

Leslie Francis

Profile

Leslie J Francis is Honorary Director of the St Mary's Centre, Professor of Religions and Education within the Religions and Education Research Unit, University of Warwick, and Canon Theologian of Bangor Cathedral, Wales. He obtained his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 1976. His published works have been recognised by three higher doctorates: ScD from Cambridge in 1997, DD from Oxford in 2001 and DLitt from University of Wales, Bangor in 2007.



Research interests

Leslie's research in religious education has been shaped by creative links with practical and empirical theology and with the individual differences approach to psychology. Leslie J Francis' current research initiatives include:

- assessing the antecedents, consequences and correlates of individual differences in attitudes towards religion during childhood, adolescence and adulthood, within Christian, Hindu, Islamic and Jewish traditions
- assessing the role of personality in religious development and expression, drawing on personality theories proposed by Eysenck, Cattell, and Jung, as well as the Big Five Factor model
- assessing work-related psychological health and professional burnout among religious educators
- assessing learning styles in religious and theological education
- assessing the distinctiveness of church schools and faith-based schools within both the state-maintained and independent sectors of education
- monitoring changes within the Christian churches across a variety of denominations.

Publications

Leslie has published material in the following fields,

Monitoring Religious Attitudes; Personality and Religion; Church Schools; Church Life; Clergy Studies; Religion and Values; Psychology of Religion; Theology, Religion and Education; Measurement of Personality; Information Technology and Television.

1 Monitoring religious attitudes

Book: authored

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Contributions to Books

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M. Robbins and L.J. Francis, Are religious people happier? a study among undergraduates, in L.J. Francis, W.K. Kay and W.S. Campbell (eds), *Research in Religious Education*, Leominster, Fowler Wright Books, 1996, pp 207-218

Articles

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L.J. Francis, The child's attitude towards religion: a review of research, *Educational Research*, 21, 103-108, 1979

L.J. Francis, The priest as test administrator in attitude research, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 18, 78-81, 1979

L.J. Francis, The young person's religion: a crisis of attitude? *Scottish Journal of Theology*, 33, 159-169, 1980

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- L.J. Francis, M. Fearn, J. Astley and C. Wilcox, The relationship between Christian commitment and motivation to study religion at A-level: a preliminary investigation, *Journal of Education and Christian Belief*, 3, 115-122, 1999.
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- C.A. Lewis, L.J. Francis and P. Ng, Reliability and validity of a Chinese translation of a short scale of attitude toward Christianity, *Journal of Personality and Clinical Studies*, 19, 195-200, 2003.
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2 Personality and religion

Books: authored

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10 Information technology and television

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Editorial commitments

Leslie undertakes a number of editorial commitments in addition to his teaching and research work.

He currently serves as:

- co-editor of Archive for the Psychology of Religion

- associate editor of Journal of Beliefs and Values
- senior editor of Rural Theology.

He also serves on the editorial boards of the following journals:

- British Journal of Religious Education
- British Journal of Theological Education
- Implicit Religion
- International Journal for the Psychology of Religion
- International Journal of Education and Religion
- Journal of Christian Education
- Journal of Empirical Theology
- Journal of Research on Christian Education
- Mental Health, Religion and Culture
- Pastoral Psychology
- Psychology of Religion and Spirituality.

Book series

He also serves as co-editor for three series of books:

- Exploring Faith by Darton, Longman and Todd
- Explorations in Practical, Pastoral and Empirical Theology by Ashgate
- Religion, Education and Culture by University of Wales Press.

Professional memberships

Leslie currently serves as:

- Vice President of the International Society of Empirical Research in Theology
- Vice President of the International Seminar on Religious Education and Values
- President of the Rural Theology Association
- Chair of the Alistair Hardy Trust.

He is also a member of:

- American Psychological Association
- Association for the Sociology of Religion
- British Educational Research Association
- British Psychological Society (Fellow from 1988)
- British Sociological Association (Sociology of Religion Study Group) Christian Education Movement
- College of Preceptors (Fellow from 1994)
- Education and Ethos Network (Board member since 1997)
- International Academy of Practical Theology
- International Association for the Psychology of Religion
- International Seminar on Religious Education and Values National Advisory Panel for Religious Education (Chair since 2005)
- Network for Psychological Type and Christian Faith (Co-convenor since 2002)
- Network for the Study of Implicit Religion (Trustee since 2002)

- Religious Research Association
- Social Research Association
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.

Conference contributions

Leslie speaks regularly at national and international conferences. Recent presentations include:

British Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Study Group, Manchester, England, 3-5 April 2006 (Introducing the New Indices of Religious Orientation NIRO): conceptualisation and measurement).

International Society of Empirical Research in Theology, Bangor, Wales, 20-22 April 2006 (Comparative empirical research in religion: conceptual and operational challenges within empirical theology).

Implicit Religion Annual Denton Conference, Denton Hall, England, 5-7 May 2006 (The unconventional beliefs of conventional churchgoers: the matter of luck).

British Psychological Society Northern Ireland Branch, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 12-14 May 2006 (Sixth-form religion in Northern Ireland (1968-1998): replication and extension).

Institute for Socio-Biblical Studies Conference, University of Sheffield, England, 11-12 July 2006 (The SIFT method: an applied approach to biblical hermeneutics and liturgical preaching).

International Seminar on Religious Education and Values, Driebergen, Netherlands, 30 July - 4 August 2006 (Invited presentation: Reforming tradition, a liberally conservative approach: a response to Gabriel Moran).

The 114th Convention of the American Psychological Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, 10-13 August 2006 (invited address: Faith and Psychology: the role of empirical theology and psychological research in ministry development).

The seventh Ecumenical Conference on Christian Parapsychology, University of Exeter, England, 10-12 September 2006 (Drawing back the veil: paranormal belief and the teenage world view).

The European Conference on Christian Education, Vienna, Austria, 29 January - 3 February 2007 (invited series of three key note addresses: The theory and practice of Christian education).

Implicit Religion Annual Denton Conference, Denton Hall, England, 11-13 May 2007 (Personality, religion and paranormal belief: a study among teenagers).

Institute for Socio-Biblical Studies Conference, University of Sheffield, England, 17-18 July 2007 (Practice interpretation and psychological type: applying the SIFT method of biblical hermeneutics).

International Society for the Sociology of Religion, Leipzig, Germany, 23-27 July 2007 (Psychological type and predisposition for professional burnout among church leaders in Australia, England and New Zealand).

The 115th Convention of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, California, United States of America, 17-20 August 2007 (The relationship of intrinsic, extrinsic and quest orientations to Jungian psychological type among Christians).

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Tampa, Florida, United States of America, 2-4 November 2007 (Mystical orientation and psychological type: an empirical study among guests staying at a Benedictine Abbey).

British Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Study Group, Birmingham, England, 8-10 April 2008 (invited keynote address: Too many young people and too many variables?

Insights from and limitations with a quantitative approach). International Society of Empirical Research in Theology, Wuerzburg, Germany, 10-12 April 2008 (Clergy work-related psychological health: listening to ministers of word and sacrament within the United Reformed Church in England).

Inter-University Research Colloquium on Religion and Education, University of Oxford, England, 22-24 April 2008 (Alternative spiritualities: different personalities? An enquiry among 14- to 16-year-old students).

Implicit Religion Annual Denton Conference, Denton Hall, England, 9-11 May 2008 (Attitude toward Christianity and New Age beliefs among undergraduate students: a study in implicit religion?).