

**Cognitive Development, Socialization and Cognitive Mutations:
A Critique and Elaboration of Boyer's Naturalness of Religion:
A Case Study of the Sukuma of Tanzania**

R.E.S. Tanner

The Footprint, Padworth Common, Reading, Berks RG7, 4QG, UK

KEYWORDS Social Mutation. Paradigm. Variability. Non-literacy. Religion

ABSTRACT The Sukuma of Tanzania have no traditional religious organizations, only a wide-ranging variability in their religious practices within a loose paradigm which makes socialization to specific practices unlikely. Religious practices as social mutation may survive or disappear. One mutant religious practice which failed to survive is described which shows the unlikelihood of a general developmental process from ideas present in the very young which could account for their basic religious ideas. Researchers may see few ceremonies and expecting to find a religious organization, construct one on slender evidence, thus showing their preferences for a systems rather than an action approach in field work.