

We all represent God(s) in our minds, whether we "believe in" them or not, but what happens when people embody their mental representations – for example, when they become "possessed" by gods?

This seminar will introduce students to a variety of scientific and humanistic methods that can be employed in the study of anomalous experiences. Depending on the cultural context, these experiences maybe deemed "religious", "spiritual", "supernatural", "paranormal" or even "pathological". As a Crossroads Program sponsored class, the course will focus on designing research projects using interdisciplinary and integrated approaches from Religious Studies, Psychology, Cognitive Science of Religion, Anthropology, and Neuroscience.

Professor: Vikas Malhotra Tuesdays, 2-4:50 PM – HSSB 4080

Spring 2015