

Introduction to the Book Forum on *Big Dreams*

Lewis R. Rambo¹

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Kelly Bulkeley is one of the most lucid, compelling, informative, and—dare I say it—eloquent writers in the fields of psychology and religion. I have known him personally for more than 20 years, but I believe I would sing his praises even if I had never met him in person.

Big Dreams takes us on an exciting intellectual adventure. As the four commentators on the book note, Bulkeley explores a wide range of disciplines to unravel the mystery and science of dreams and their relationship to religion. We present to you the following distinguished panel of respondents who highlight and assess the various facets of this book. The forum concludes with Bulkeley's responses to the reviewers' reflections.

William B. Parsons is Professor of Religious Studies at Rice University. His PhD is from the University of Chicago. He has published seven books, including *Religion and Psychology: Mapping the Terrain* and *Freud and Augustine in Dialogue: Psychoanalysis, Mysticism, and the Culture of Modern Spirituality*, as well as dozens of essays in multiple journals and anthologies. He has served as Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Rice University, Director of the Rice University Humanities Research Center, and Editor of *Religious Studies Review*, and he has been a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Hebrew University. For more information, go to <http://reli.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=256>.

June McDaniel is professor of the history of religions in the Department of Religious Studies at the College of Charleston. Her PhD is from the University of Chicago, and her MTS is from Emory University. Her most recent research has been on Hinduism in Bali, Indonesia. She has had three books and over 40 articles published. McDaniel's books include *The Madness of the Saints: Ecstatic Religion in Bengal*, *Offering Flowers*, *Feeding Skulls: Popular Goddess Worship in West Bengal*, *Making Virtuous Daughters and Wives: An Introduction to Women's Brata Rituals in Bengali Folk Religion*, and *Perceiving the Divine Through the Human Body: Mystical Sensuality* (edited with Thomas Cattoi). For more information, go to <http://religiousstudies.cofc.edu/about/faculty-staff-listing/mcdaniel-june.php>.

Pamela Cooper-White is the Christiane Brooks Johnson Professor of Psychology and Religion at Union Theological Seminary, New York. She earned a PhD from the Institute for Clinical Social Work in Chicago and a PhD from Harvard University. She is the author of five

✉ Lewis R. Rambo
lewisrayrambo@yahoo.com

¹ San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo, CA, USA

books, including *The Cry of Tamar: Violence against Women and the Church's Response*, and *Shared Wisdom: Use of the Self in Pastoral Care and Counseling*. She was the 2013–2014 Fulbright-Freud Scholar of Psychoanalysis in Vienna, Austria, and is currently completing a book on religion, anti-Semitism, and Freud's Vienna circle for Routledge Press. For more information, go to <https://utsnyc.edu/faculty/pamela-cooper-white/>.

James W. Jones is Distinguished Professor, Emeritus, of Religion at Rutgers University and Senior Research Fellow at the Center on Terrorism at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. He is also a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and a Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. Jones holds earned doctorates from Rutgers University (Clinical Psychology) and Brown University (Religious Studies) and an honorary doctorate from Uppsala University in Sweden. He is the author of fifteen books as well as numerous professional papers. Jones is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Archive for the Psychology of Religion*, and he maintains a private practice of clinical psychology. For more information, go to <http://religion.rutgers.edu/graduate/graduate-faculty/888-james-w-jones-professor-4>.

Kelly Bulkeley is a psychologist of religion who specializes in dreams and dreaming. He is director of the Sleep and Dream Database (SDDb), a Senior Editor of the APA journal *Dreaming*, and former President of the International Association for the Study of Dreams. He has a PhD in Religion and Psychological Studies from the University of Chicago Divinity School and an MTS from Harvard Divinity School. Bulkeley is the author or editor of several books, including *The Wilderness of Dreams: Exploring the Religious Meaning of Dreams in Modern Religious Culture*, *Dreaming Beyond Death: A Guide to Pre-Death Dreams and Visions*, *American Dreamers: What Dreams Tell Us about the Political Psychology of Conservatives, Liberals, and Everyone Else*, *Dreaming in the World's Religions: A Comparative History*, *Lucid Dreaming: New Perspectives on Consciousness in Sleep*, and *Big Dreams: The Science of Dreaming and the Origins of Religion*. He lives in Portland, Oregon. For more information, go to <http://kellybulkeley.org/>.