

Sublime Doubt: The obligation to doubt among Danish Lutherans and Beyond

Sublime Doubt: The obligation to doubt among Danish Lutherans and Beyond - nagranie seminarium z udziałem Mortena Pedersena

[Sublime Doubt: The obligation to doubt among Danish Lutherans, Morten Pedersen \[1\]](#)

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Based on fieldwork among Lutheran priests in Denmark and among Mongolian evangelical converts, this paper explores the central role played by doubt in these and other Christian contexts. Far from signaling an inability or an unwillingness to believe, doubt is here perceived to be an intrinsic element of and thus necessary path towards faith. It is argued that, to understand this obligation to doubt in certain protestant and possibly other religious contexts, we need to examine the implicit concepts and theories of belief that undergird much anthropological scholarship, including the largely overlooked and unexplored difference between "believing in" and "believing that" (and, by implication, "doubting in" and "doubting that"). In doing so, I engage critically with recent anthropological work on doubt and skepticism in religious and occult contexts, suggesting that while this nascent body of scholarship offers a welcome corrective to the over-emphasis on belief and conviction in much previous anthropological work, it does not go far enough in addressing the questions and the conundrums raised by doubt as an ethnographic matter of concern. For example, the tendency to equate and conflate doubt with skepticism fails to address what might be referred to as the "sublime" nature of doubt among some of my interlocutors - the potential and the promise of doubt to serve as a transcendental vehicle for reaching the divine.

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Links

- [1] <https://etnologia.uw.edu.pl/en/file/sublime-doubt-obligation-doubt-among-danish-lutherans-morten-pedersen>
- [2] https://youtu.be/m7pujBd94_k