

Contents

<i>Foreword by Grace Davie</i>	viii
Introduction	1
Part I Doubt about the Subject Matter	7
1 Sociology in Opposition to Religion? Preliminary Considerations	9
<i>From religious sociology to the sociology of religion</i>	9
<i>Science opposed to religion</i>	13
<i>Undermining the subject?</i>	18
2 The Fragmentation of Religion in Modern Societies	23
<i>The future of religion in the modern world: the classical sociological approaches</i>	24
<i>Constructing a new perspective</i>	27
<i>Defining religion: a new look at an old debate</i>	30
<i>Religion and systems of meaning: an inclusive approach</i>	33
<i>In contrast: a much more restrictive framework</i>	35
<i>A false opposition</i>	36
<i>One way out of the dilemma?</i>	39

3	The Elusive Sacred	42
	<i>The sacred: an impossible concept</i>	42
	<i>The genealogy of the sacred: Isambert's contribution</i>	48
	<i>Emotional experience vis-à-vis religion</i>	51
	<i>Between the sacred and religion: the example of sport</i>	53
	<i>The sacred opposed to religion: the emotional culmination of secularization?</i>	57
	Part II As our Fathers Believed . . .	63
4	Religion as a Way of Believing	65
	<i>Metaphorical religion, following Jean Séguy</i>	66
	<i>Towards an analysis of the transformation of belief in contemporary society</i>	72
	<i>Religion as a way of believing: the example of apocalyptic neo-rural communities</i>	75
5	Questions about Tradition	83
	<i>Tradition opposed to modernity</i>	83
	<i>The creative power of tradition</i>	86
	<i>Religion as folklore</i>	89
	<i>The religious productions of modernity: is this concept meaningful?</i>	92
	<i>Back to the question of definition</i>	97
6	From Religions to the Religious	101
	<i>A second look at sport as a religion</i>	102
	<i>Two ways of thinking</i>	106
	<i>Is the notion of a religious sphere still a helpful one?</i>	108
	<i>From the sociology of religion to the sociology of the religious: a political example</i>	111
	Part III A Break in the Chain	121
7	Religion Deprived of Memory	123
	<i>Memory and religion: a structural connection</i>	124
	<i>The crumbling memory of modern societies</i>	127
	<i>Secularization as a crisis of collective memory: the example of French Catholicism</i>	130

8	The Chain Reinvented	141
	<i>Utopia: a major manifestation of religious innovation in modernity</i>	143
	<i>The religious reinforcement of elective fraternities</i>	149
	<i>The rise of ethnic religions</i>	157
	Conclusion: Post-traditional Society and the Future of Religious Institutions	163
	<i>Post-traditional religion and the institution of the religious</i>	166
	<i>Beyond secularization, de-institutionalization</i>	167
	<i>The institutional production of a chain of memory</i>	171
	Notes	177
	Select Bibliography	192
	Index of Names	202