

Uncertainty and Mortality

Two Stubborn Particulars of
RE for Cohesive Communities

Julian Stern

York St John University

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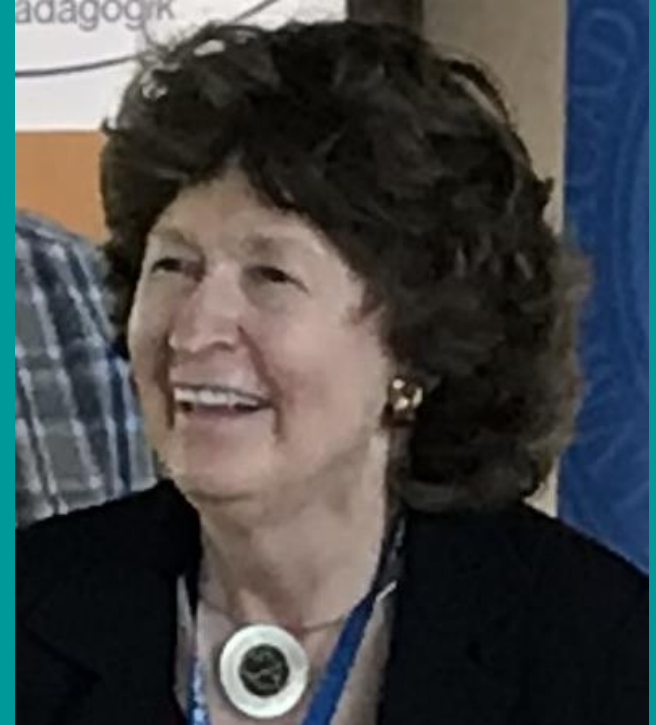
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Introduction



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Introduction

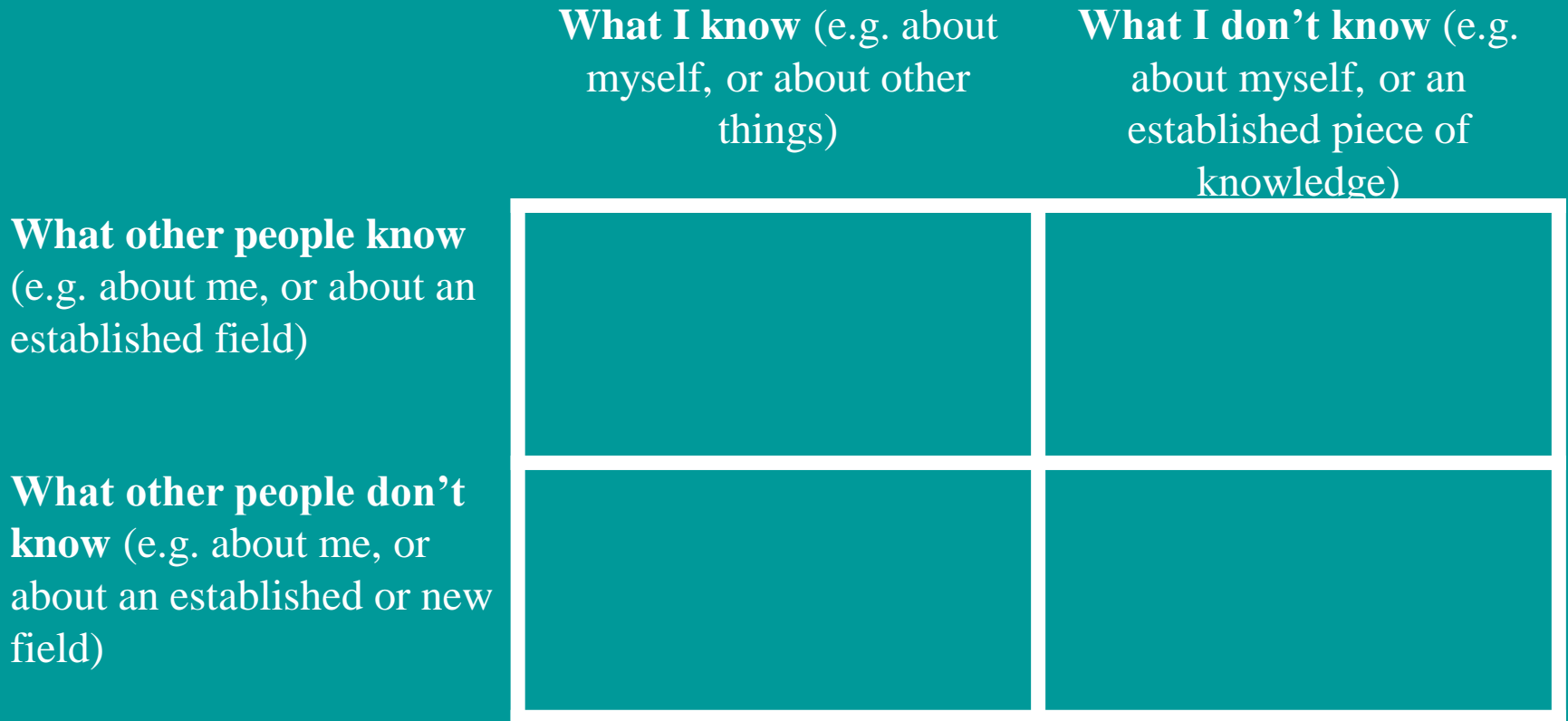
- Gloria Durka and the learned uncertainty of teachers, or ...
- ‘powerful’ knowledge with ‘impact’?
- Truth and uncertainty are good companions, but ...
- our one certainty is death
- RE that recognises these stubborn particulars will contribute to community cohesion

Uncertainty in RE



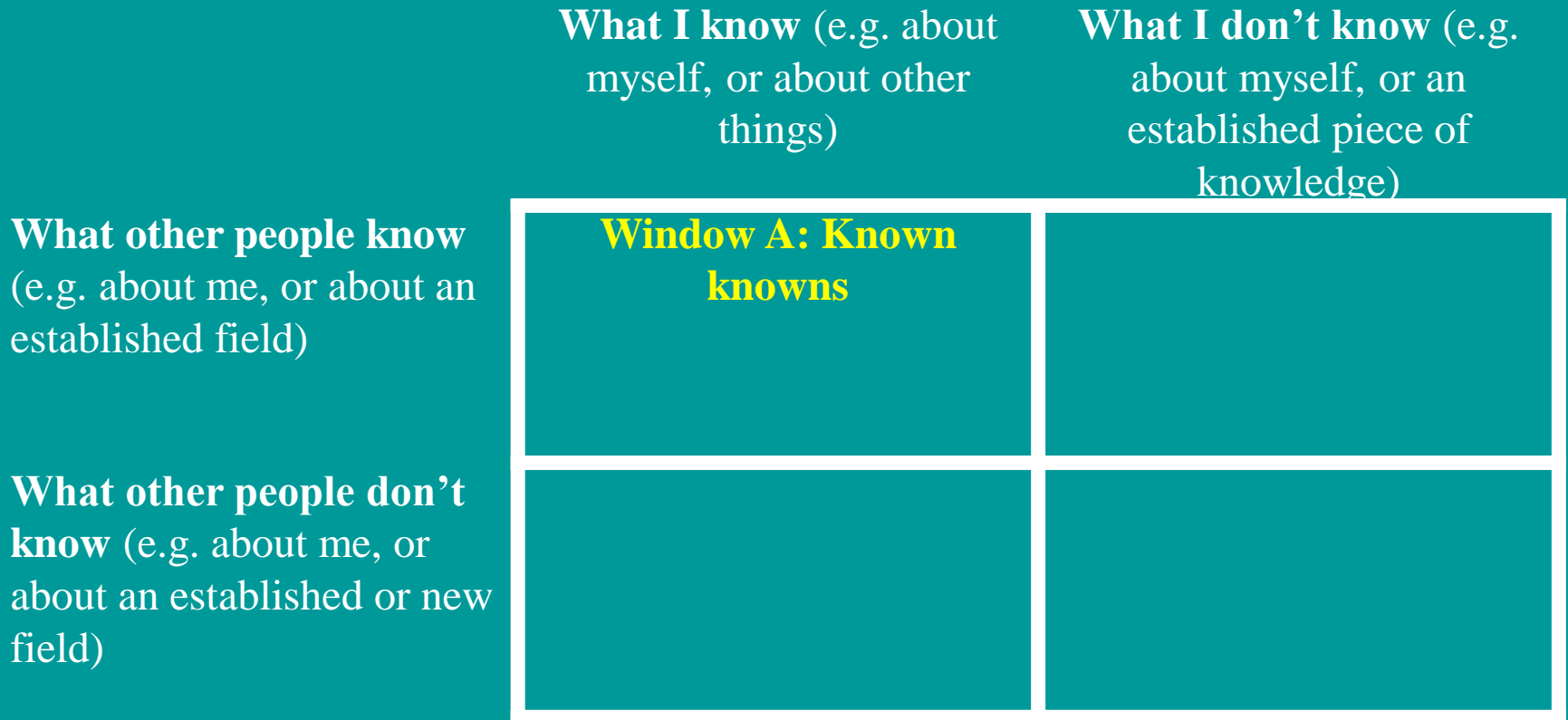
Uncertainty in RE

A Johari-Rumsfeld-Stern Window:



Uncertainty in RE

A Johari-Rumsfeld-Stern Window:



Uncertainty in RE

A Johari-Rumsfeld-Stern Window:

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | What I know (e.g. about myself, or about other things) | What I don't know (e.g. about myself, or an established piece of knowledge) |
| What other people know (e.g. about me, or about an established field) | Window A: Known knowns | Window B: Unknown (by me) knowns (by others) (e.g. a language not yet learned by me, a set of facts to be learned) |
| What other people don't know (e.g. about me, or about an established or new field) | | |

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Uncertainty in RE

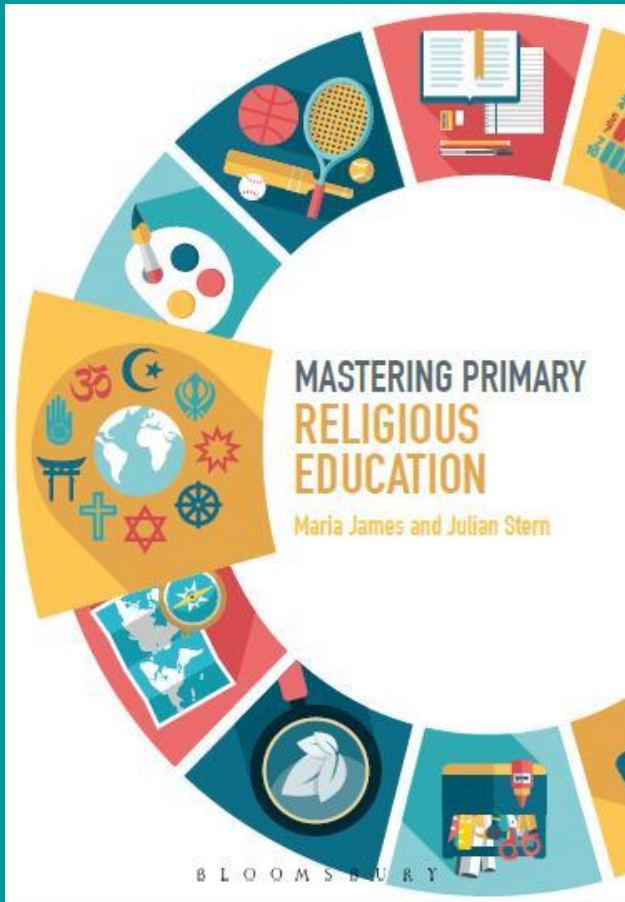
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| What other people don't know (e.g. about me, or about an established or new field) | Window C: Known (by me) unknowns (by others) (e.g. my secrets, or my as yet unshared insights) | Window D: Unknown unknowns (e.g. the profoundly mysterious or ineffable) |

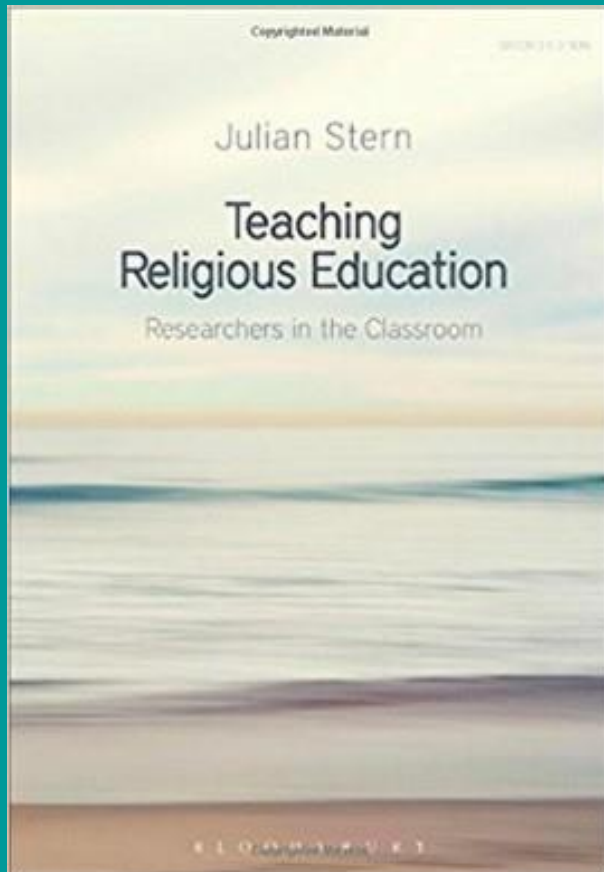
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Uncertainty in RE



Mortality in RE



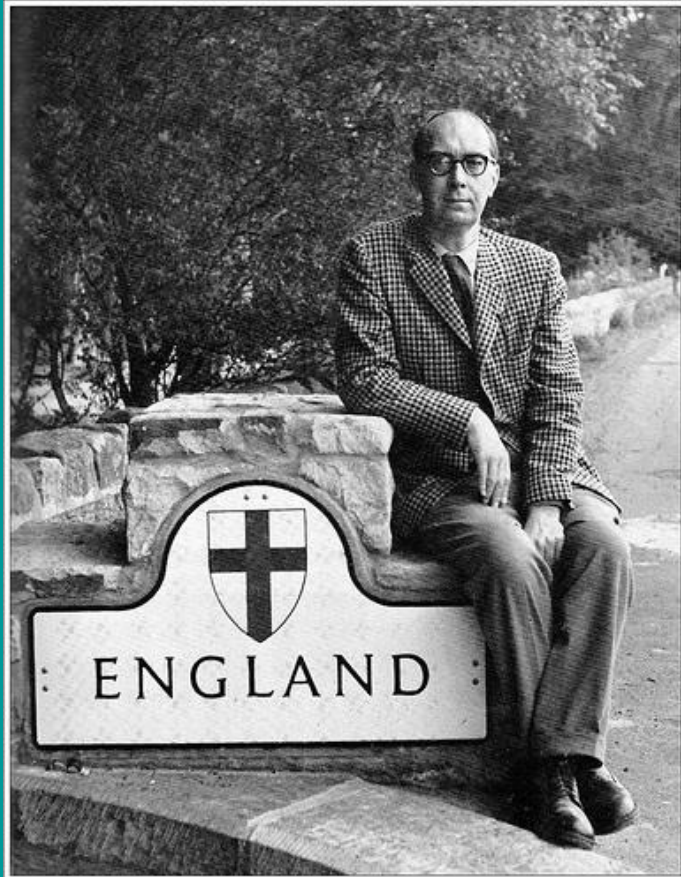
Mortality in RE



Mortality in RE



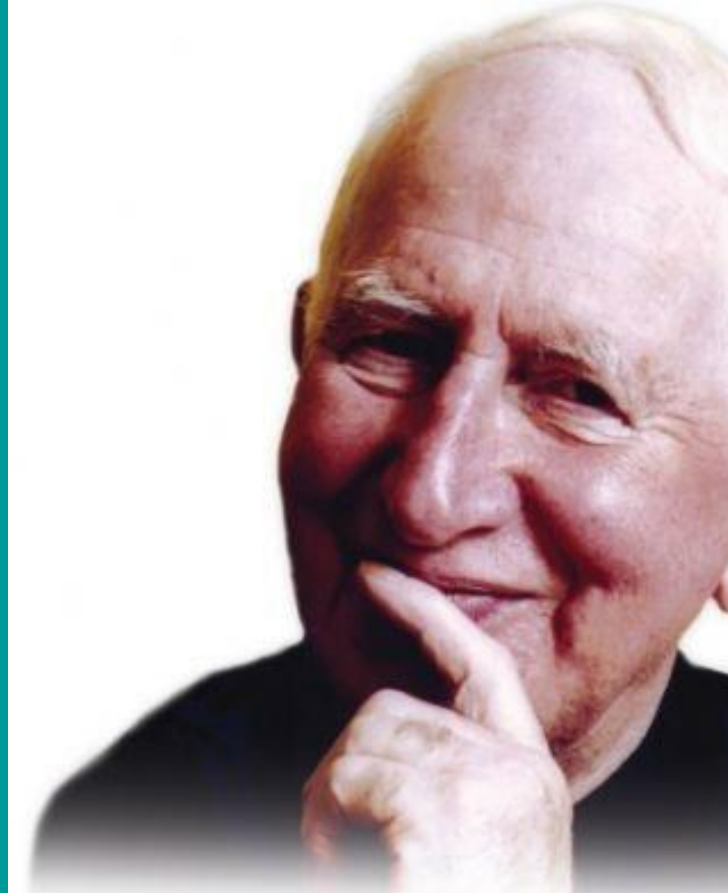
Mortality in RE



Mortality in RE

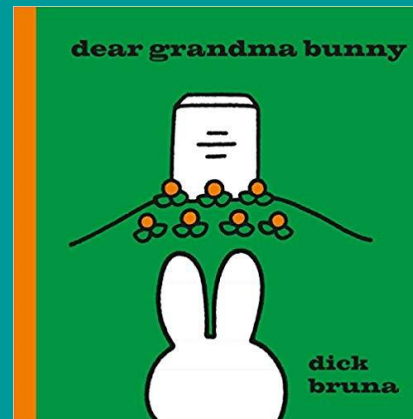
- Caring for/about children, who think about what happens when you die
 - I think that death is just a place you have to go back to. Everyone is going to go there weather they like it or not.
 - I dont think there is such thing as an afterlife and when we die we are dead and that is the end of us but if we are murdered we turn into spirits.
 - You go to a church to have a cermoney and people cry. You get beried and get eaton by maggots or over animals. You get to sleep and be peaceful.
 - I afraid of death but part of me want's to die.

Mortality in RE



Mortality in RE

- Rachael Kessler and Felicia
- Maureen Oswin
- Dick Bruna
- Michael Rosen
- What about RE classrooms?



The Stubborn Particulars of Cohesive Communities



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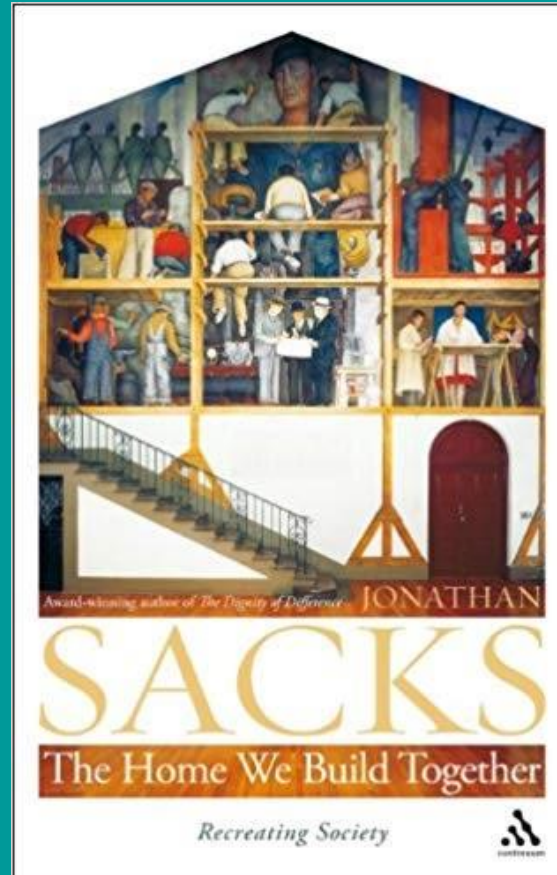
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Conclusion

- Uncertainty driving curiosity in RE ①
- Care driving RE's encounter with mortality ②
- Communities are disagreeable, we build them
- Without RE, can we care and be curious in and about community?



Thank you!

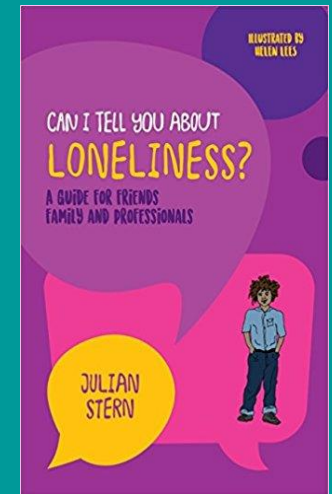
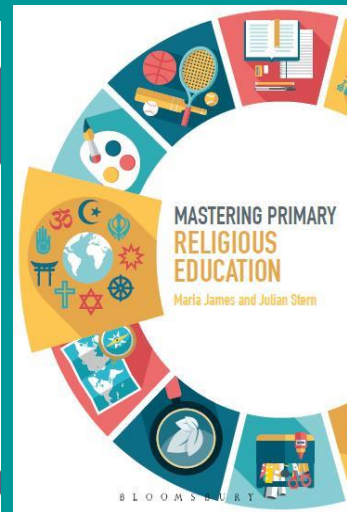
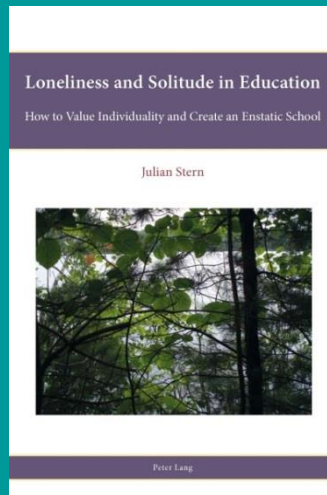
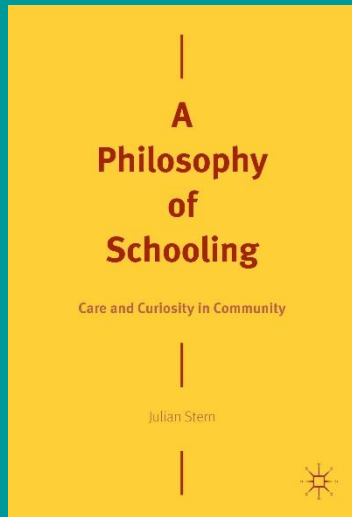
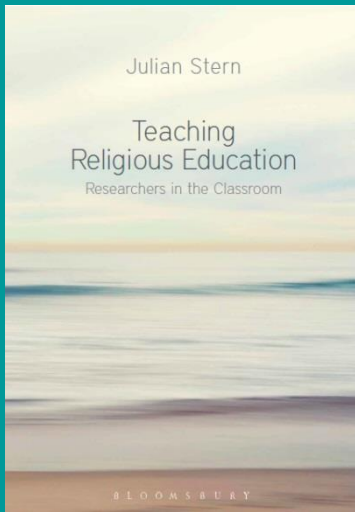
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Any Questions?
Any Answers?

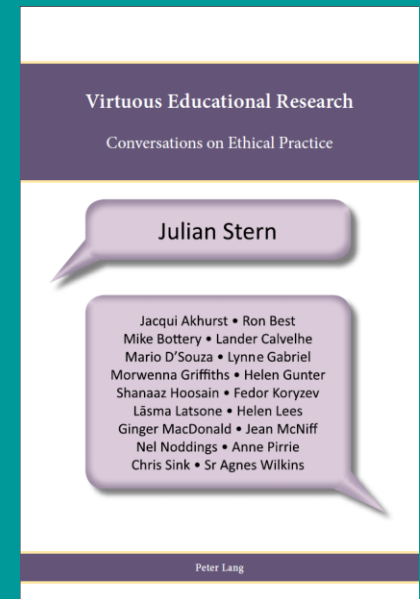
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Julian Stern is Professor of Education and Religion at York St John University. He was a school teacher for fourteen years, and has worked in universities for twenty-seven years. Julian is widely published, with fifteen books and over thirty articles, including *Mastering Primary Religious Education* (with Maria James, 2019), *A Philosophy of Schooling: Care and Curiosity in Community* (2018), *Teaching Religious Education: Researchers in the Classroom: Second Edition* (2018), *Can I Tell You About Loneliness?* (2017), *Virtuous Educational Research: Conversations on Ethical Practice* (2016), *Loneliness and Solitude in Schools: How to Value Individuality and Create an Enstatic School* (2014), *The Spirit of the School* (2009), *Schools and Religions: Imagining the Real* (2007), and *Involving Parents* (2003).

He can be contacted by telephone on 01904 876520, by email on j.stern@yorks.ac.uk, at Amazon on <http://amzn.to/1g9cADN>, and via @ISREV1978



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