

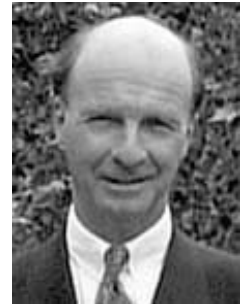
## MUSIC, BELIEF AND THE SOCIAL BRAIN

### MICHAEL R. TRIMBLE

*Presentation Tuesday 16.00*

The presentation will begin by emphasising the importance of music in relationship to an attribute of behaviour which would seem unique to humans, namely that of emotional crying. The approach taken will be from neuroanatomical and evolutionary perspectives, discussing the development of crying as a form of communication in ancestors of Homo sapiens, noting some neuroanatomical developments in the human brain which would seem to distinguish it from that of our nearest living primate ancestors, which may explain the development of emotional crying.

The presentation will then return to music, and the relationship between psychiatric illness and creative abilities in relationship to poets and musicians. Neuroanatomical associations between the non-dominant hemisphere of the brain, psychiatric illness and creativity will be outlined, linking the artistic expressions of such creativity with the early development of religion, again from an evolutionary perspective.



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*Michael Trimble is emeritus professor in behavioural neurology. He was trained in cardiology, neurology and psychiatry, and his research has focused on the interface disorders between neurology and psychiatry, including behavioural consequences of neurological disorders, somatoform disorders, and epilepsy. He also has a continuing interest in neuroanatomy. He has co-authored the book "Anatomy of neuropsychiatry: The new anatomy of the basal forebrain and its implications for neuropsychiatric illness". Michael Trimble has for many years also been a student of poetry and has wide-ranging musical interests. These interests have led him to study the cerebral bases of artistic and religious experiences culminating in the book "The soul in the brain: The cerebral basis of language, art, and belief. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 2007. Michael Trimble has accepted to give the "galla-lecture" before the conference dinner.*