



ARI BROUWER, (L) 2017 CARR SCHOLARSHIP WINNER,
WITH PAUL H. CARR

Ari Brouwer is a master's student studying religion and science at Boston University, having previously graduated from Dickinson College, PA, with a double major in Neuroscience and Religion. He was an Institute of Religion in and Age of Science (IRAS) scholar at the 2016 conference held on Star Island off Portsmouth, NH.

Currently his research focus is on the intersection between intense religious experience, hallucinogens, psychosis, obsessive-compulsive cognition, and stress. The main purpose of this research is to elucidate some likely biological mechanisms that underlie intense religious experience and cognition in response to environmental stressors and certain ascetic practices. This suggests that intense religious experience often function to drastically change a person's perceptual and behavioral responses to a stressful world. After his master's program, Ari hopes to continue studying Science, Religion, and Philosophy in an interdisciplinary way.