

Andrew Newberg

Andrew Newberg (* 1966 in Philadelphia) ist ein US-amerikanischer Hirnforscher und Religionswissenschaftler. Er ist ein Pionier auf dem Gebiet der Neurotheologie.

Leben

Newberg schloss 1993 sein Medizinstudium an der Universität von Pennsylvania ab. In den darauf folgenden Jahren arbeitete er am Universitätsspital von Pennsylvania und erlangte die Facharzttitel für Innere Medizin (1997), Nuklearmedizin (1998) und Nuklear-Kardiologie (1998).

Heute ist Newberg Professor für Radiologie am Institut für Nuklearmedizin, Direktor des Institutes für Neuro-PET Forschung und Dozent für Religionswissenschaften an der Universität von Pennsylvania. Er war einer der Mitgründer des Institutes zur wissenschaftlichen Untersuchung der Meditation an der gleichen Universität. Newberg machte Studien mittels bildgebender Verfahren über Demenz, Epilepsie und anderen neurologischen und psychiatrischen Erkrankungen. Er untersuchte auch die neurophysiologischen Vorgänge bei Akupunktur und anderer alternativer Therapieformen. Sein Forschungsschwerpunkt ist jedoch bis heute die Gehirnphysiologie der Spiritualität und die neurologische Aktivität während religiöser oder mystischer Erfahrungen.

Im Jahre 1999 veröffentlichte er sein erstes Buch *The Mystical Mind*. Er verfasste es zusammen mit Dr. Eugene D'Aquilli (1940–1998), Neurobiologe und seit 20 Jahren Professor für Psychiatrie am der Universität von Pennsylvania. Das Buch handelt von der neurologischen Betrachtung von religiösen Erfahrungen. Aus den Erkenntnissen von sechs Jahren Forschung im Gebiet der sogenannten Neurotheologie entstand das Buch *Why God Won't Go Away* (In der deutschen Version: *Der gedachte Gott*). Auch diese Arbeit verfasste er zusammen mit Dr. Eugene D'Aquilli. D'Aquilli starb jedoch 1998, noch vor der Fertigstellung des Buches im Jahre 2001.

Bücher

- *The Mystical Mind*, Augsburg Fortress Publishers 1999, ISBN 0-800-63163-3
- *Der gedachte Gott*, Piper 2003, ISBN 3-492-24138-7

Kritik

Kritiker Newbergs, wie z. B. Friedrich Wilhelm Graf, bemängeln die schmale experimentelle Grundlage seiner Erkenntnisse und dass er zu stark von der Idee befangen sei, die mystischen Empfindungen in nur einem Hirnareal zu lokalisieren.

Weblinks

- Persönliche Webseite von Andrew Newberg ^[1] (en)

Referenzen

[1] <http://www.andrewnewberg.com/default.asp>

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