

Fundamental challenges for Christians in the culture of academic psychology and the cognitive sciences

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[NB: To confirm with David if this is the correct title as it was not clear from his communication if it was.]

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Cross-cultural mission for Christ in academia requires the Spirit's power, prayer, and support and inspiration from fellow-Christians. All that will come to nothing, however, without intellectually expert hard graft in research and/or teaching (including the research-based academic training of service practitioners).

I took up the academic discipline of Psychology from graduate backgrounds in both the natural sciences and the humanities. Initially this was an effort to inform my wing of the Church of what had been learnt about human life within a feared and hated hotbed of atheism. I slowly learnt from the Lord that this was the mission field into which He had sent me to promote a biblical understanding of the richness of the workings of a human life across the cultures of the biological and physical sciences and the philosophical and literary/political humanities.

My team's research over the decades has yielded two key innovations. One is a theory and method for working out from a few careful observations what is actually going on in a person's mind, consciously or not. The other is a way for 'ordinary' individuals to use their own and others' experiences with improving wellbeing by changing what they regularly do, as well as for services to support them more effectively.

So the mission turns out to be to all the people, not just to the academics - gaining better understanding of the lives of members of another culture (or one's own), and pushing back the Enemy's kingdom of ill health, material poverty and personal misery.