

I am The ROCK

Christopher Niebauer

Job: Associate professor of psychology.

Joined SRU: August 2000.

Background: I grew up about 30 minutes east of Cleveland and went to Kent State University for my undergraduate degree. I always knew I wanted a degree in psychology, but not to do therapy. I was always more interested in the mind and who we think we are. I went to the University of Toledo for my doctorate, where I focused on how the left and right sides of the brain differ. Now I'm much more interested in figuring out consciousness.

Interests: I have a 2-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter, so most of my time is with them. It is fascinating to watch them develop. At some point, we forget that it is OK to do something for no reason, but kids do stuff all the time and there is no point to it, no reason. I think it helps to get back to that world every so often.

Person I'd most like to have dinner with: Eckhart Tolle, the German-born writer. He is reminding people to deflate their egos just a bit as a way to greatly improve life. He is teaching people not to take things so seriously and this works. Things actually turn out better when you are less concerned with how they will turn out.

Why I work at The Rock: There's an old saying, something like, "one should create a niche so deep and narrow that you are the only one that fits in it." That isn't my style at all. I am almost finished with a book I've been working on for the last few years on the nature of consciousness. I didn't do this because I had to, or as some type of goal that would get me something, but rather being at SRU gave me the opportunity to do this type of project if I chose to.

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