

THE GOD OF DECEPTION

A presentation from the upcoming book, *The God We Outgrew*
What Holds Us When the Stories We Trust No Longer Do

October 16th 7 – 830 pm Sydney time

Online registration: <https://activelearningint.com/events/the-god-of-deception/>

Live presentation: [Reserve your spot](#)

Shakespeare Hotel

200 Devonshire St · Surry Hills, NS

By Dr Carlos A Raimundo

Dr.Carlos@ActiveLearningInt.Com

Author Feelings Allowed: www.FeelingsAllowed.com

More articles from Carlos: <https://activelearningint.com/blog/#>

☀ About the Presentation

When Belief No Longer Holds: A Neuroscience of Faith and Solace

This session is not a debate about the existence of God. It is a reflective journey through the evolution of religion, ideology, and the divine in human consciousness. Drawing on insights from neuroscience, it explores how the brain's longing for meaning, safety, and connection gives rise to belief—offering comfort and belonging, yet at times also fuelling division and pain.

≈ The presentation has two aims:

- **Beyond Belief:** To foster openness and dialogue across ideological, religious, and cultural divides—cultivating unity in diversity rather than separation or hostility.
- **Beyond the Container:** To explore how we can find solace, peace and strength when old beliefs no longer sustain us.

Ultimately, it invites reflection rather than debate—a space to wonder at the meeting point between science and spirit, certainty and doubt, and to rediscover what might still hold us when old stories no longer do.

About Dr Carlos Raimundo



Dr Carlos Raimundo is a retired psychiatrist, psychotherapist, researcher, and author whose work bridges medicine, theology, and neuroscience. Born into evangelical fundamentalism, he later became a Baptist pastor before exploring Judaism and Ignatian spirituality, cultivating an open and reflective approach to belief and meaning.

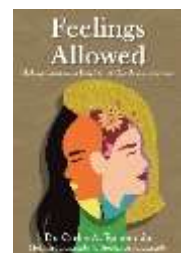
As an Adjunct Research Fellow at Charles Sturt University, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, he continues to explore emotional literacy, neuroscience, and spirituality. Based in northern NSW, he finds joy in family, community, and a life lived in gratitude and wonder.

[More about Carlos](#)

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A free first draft of the upcoming book *The God We Outgrew* is available to those who purchase “Feelings Allowed” as an eBook or paper copy. For more information, visit www.FeelingsAllowed.com



Handout

1 Sentience and the Capacity for Suffering








- From amoeba to chimpanzee to humans, consciousness emerges.
 - What makes humans different?
- The compelling need to ask “why”—because we can.
- A gazelle flees; a mother grieves, and superstition begins.
- We seek certainty—not just survival.
- There isn't a why or purpose; we create the purpose in the moment.

2 The Brain's Hunger for Certainty

- The palimpsest: our rational brain overlays the emotional brain.
- Experience lives in non-verbal areas, yet we crave the feeling of “knowing.”
- We don't live in reality—we live in our perception of it.
- Damasio's metaphor: the brain as an orchestra, harmonising emotion and reason.
- The brain seeks comfort, not truth.
- In tense fields, we cling to ideology; in relaxed fields, we explore.
- Religion and ideology activate the insula and precuneus—regions tied to self and empathy.
- Fear, amygdala, remnants of hunter-gatherers. Knowing our fears -Enneagram

3 From Fire to Fantasy: How Superstition Shaped God

Using Spiral Dynamics to trace belief evolution: ([Don Beck, Clare Graves](#))

<i>Meme</i>	<i>Era</i>	<i>Belief Mode</i>
 Beige	~100,000 BCE	Survival Instinctive
 Purple	~50,000–10,000 BCE	Tribal Magical – Superstition
 Red	~10,000–3,000 BCE	Egocentric Power – Scarcity - Territorial
 Blue	~3,000 BCE–1,500 CE	Order, Morality, Sacred Texts – Gods -Dualistic
 Orange	~1600 CE–Present	Rational, Scientific
 Green	~1960s–Present	Communitarian, Relativistic
 Yellow	Emerging	Integrative, Belief-Aware
Yellow isn't just a new belief—it's a shift in how we hold beliefs.		

4 When the Sky Speaks Back

- Why do humans keep talking to the invisible?
 - Tanya Lehrman: We anthropomorphise the divine—giving human traits to non-human entities.
 - The empty chair, seeking messages from others who passed. Becomes an emotional anchor.
 - Belief is individually constructed, yet collectively reinforced.
 - Karen Armstrong: The tension between Myth and Logos.
 - Belief offers belonging, identity, and purpose.
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5 Seeking Myth and Logos

- In relaxed fields, we play with logos and myth.
 - From Evangelical preacher to atheist promoter. Dan Barker: Godless
 - In tense fields, we seek myth for comfort.
 - From an atheist promoter to a Christian believer. Ayaan Hirsi Ali's meeting with Dawkins
 - Beliefs are brain constructs, shaped by experience and emotional acceptability.
 - Relaxation opens space for connection, curiosity, and compassion.
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6 How to Lose Your Faith Without Losing Your Family - Navigating in Yellow

- Inspired by Krisdan's September presentation
 - Sharing beliefs across differences:
 - Navigating insula and precuneus
 - Recognising the palimpsest—our layered selves
 - Noticing when slipping into blue and red levels of thinking.
 - Awareness of one's own and others' judgment.
 - Martin Buber: I and 'Thou, noticing when we slip into I-I and I and It
 - Attributed to Jesus: "The time will come when we'll pray not on the mountain or in Jerusalem, but in spirit and truth." A call to authenticity, not geography.
 - We're not there yet because we still go to Blue and Red really quickly.
 - Recognise- notice and name what I feel — emotional and social intelligence, understanding of own and others' emotions and actions. Expanded in Feelings Allowed, Balboa Press.
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7 What deceives us

- God – gods cannot fail us. Nature cannot fail us. It's our perception and construction that can let us down.
- It's up to us to create meaning and purpose.
- We have what it takes to face even the most challenging situation.
 - We need to pause and listen to the whisper of the internal voice.
- That is the human project: to live with integrity, compassion, and curiosity.

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