

SERIES 1 - Definitions

Secular 1 – non-religious, “of the world” aspects of culture

Secular 2 – decline of Christian practice, a “secularisation” of society

Secular 3 – Many options, a plurality of belief and unbelief

Subtraction stories – how we have subtracted religion from our understanding of life

Enchanted world – a world infused and open to the supernatural

Disenchanted world – refers to only the physical, the material with no other forces at play

Buffered self – not ‘porous’ or vulnerable to both positive and negative spiritual forces. Free to choose options of belief rather than simply responding to spiritual forces

Social Imaginary – the subconscious influences on our life, the reality of all in Western culture, the water in the goldfish bowl we swim in. Based on natural order rather than supernatural order

Immanent Frame – the physical, material, tangible aspects of life

Transcendent – the intangible aspects of life - aspects of God, meaning, spirituality, fullness

Open/Closed Take – Open or closed to the idea of the transcendent, a personal sense of the transcendent

Open/Closed Spin – an extreme form of a take; convinced there is no other way of looking at the possibility of the transcendent



SERIES 1 - Summary notes

1. Default cultural context- secular

- Only the physical evidence based facts are accepted in Western society
- The rest we are free to believe or not believe

2. Religious practice not faith is declining

- Data suggest continuing decline in formal Christian belief
- Society concludes modernity and scientific evidence diminishes need for faith
- But the majority still have a level of spirituality

3. Believe through doubting

- There are now a variety of options to believe or not believe
- We need to be able to defend what and why we believe, recognising our doubts



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