

# Tanya M. Luhmann

# Local "Theory" of Mind

## *and why it matters*

Wed 21st March | 5-7pm | Deptford Town Hall (DTH) 109  
Goldsmiths, University of London  
Part of the Pluralistic Variations Lecture Series  
Organiser: Dr Martin Savransky (Sociology)

**This talk** makes the argument that the way we think about our minds matters, and may shape our mental events. It makes the case that people find evidence of God's presence in mental events; that different practices of attending to mental events have identifiable consequences; and that different cultures and different theologies emphasize mind and mental process in distinctive ways. The talk then goes on to present evidence that this has consequences for the way charismatic Christians experience God and the way persons who meet criteria for schizophrenia experience psychosis in the US, Accra and Chennai. The data suggest that one consequence of the different ways of representing mind and mental experience is that Americans have a harsher experience of psychosis, and less spiritual experience.

Tanya Marie Luhmann is currently the Watkins University Professor in the Anthropology Department at Stanford University. She has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and has been the recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. She is the author of numerous publications, including *Of Two Minds* (2001), *When God Talks Back* (2012), and most recently, with Jocelyn Marrow, *Our Most Troubling Madness* (2016)