

News from Info-Cult

No. 33, February 2016

Marginal Extreme Groups and Radicalization Continue to Remain Areas of Concern As Montreal's Info-Cult Marks 35 Years of Serving The Community

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Info-Cult turned 35 last year! Since 1980, the Montreal-based non-profit organization remains one of North America's most prominent organization offering help and information about different cults, new religious movements and related groups and subjects. To date, Info-Cult has responded to more than 80,000 requests covering over 4,000 groups and subjects!

"Over the last 35 years there has been an increase in the number of religious, spiritual, political and psychological groups claiming to help people achieve their full potential. This trend continued throughout 2015 as Info-Cult responded to approximately 1,000 requests," said Mike Kropveld, Founder and Executive Director of Info-Cult.

"While we have one of the most extensive collections in Canada of material on thousands of different groups and cult-related subjects, Info-Cult has limited financial resources. Still, at times the situation can be overwhelming, as it feels like we're in a David vs. Goliath situation in terms of trying to keep up with all of the groups that are sprouting up," said Carolle Tremblay, President of Info-Cult's Board of Directors.

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Education

2016 Annual International ICOSA Conference, Dallas, United States, June 30-July 2 (Pre-Conference workshops June 29th).

The [International Cultic Studies Association](#) (ICSA) is conducting its 2016 Annual International Conference with [Info-Secte/Info-Cult](#) of Montreal.

This year's theme is **Recovery From Cults and High-Control Groups**. There will be a track on the conference theme as well as tracks addressing the needs of mental health professionals, former members, researchers, families, and others.

To register for the conference, and other information such as the program, hotel reservations, etc...:

<http://www.icsahome.com/events/conferenceannual>



*International ICOSA
Conference 2016
Dallas, Texas*

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For example, in 2015, Info-Cult dealt with approximately 1,000 requests concerning 130 groups and subjects of which 228 were catalogued. Info-Cult also responded to over 100 family-related concerns about a loved one who was involved in a particular group, as well as 30 professionals and government agencies seeking information about a group or help for a client.

Queries for 2015 focused on numerous issues including astrology, voodoo, Satanism, exorcism, healers and mediums. Recent concerns also touched on Ayahuasca tea ceremonies taking place both here and abroad as well as radicalization and extreme forms of belief. Other noteworthy cases included Chantal Lavigne and her death in a sweat lodge, Lev Tahor and the allegations of widespread child abuse and individuals getting involved in extreme groups and radicalization.

As well, Info-Cult Board members and staff wrote two texts ([here](#) and [here](#)) that focused on the recruitment by cultic groups and the similarities of the appeal of ISIS and related extremist groups where violence plays a role. This is obviously of grave concern as the issue of security threats emanating from extreme political views and extreme forms of belief here and abroad is a reality.

"Over the years we have established contacts with an extensive international network of individuals and private and public organizations so we can remain as informed as possible of different groups or trends that are arising. 2015 was a busy year and everything points to the fact that these trends will continue in 2016. Remaining vigilant and keeping up-to-date on marginal and extreme groups and disseminating factual information remains one of the strongest tools we have in our arsenal in terms of dealing with them," said Carolle Tremblay.

Entrance to Info-Cult's Library



Education

Info-Cult's Web Site

Different pages on our website are updated on an ongoing basis and a number of documents and programs are available in their entirety. For example:

Legal and Government Documents

This page <http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/ic-gov.html> provides a range of government studies and reports, legal decisions and other documents from 19 countries and the Council of Europe.

Publications and Documents by Info-Cult and Colleagues

Recent additions are available in their entirety at:
<http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/ICPubs.html>

Media Articles

A recently added new page to our site:
<http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/media-articles.html>

Bookmark our site: www.infocult.org **and keep up to date**

New Acquisitions December 2015:

The combined list which includes the library acquisitions since 1999 can be found here: <http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/ic-selacq.html>. If you would like to know about the rest of our collection (journals, newsletters, file, videos, etc...) please contact us. Additional information on these acquisitions can be found on our web site at: www.infosecte.org See: Info-Cult's Library Collection.

December 2015

BOOKS



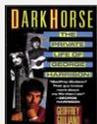
Bowden, Hugh
[*Mystery Cults of the Ancient World*](#)
Princeton University Press
C2010, Princeton



Brown, Charles; Paul Bernadeane & James Russell Strole
[*Together Forever: an Invitation to Physical Immortality*](#)
Eternal Flame Foundation
C1990, Scottsdale



D'Antonio, Michael
[*Heaven on Earth: Dispatches from America's Spiritual Frontier*](#)
Crown Publishers Inc.
C1992, New York



Giulano, Geoffrey
[*Dark Horse: The Private Life of George Harrison*](#)
Plume
C1989, New York

New Acquisitions, December 2015

BOOKS

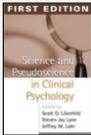


Katz, Fred E.

[*Ordinary People and Extraordinary Evil: a Report on the Beguiling of Evil*](#)

State University of New York Press

C1993, Albany

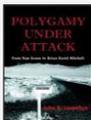


Lilienfeld, Scott O., Steven Jay Lynn & Jeffrey M. Lohr, Editors

[*Science and Pseudoscience in Clinical Psychology*](#)

The Guilford Press

C2003, New York

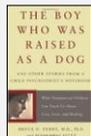


Llewellyn, John R.

[*Polygamy Under Attack: From Tom Green to Brian David Mitchell*](#)

Agreka Books

C2004

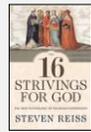


Perry, Bruce D. & Maia Szalavitz,

[*The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog and Other Stories from A Child Psychiatrist's Notebook*](#)

Basic Books

C2006, New York

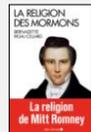


Reiss, Steven

[*The 16 Strivings for God: The New Psychology of Religious Experiences*](#)

Mercer University Press

C2015, Macon



Rigal-Cellard, Bernadette

[*La religion des Mormons*](#)

Albin Michel

C2012, Paris

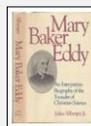


Scott, Sara

[*The Politics and Experience of Ritual Abuse: beyond disbelief*](#)

Open University Press

C2001, Buckingham

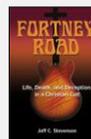


Silberger, Julius Jr.

[*Mary Baker Eddy: An Interpretive Biography of the Founder of Christian Science*](#)

Little, Brown and Company

C1980, Boston, Toronto



Stevenson, Jeff C.

[*Fortney Road: Life, Death, and Deception in a Christian Cult*](#)

Freethought House

C2015 Minneapolis-St. Paul

THÈSE/THESIS

Kendall, Lois

[*A Psychological Exploration into the Effects of Former Membership of 'Extremist Authoritarian Sects'*](#)

(Two Volumes)

A thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Buckingham Chilterns University College, Brunel University

May 2006

Info-Cult on Facebook



Find us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/InfoCult.InfoSecte>



Info-Cult E-mail Information Lists (English and French)

Info-Cult's **free email service** offers subscribers: articles on cults, new religious movements and related subjects, announcements of upcoming conferences, television programs and updates about Info-Cult. For more information about this service:

http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/Options_EN.html



Info-Cult on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/InfoCult.InfoSecte)



Info-Cult's videos can be accessed on our YouTube page:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/infosecte>

DONATE NOW

Info-Cult is a registered charitable organization and is recognized for its role in responding to a real need in our society. Info-Cult is able to carry out its activities thanks in large part to the support of people like you who believe we provide a vital community service. Please consider donating to Info-Cult today.

Online at:



<https://www.canadahelps.org/services/wa/dnm/en/#/page/16231>

Or by:

PayPal

Go to www.infocult.org and click on **DONATE NOW**

Or by mail to

Info-Cult at: 5655 Park Ave, Suite 208, Montreal, QC, Canada H2V 4H2.

Donations to Info-Cult are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated.