

Literaturliste zum Diskursfeld "Neuer Atheismus" (Stand April 2010)

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Vorbemerkung

Hinsichtlich der hier angeführten Literatur zum Diskursfeld "Neuer Atheismus" besteht eine grundlegende Schwierigkeit: Es handelt sich beim Label "Neuer Atheismus" um einen unter-definierten Begriff. Der Begriff "Neuer Atheismus" als solcher findet sich als Bezeichnung für einige – interessanterweise: *nicht alle!* – atheistische Religionskritiken der Gegenwart erstmals im Artikel *The Church of the Non-Believers* des US-amerikanischen Journalisten Gary Wolf (in *Wired*, Nov. 2006). Das journalistische Label wurde und wird vor allem – aber nicht nur – auf Sam Harris (*The End of Faith; Letter to a Christian Nation*), Daniel Dennett (*Breaking the Spell*), Richard Dawkins (*The God Delusion*) und Christopher Hitchens (*God Is Not Great*) angewendet.

Warum nun diese Autoren – *entgegen ihrem eigenen Selbstverständnis* – als "Neue Atheisten" bezeichnet werden, andere aber nicht, bleibt unklar: Bislang konnte weder ein überzeugender Vorschlag ausgemacht werden, inwiefern sich der "Neue Atheismus" von einem (implizit vorauszusetzenden) "alten", "klassischen" oder "traditionellen" Atheismus unterscheide, noch worin sich die "Neuen Atheisten" von anderen zeitgenössischen atheistischen Religionskritikern unterscheiden.

Diese Literaturliste kann und will derartige Probleme nicht lösen und stellt *kein* Kriterium der Zugehörigkeit dar: Der Umstand, daß ein atheistischer und/oder religionskritischer Autor hier angeführt wird, impliziert nicht, daß er auch "Neuer Atheist" anzusehen ist. Gleichfalls erhebt die Liste keinen Anspruch auf Vollständigkeit. Es handelt sich lediglich um eine Auflistung von Büchern die – mal mehr, mitunter auch nur am Rande – im Zusammenhang mit dem Diskursphänomen "Neuer Atheismus" stehen.

In einer früheren Version dieser Literaturliste (vom Feb. 2008) habe ich noch zwischen den beiden Kategorien "(Neue) Atheisten" und "(religiös-apologetische) Kritiker der 'Neuen Atheisten'" unterschieden. Ich mußte zwischenzeitlich erkennen, daß eine solche Gegenüberstellung der Komplexität des Themas nicht angemessen ist: Nicht alle Kritiken am "Neuen Atheismus" stammen aus der Feder von Theisten (wenngleich die theistischen Kritiken indeutig die Mehrheit ausmachen), es gibt auch Kritiken von anderen Atheisten, von Agnostikern, von Skeptikern. Aus diesem Grund habe ich die Gliederung lediglich nach dem jeweiligen Publikationsjahr vorgenommen.

Die Literaturliste ist entstanden im Rahmen des von der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) geförderten Forschungsprojekts *Die "Rückkehr der Religionen" und die Rückkehr der Religionskritik – Der "Neue Atheismus" in der deutschen und US-amerikanischen Gegenwartskultur* am Institut für Religionswissenschaft der Freien Universität Berlin. Weitere Informationen zum sog. "Neuen Atheismus" wie zum Forschungsprojekt sind zu finden unter:

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