

Dr. Robert E. Sears III
Faculty, School of Theology English
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Educational Qualifications

Doctor of Philosophy (Intercultural Studies), *Fuller Theological Seminary, USA*

Master of Divinity, *Fuller Theological Seminary, USA*

Bachelor of Science (Human Biology), *University of California San Diego, USA*

Denomination

Nondenominational (charismatic evangelical)

Areas of Interest: Research / Teaching

Theology of Religions

Theology and Science

Psychology of Religion

Missiology

Experience

Academic

Faculty Member, School of Theology, TCA College, Singapore (2022 – Current)

Faculty Member, Learning & Development, TCA College, Singapore (2017 – 2022)

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Fuller Theological Seminary, USA (2019)

Teaching Assistant, Fuller Theological Seminary, USA (2015)

English Teacher, Jesus College, Nepal (2008 – 2009)

Ministry

Youth Minister, Triumphant Church – Home of Christians, USA (2010 – 2012)

Young Adults Pastor, Foothill Vineyard Church, USA (2009 – 2010)

Professional

Editor of Fuller Global Update, Fuller Theological Seminary (2012 – 2013)

Membership / Professional Affiliation

International Association for Mission Studies (2016 – present)

Grants and Awards

Dean's Award for Excellence (2016), School of Intercultural Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary
Student Research Honorable Mention (2015), International Association for the Study of Dreams
Crowell Trust Research Grant (2013), School of Intercultural Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary

Publications

Articles

- 1) Sears, Robert Eugene. 2019. "Commentary: Measuring counterintuitiveness in supernatural agent dream imagery." *Frontiers in Psychology* no. 10: 2855. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2019.02855.
- 2) Sears, Robert E. 2018. "Dreams and Christian conversion: Gleanings from a Pentecostal church context in Nepal." *Mission Studies* no. 35 (2): 183-203. doi: 10.1163/15733831-12341566.
- 3) Sears, Robert E. 2017. "The naturalness of religious ideas: Soundings from the cognitive science of religion." *Epistemology and Philosophy of Science* no. 54 (4): 82-98. doi: 10.5840/eps201754474.
- 4) Sears, Robert E. 2017. "The nature of experience: Empirical considerations and theological ramifications." *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* no. 69 (1): 13-26.
- 5) Sears, Robert E., and Ralph W. Hood, Jr. 2017. "Dreaming mystical experience amongst Christians and Hindus: The impact of culture, language, and religious participation on responses to the Dreaming Mysticism Scale." *Mental Health, Religion & Culture* no. 19 (8): 883-845. doi: 10.1080/13674676.2016.1266472.
- 6) Hornbeck, Ryan G., and Robert E. Sears. 2015. "Mysticism and mind: Using cognitive science to explore religious experience." *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion* no. 7 (2): 59-80. doi: 10.24204/ejpr.v7i2.120.
- 7) Sears, Robert E. 2015. "The construction, preliminary validation, and correlates of a dream-specific scale for mystical experience." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* no. 54 (1): 134-155. doi: 10.1111/jssr.12169.

Book Chapters

- 1) Sears, Robert E. 2021. "Paul and evolutionary theory: Recognizing and resolving the tension between scripture and science." In *God and Creation*, edited by Roland Chia. Ethos Institute Engagement Series. Singapore: Sower Publishing Centre.
- 2) Sears, Robert E. 2022. "Conceiving religious dreams and mystical experiences: A predictive processing investigation." In *The Oxford Handbook of the Cognitive Science of Religion*, edited by Justin L. Barrett. Oxford University Press. doi: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190693350.013.11.

Book Reviews

- 1) Sears, Robert E. 2016. "Review: *Seeking the sacred with psychoactive substances: Chemical paths to spirituality and to God*, 2 vols edited by J. Harold Ellens." *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* no. 20 (2): 117-120.

Selected Professional Presentations

- 1) "Creation and evolution." Ethos Annual Conference 2020, Singapore.
- 2) "Dreams and the church in Nepal." 2016 Quadrennial Meeting of the International Association for Mission Studies (IAMS), Seoul, Korea.
- 3) "Spiritual discernment and cognitive psychology: The case of dreams." 2016. Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA.
- 4) "What makes a dream seem spiritual? : Applying attribution theory to the dreams of Nepalese Christians and Hindus." 2015 Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Newport Beach, CA.
- 5) "Big dreams and the Nepalese: A quantitative investigation using word searches and content analysis." 2015. 32nd Annual Meeting of the International Association for the Study of Dreams, Virginia Beach, VA. [Audio available for download from <http://www.asdreams.org/>]
- 6) "One or many? How the psychology of religion and emotion can help us understand mystical experience and critique the typological debate within the theology of religions." 2015. Center for Missiological Research, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA.
- 7) "Dreaming mystical experience amongst Christians and Hindus: The impact of sociocultural background and religious affiliation on perceptions of mystical phenomena." 2014 Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN.