material substance or essentialism to explain the source of human consciousness, self-consciousness, and human destiny beyond the corrigible life of materialism. This dualism could be conceptualized as Form and Matter. Since the Form was simple, it was therefore non-corrigible, indestructible, and everlasting because Form preexisted Matter (or at least was parallel to Matter as if Matter

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