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Past Minds

Studies in Cognitive Historiography

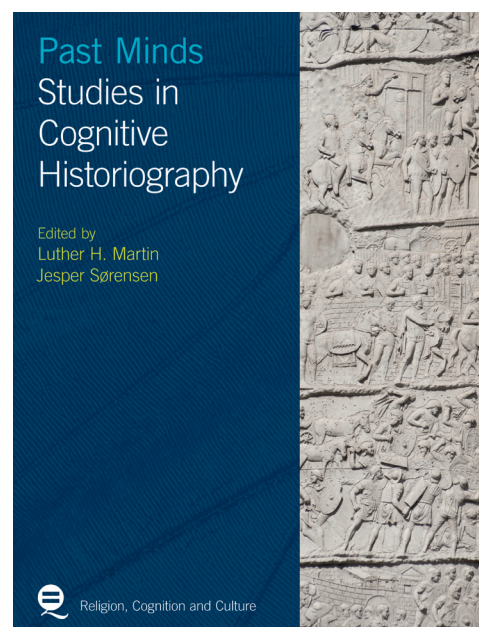
Edited by Luther H. Martin and Jesper Sørensen

- these essays bring latest research in cognitive psychology to bear on the thought processes and motivations of the people of ancient civilizations

How do historians understand the minds, motivations, intentions of historical agents? What might evolutionary and cognitive theorizing contribute to this work? What is the relation between natural and cultural history? Historians have been intrigued by such questions ever since the publication of Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, itself the historicization of biology. This interest re-emerged in the latter part of the twentieth century among a number of biologists, philosophers and historians, reinforced by the new interdisciplinary finding of cognitive scientists about the universal capacities of and constraints upon human minds. The essays in this volume, primarily by historians of religion, continue this discussion by focusing on historical examples of ancient religions as well as on the theoretical promises and problems relevant to that study.

The Editors

Luther H. Martin is Professor of Religion Emeritus at the University of Vermont. **Jesper Sørensen** is MINDLab Associate Professor of Religion at Aarhus University.



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