

## Exposing Presuppositions

...We have all seen situations where intelligent people confronted with the same facts interpret them quite differently. Where one person sees a certain interpretation as quite plausible, another sees it as outrageous, while still another sees it as possible but not likely, and so on. And often the right sort of probing and discussing can expose presuppositions of conflicting perspectives which are the real core of disagreements.

The worst difficulties in the way of discovering someone else's presuppositions are of two types. One of these is that of cases involving deception; the other type arises in cases where we try to recognize presuppositions held by people in a very different culture from our own. This is because the key element in recognizing someone's presuppositions is the ability to imagine ourselves in the place of the other person. Where we can do that with reasonable accuracy, we can infer another's belief. But both deception and wide cultural disparity make putting oneself in the other's place very difficult indeed.

(The Myth of Religious Neutrality: An Essay on the Hidden Role of Religious Belief in Theories by Roy A. Clouser, Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 1991, 103)