Valerie van Mulukom

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Education

2009-2013	PhD in Psychology, University of Auckland (2014)
	Dean's List in recognition of excellence achieved with the PhD thesis
2007-2009	MPhil in Linguistics, Utrecht University (2009)
	Graduated cum laude
2004-2007	BA in Language and Culture studies, Utrecht University (2007)
	Graduated cum laude

Academic employment

2026-curr.	Tutor, Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford (Oct-).
2026-curr.	Associate Professor, *Centre for Psychological Research*, Oxford Brookes University (Aug-).
2021-curr.	Tutor, *SCIO* (formerly associated with Wycliffe Hall), University of Oxford.
2023-2026	Senior Lecturer, *Centre for Psychological Research*, Oxford Brookes University (Oct-Jul).
2019-2021	Research Fellow, *Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations*, Coventry University (Aug-May).
2016-2022	Research Affiliate, *Centre for the Study of Social Cohesion*, University of Oxford (Apr-Jun).
2016-2021	Lab manager, *Brain, Belief, and Behaviour Lab*, Coventry University.
2016-2019	Research Associate, *Centre for Advances in Behavioural Science*, Coventry University (Mar-Aug).
2015-2016	Postdoctoral Researcher, *Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology*, University of Oxford (Jul-Mar).
2014-2015	Postdoctoral Researcher, '*Religion, Cognition and Culture*' unit and the *Interacting Minds Centre*, Aarhus University (Sep-Mar).
2013	Research Assistant, *Memory Lab*, University of Auckland.
2011-2012	Tutor, *School of Psychology*, University of Auckland.
2009	Trainee, *Cognitive Neuroscience of Language laboratory*, University of Maryland, Washington D.C. (Jan-Mar).
2008	Student Assistant, *Utrecht Institute of Linguistics*, Utrecht University.
2007	Internship, *European Dialect Syntax project*, Meertens Institute, Amsterdam.

External grants

1. 'Exploring the Grey Zone: A Biopsychosocial Approach to Religious Delusions and Conspiracy Beliefs.' **UKRI**, 2026-2028. PI: Professor Joseph Webster, University of Cambridge. Role: co-I (£1.2 million).
2. 'Awe-some spirituality: A theological and psychological cross-disciplinary exploration of awe as an approach to spiritual yearning of the nonreligious'. **John Templeton Foundation** (#63018), Spiritual Yearning Research Initiative, 2024-2026. Role: PI (£224,915).
3. 'Worldly views worldwide: Examining secular worldviews in the Global North and South and the development of a new scale'. **British Academy/Leverhulme** Small Research Grants (#SRG2223\230725), 2023-2024. Role: PI (£9,870).
4. 'Explaining Nordic Atheism: How cultural learning mechanisms predict atheism in Nordic cultural contexts', RFP1 Research Grant, **Explaining Atheism**, Queen's University Belfast (subgranting scheme through the John Templeton Foundation, #69128), 2022-2023. Role: PI (£76,167).
5. 'Examining conspiracy beliefs through socio-existential motives and group processes', **CTPSR** PhD studentship, Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations (Coventry University), 2022-2025. Role: Director of Studies (£70,000).
6. 'Spiritual Understanding in a Secular Age: Engaging Art as Religious Ritual'. Art Seeking Understanding grant, **Templeton Religion Trust**, 2021-2022. PIs: Dr Alexandria Eikelboom & Dr David Newheiser (Australian Catholic University). Role: Research Fellow ($230,267 USD).
7. 'Mindfulness Meditation: A Secular Religion for Unbelievers?' RFP1 Research Grant, **Understanding Unbelief**, University of Kent, awarded to Masoumeh (Sara) Rahmani, Miguel Farias, and Valerie van Mulukom, 2017-2019. Role: Co-PI (£59,535).
8. 'Secular Worldviews: What secular beliefs do non-believers have, and what psychological functions do they serve?' RFP2 Early Career Award, **Understanding Unbelief**, University of Kent (subgranting scheme through the John Templeton Foundation, #60624), 2017-2019. Role: PI (£14,929).
9. 'The Imaginative Mind: How imaginative ability supports flexible and creative thinking.' **Coventry University** Early Career Researcher Pump-Prime Funding Scheme, 2017-2018. Role: PI (£9,998).

Awards

1. Internal research funding, Centre for Psychological Research, Oxford Brookes University, 2026-2027 (£3,880 GBP)
2. Internal research funding, Research, Impact and Knowledge Exchange (RIKE) internal awards - Pilot Projects, Oxford Brookes University, 2026 (£4,192 GBP)
3. Internal research funding, Centre for Psychological Research, Oxford Brookes University, 2025-2026 (£2,100 GBP)
4. Internal research funding, Centre for Psychological Research, Oxford Brookes University, 2024-2025 (£1,260 GBP)
5. Double finalist (2 of 4 teams) for Outstanding Research Supervisory Team Award, Coventry University, 2021
6. National Centre for Research Methods Training Bursary (UK), 2018 (£560 GBP)

7. Centre for Advances in Behavioural Science (Coventry University) travel award, 2018 (£800 GBP)
8. University of Auckland Doctoral Completion Award, 2013 ($6,000 NZD)
9. University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship Extension, 2012-2013 ($12,500 NZD)
10. Australian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment travel award, 2011 ($750 AUD)
11. Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research travel award, 2010 ($425 NZD)
12. Utrecht Institute of Linguistics-OTS travel award, 2009 (€500 EUR)

Books

In preparation

van Mulukom, V. (in preparation). *Self-transcendent experiences*. Cambridge Elements in the Psychology of Religion, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Edited volume

Geertz, A. W., Ambasciano, L., Eidinow, E., Martin L. H., Nielbo, K. L., Roubekas, N. P., **van Mulukom, V.**, and Xygalatas D. (Eds.) (2022). *Studying the religious mind: methodology in the cognitive science of religion*. (Advances in the Cognitive Science of Religion, vol. 3). Sheffield, UK & Bristol, CT: Equinox Publishing Ltd. URL

Journal articles

2026

37. Dubourg, E., Thouzeau, V., Beuchot, T., Bonard, C., Boyer, P., Chevallier, C., Clasen, M., Boon-Falleur, M., Fiorio, G., Fitouchi, L., Fisher, M. L., Gantman, A., Grant, A., Hye-Knudsen, M., Katiyar, T., Kjeldgaard-Christiansen, J., Mercier, M., Mercier, H., Morin, O., Salmon, C., Scott-Phillips, T., Scrivner, C., Sijlmassi, A., Singh, M., Smith, M., Sobchuk, O., Stubbersfield, J. M., Varnum, M. E. W., **van Mulukom, V.**, Verpooten, J., Wylie, J., Zhong, Y., & Baumard, N. (2026). Carving Stories at Their Natural Joints (The Psychological Foundations of Stories: A Motivational Framework). *Psychological Review*. Advance online publication. DOI
36. Haimila, R., Parkkinen, T. A. M., Kundtová Klocová, E., de Oliveira Maraldi, E., Turpin, H., Farias, M., & **van Mulukom, V.** (2026). Understanding the morality of unbelievers: Secular beliefs about right and wrong in ten countries. *Secularity & Nonreligion, 15*(13), 1-17. DOI
35. **van Mulukom, V.** (2026). The experiential self state as affective salience: A dual-self states framework for consciousness and self-transcendence. *Neuroscience of Consciousness, 2026,* niag033. DOI
34. Charles, S. J., **van Mulukom, V.***, Farias, M., Brown, J. E., Delmonte, R., Maraldi, E., Turner, L., Watts, F., Watts, J., Dunbar, R. I. M. (2026). Religious rituals in the UK and Brazil are associated with increased social bonding and pain threshold. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, *293* (2073), 20261174. DOI
33. **van Mulukom, V.** & Clasen, M. (2026). The evolutionary functions of imaginative-narrative simulation and how they may contribute to psychological wellbeing. *Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences.* Advance online publication. DOI
32. **van Mulukom, V.** (2026). Social biases, identity-based reasoning, and trust in scientists.

Current Opinion in Psychology, 68, 102232. DOI

2025

31. **van Mulukom, V.** (2025). Keep It Real: Feelings of "realness" of event imaginings are associated with ease of imagining and absorption for episodic and fantastical imagination. *Imagination, Cognition and Personality, 42*(1), 193-227. DOI

2024

30. **van Mulukom, V.** (2024). Sense-sational acting: Intuition in actors is supported by interoceptive, exteroceptive, and immersive abilities. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts, 19*(6), 1623–1642. DOI

2023

29. **van Mulukom, V.**, Baimel, A., Maraldi, E., & Farias, M. (2023). Examining the relationship between metacognitive trust in thinking styles and supernatural beliefs. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology, 65*(2), 206-222. DOI
28. Rahmani, M., **van Mulukom, V.** & Farias, M. (2023). Believing in the powers of mindfulness: A thematic narrative approach and the development of a new scale. *Mindfulness, 14*, 1689–1704. DOI
27. Brown, J. E., **van Mulukom, V.**, Charles, S.J., & Farias, M. (2023). Do you need religion to enjoy the benefits of Church services? Social bonding, morality and quality of life among religious and secular congregations. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*, *15*(2), 308-318. DOI
26. Burić, I., Farias, M., Kurtev, S., **van Mulukom, V.**, Mee, C., Gould, L., Rehman, S., Parker, B., and Brazil, I. A. (2023). Feasibility and preliminary outcomes of intensive mindfulness and yoga on prisoners with personality disorders: A randomised controlled preliminary study. *Brain Behavior and Immunity Integrative, 2*, 100009. DOI
25. Messick, K. J., Jong, J., **van Mulukom, V.** & Farias, M. (2023). The Nontheistic Sacred: The Psychological Functions of Metal Music and Artefacts. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, 33*(3), 198-213. DOI
24. Tuncgenç, B., **van Mulukom, V.**, and Newson, M. (2023). Social bonds are related to health behaviors and positive well-being globally. *Science Advances, 9*(2), eadd3715. DOI

2022

23. Charles, S. J., **van Mulukom, V.**, Saraswati, A., Watts, F., Dunbar, R. I. M., Farias, M. (2022). Bending and Bonding: A randomized controlled trial on the socio-psychobiological effects of spiritual versus secular yoga practice on social bonding. *Current Psychology, 42*, 30970–30986. DOI
22. **van Mulukom, V.,** Turpin, H., Haimila, R., Purzycki, B. G., Bendixen, T., Kundtová Klocová, E., Řezníček, D., Coleman, T. J. III, Maraldi, E., Sevinç, K., Schjoedt, U., Rutjens, B., & Farias, M. (2022). What do non-religious non-believers believe in? Secular worldviews around the world. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, 15*(1), 143-156. DOI
21. Hoogeveen, S., Sarafoglou, A., […] **van Mulukom, V.** […], van Elk, M., and Wagenmakers, E. (2022). A many-analysts approach to the relation between religiosity and well-being. *Religion, Brain & Behavior, 13*(3), 237-283. DOI
20. **van Mulukom, V**., Pummerer, L., Alper, S., Bai, M. H., Čavojová, V., Farias, J. E. M., Kay, C. S., Lazarevic, L., Lobato, E. J. C., Marinthe, G., Pavela Banai, I., Šrol, J. & Žeželj, I. (2022).

Antecedents and consequences of COVID-19 conspiracy beliefs: a systematic review. *Social Science & Medicine, 301*, 114912. DOI

19. Brown, J., **van Mulukom, V.**, Jong, J., & Farias, M. (2022). Exploring the Relationship Between Church Worship, Social Bonding, and Moral Values. *Archive for the Psychology of Religion, 44*(1), 3-22. DOI
18. Muzzulini, B., **van Mulukom, V.**, Kapitány, R. & Whitehouse, H. (2022). Shared Flashbulb Memories lead to Identity Fusion: Recalling the Defeat in the Brexit Referendum Produces Strong Psychological Bonds among Remain Supporters. *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, 11*(3), 374–383. DOI
17. **van Mulukom, V.** & de Wet, M. (2022). The Importance of Narrative and Intuitive Thought in Navigating our Realities. *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture, 5*(2), 61-64. DOI
16. Newson, M., **van Mulukom, V.**, and Johns, S. (2022). Future orientation is associated with less lockdown rule breaking, even during large illegal gatherings. *Futures, 135*, 102883. DOI

2021

15. **van Mulukom, V.** (2021). The evolution of music as artistic cultural innovation expressing intuitive thought symbolically (commentary on 'Music as a coevolved system for social bonding' by Savage et al.). *Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 44,* e91. DOI
14. Newson, M., Khurana, R., Cazorla, F., and **van Mulukom, V.** (2021). 'I get high with a little help from my friends' - how raves can invoke identity fusion and lasting co-operation via transformative experiences. *Frontiers in Psychology, 12*, 719596. DOI
13. **van Mulukom, V.** & Lang, M. (2021). Religious Experiences Are Interpreted through Priors from Cultural Frameworks Supported by Imaginative Capacity Rather Than Special Cognition. *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion, 7*(1), 39-53. DOI
12. **van Mulukom, V.**, Muzzulini, B., Rutjens, B. T., van Lissa, C. J., and Farias, M. (2021). The Psychological Impact of Threat and Lockdowns During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Exacerbating Factors and Mitigating Actions. *Translational Behavioral Medicine, 11*(7), 1318–1329. DOI
11. Charles, S. J., **van Mulukom, V.**, Brown, J. E., Watts, F., Dunbar, R. I. M., Farias, M. (2021). United on Sunday: The effects of secular rituals on social bonding and affect. *PLOS One, 16*(1), e0242546. DOI

2020

10. Tasuji, T., Reese, E., **van Mulukom, V.**, & Whitehouse, H. (2020). Band of Mothers: Childbirth as a Female Bonding Experience. *PLOS One, 15*(10), e0240175. DOI
9. Charles, S. J., Farias, M., **van Mulukom, V.**, Saraswati, A., Watts, F., Dein, S., Dunbar, R. I. M. (2020). Blocking mu-opioid receptors inhibits social bonding in rituals. *Biology Letters, 16*, 20200485. DOI
8. **van Mulukom, V.**, Patterson, R., & van Elk, M. (2020). Broadening Your Mind to Include Others: Links between serotonergic psychedelic experiences and maladaptive narcissism. *Psychopharmacology, 237*, 2725–2737. DOI
7. Wiebels, K., Addis, D.R., Moreau, D., **van Mulukom, V**., Onderdijk, K. E., & Roberts, R. P. (2020). Relational processing demands and the role of spatial context in the construction of episodic simulations. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition, 46*(8), 1424–1441. DOI

2019

6. **van Mulukom, V.** (2019). The Cognitive Science of Imagination and Religion. *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion, 5*(1), 5-20. DOI

2017

5. Farias, M., **van Mulukom, V.,** Kahane, G., Kreplin, U., Joyce, A., Soares, P., Oviedo, L., Hernu, M., Rokita, K., Savulescu, J., Möttönen, R. (2017). Supernatural Belief Is Not Modulated by Intuitive Thinking Style or Cognitive Inhibition. *Scientific Reports, 7*(1), 15100. DOI
4. **van Mulukom, V.** (2017). Remembering Religious Rituals: Autobiographical Memories of High-Arousal Religious Rituals Considered from a Narrative Processing Perspective**.** *Religion, Brain & Behavior, 7*(3), 191-205. DOI

2016

3. Roberts, R. P., Wiebels, K., Sumner, R. L., **van Mulukom, V.**, Grady, C. L., Schacter, D. L., Addis, D. R. (2016). An fMRI investigation of the relationship between future imagination and cognitive flexibility. *Neuropsychologia, 95*, 156-172. DOI
2. **van Mulukom, V.,** Schacter, D. L., Corballis, M. C., & Addis, D. R. (2016). The degree of disparateness of event details modulates future simulation construction, plausibility, and recall. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology, 69* (2), 234-242. DOI

2013

1. **van Mulukom, V.**, Schacter, D. L., Corballis, M. C., & Addis, D. R. (2013). Re-Imagining the Future: Repetition Decreases Hippocampal Involvement in Future Simulation. *PLOS One, 8*(7), e69596. DOI

Chapters

8. **van Mulukom, V.** (2026). Measuring the reflective self and experiential self in self-transcendent experiences. In D. B. Yaden & M. van Elk (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Psychedelic, Religious, Spiritual, and Mystical Experiences*. DOI
7. Eikelboom, L. & **van Mulukom, V.** (2025). Spiritual Understanding in a Secular Age: Engaging Art as Religious Ritual. In C. R. Brewer (Ed.), *Art Seeking Understanding*. Eerdmans Publishing. URL
6. **van Mulukom, V.**, Geertz, A. W., Clark, R., & Farias, M. (2025). Art performances and religious rituals: How transformative experiences can foster knowledge. In L. Eikelboom & D. Newheiser (Eds.), *Art-Making as Spiritual Practice: Rituals of Embodied Understanding.* Bloomsbury Publishing. preprint DOI
5. Rahmani, M., **van Mulukom, V**., Sevriugin, S., & Farias, M. (2025). Belief in the Powers of Mindfulness Scale (BPMS). In O. N. Medvedev, C. U. Krägeloh, R. J. Siegert & Nirbhay N. Singh (Eds.), *Handbook of Assessment in Mindfulness Research*, Springer, Cham. DOI
4. Mauritsen, A. L. & **van Mulukom, V.** (2023). Never mind the Gods: Explaining Unbelief and Non-religion. In B. Purzycki & T. Bendixen (Eds.), *The Minds of Gods: New Horizons in the Naturalistic Study of Religion*, Bloomsbury. DOI
3. Coleman, T. J. III, Messick, K. & **van Mulukom, V**. (2022). Atheism: A New Evolutionary Perspective on Non-Belief. In Y. Lior & J.E. Lane (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Evolutionary Approaches to Religion* (pp. 130-150). Routledge, London. DOI

2. Burić, I., Brazil, I. A., & **van Mulukom, V.** (2021). Individual differences in meditation outcomes. In M. Farias, D. Brazier, & M. Lalljee (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of* Meditation (pp. 503-524), Oxford University Press, Oxford. DOI
1. **van Mulukom, V.** (2020). The Evolution of Imagination and Fiction Through Generativity and Narrative. In J. C. Carroll, M. Clasen, & E. Jonsson (Eds.), *Evolutionary Perspectives on Imaginative Culture* (pp. 53-70). Springer, Cham. DOI

Encyclopaedia entries

5. **van Mulukom, V**. & Lorrimar, V. (in preparation). Imagination. Entry in *Springer Nature Encyclopedia of Religious Psychology and Behavior*, ed. Todd K. Shackelford.
4. **van Mulukom, V**., van Emmerik, M. & Lorrimar, V. (in preparation). Awe. Entry in *Springer Nature Encyclopedia of Religious Psychology and Behavior*, ed. Todd K. Shackelford.
3. **van Mulukom, V.** & Jong, J. (manuscript). Atheism. Entry in *Springer Nature Encyclopedia of Religious Psychology and Behavior*, ed. Todd K. Shackelford.
2. Jong, J. & **van Mulukom, V.** (2025). Beliefs. Entry in *Springer Nature Encyclopedia of Religious Psychology and Behavior*, ed. Todd K. Shackelford. DOI
1. Charles, S. J. & **van Mulukom, V.** (2025). Social behavior: rituals and social bonding. Entry in *Springer Nature Encyclopedia of Religious Psychology and Behavior*, ed. Todd K. Shackelford. DOI

Editorial articles

1. Gander, P., Kapitany, R., **van Mulukom**, V., Semeijn, M., & Szita, K. (2025). Engaging with the unreal: Introduction to the special issue. *Imagination, Cognition and Personality, 45*(2). DOI
2. **van Mulukom, V.** (2022). Imagination. *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture*, *6*(2). DOI
3. Carroll, J., Johnson, J.A., Jonsson, E., Jung, R.E., **van Mulukom, V.** (2022). Editorial: Imaginative culture and human nature: Evolutionary perspectives on the arts, religion, and ideology. *Frontiers in Psychology, 13*, 999057. DOI
4. **van Mulukom, V.** (2022). Imagination. *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture*, 6(1), 127-130. DOI
5. Geertz, A.W., Nielbo, K.L. & **van Mulukom, V.** (2021). Methodology in the Cognitive Science of Religion. *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion, 6*(1-2), 5-9. DOI
6. **van Mulukom, V.** (2021). Imagination. *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture*, 5(1), 121-124. DOI
7. Geertz, A.W., **van Mulukom, V.**, & Nielbo, K.L. (2019). The cognitive science of religion: Wherefrom, whereto? *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion*, *5*(1), 1-4. DOI
8. Coleman, T.J. III, Jong, J., & **van Mulukom, V.** (2018). Introduction to the Special Issue: What are Religious Beliefs? *Contemporary Pragmatism, 15*(3), 279-283. DOI

Theses

1. **van Mulukom, V.** (2013). Imagining a Brave New Future: The Effects of Novelty and Plausibility on Episodic Simulation. PhD thesis, published online. The University of Auckland, New Zealand.

2. **van Mulukom, V**. (2009). Cross-serial dependencies in Dutch: On the syntactic and psycholinguistic processes in verb clusters in standard Dutch, and how they can be related. Master thesis, published online. Utrecht University, the Netherlands.

Articles under review/preprints

1. **van Mulukom, V.** & Turner-Fussell, W. (under review). The real treasure was the friends we made along the way: Co-presence with likeminded others drives the social benefits of TTRPGs for autistic individuals. Preprint here.
2. Lorrimar, V. & **van Mulukom, V.** (under review). Focused on the Future or Preoccupied by the Present? Moral concern for future generations is influenced by zero-sum contexts.
3. **van Mulukom, V.**, Debeuf, K., Putra, I. E., & Whitehouse, H. (under review). Willingness to fight and die for a group is differentially predicted by group membership, status, and perceived threat.
4. **van Mulukom, V.,** Clark, R., Eikelboom, L., Newheiser, D., Joseph, J. & Farias, M. (under review). Blurring of self-other boundaries is associated with awe and social bonding in an art ritual performance. Preprint here.
5. **van Mulukom, V.**, Atalay, E.D., Gkinopoulos, T., Bertin, P., Klein, O. (under review). Resentment predicts general and election-specific conspiracy beliefs beyond structural and perceived insecurities.
6. **van Mulukom, V.**, van Emmerik, M. & Lorrimar, V. (manuscript). 42 Days of Summer: A diary study of nonreligious awe. Preprint here.
7. **van Mulukom, V.** (manuscript). Competing epistemic authorities during an infodemic: How trust in scientists versus populist governments shapes conspiracy beliefs and protective health behaviour. Preprint here.
8. Mauritsen, A., Haimila, T.R., Lundmark, S.E., Johnson, E.T., & **van Mulukom, V.** (manuscript). Are the Nordic countries nonreligious? Findings of theistic belief, considerations for the conceptualisation of (non)religiosity, and implications for further nonreligion research.
9. Haines, E., Van der Merwe, A., Grayling, M., & **van Mulukom, V.** (manuscript). Beats, Bands, and Bonds: Perceived sharedness links musical experience with bonding.

Supervision & mentorship

Ongoing		
2026-curr.	Carlsberg Foundation international postdoc: Dr Lauritz Holm Petersen	(mentor)
2025-curr.	PhD student: Emily Birks	(second supervisor)
Graduated/finished (PhD)		
2022-2026	PhD student: Eylül Deran Atalay	(2022-2023 director of studies, 2023-2026 external supervisor)
2016-2023	PhD student: Jennifer Brown	(third supervisor)
2019-2022	PhD student: Micia de Wet	(third supervisor)
2018-2021	PhD student: Sarah J. Charles	(second supervisor)
2016-2021	PhD student: Thomas Coleman III	(third supervisor)

2016-2019	PhD student: Kyle Messick	(third supervisor)
2016-2018	PhD student: Ivana Burić	(fourth supervisor)
Graduated/finished (MSc)		
2025-2026	MSc student: Vicky Zetterstrom-Sharp	(main supervisor)
2024-2025	MSc student: William Turner-Fussell	(main supervisor)
2024-2025	MSc student: Kate Fisher	(main supervisor)
2023-2024	MSc student: Amy Poole	(main supervisor)
2023-2024	MSc student: Jessica Hull	(main supervisor)
2020-2021	MSc student: Georgia Dee	(main supervisor)
2019-2021	MSc student: Charlotte Gunn	(main supervisor)
2018-2019	MSc student: Ruairi Patterson	(main supervisor)
2017-2018	MSc student: Wioletta Cartano	(main supervisor)
Graduated (other)		
2022-2023	Marie Curie Fellow: Nella van den Brandt	(second mentor + maternity leave substitute first mentor)
Not listed:	BSc (Hons.) student supervision (1 student 2016-2017; 1 student, 2023-2024; 7 students 2024-2025; 8 students 2025-2026)	

Teaching

2024-curr.	Module leader for, and developer of, 'Psychology of Religion, Nonreligion, and Spirituality' (PSYC6026), 3rd year undergraduate psychology students (n=~25), Oxford Brookes University.
2023-curr.	Module leader for 'Psychological Research Methods & Statistics' (PSYC5022), 2nd year undergraduate psychology students (n=~140), Oxford Brookes University.
2023-curr.	Module leader for 'Intelligence, Personality and Individual Differences' (PSYC7006), MSc students (n=~50), Oxford Brookes University.
2023-curr.	Lecturer for 'The Self and Autobiographical Memory' (PSYC6021) led by Dr Clare Rathbone, for 3rd year undergraduate psychology students (n=~60), Oxford Brookes University.
2023-curr.	Lecturer for 'Specialised Research Skills in Psychology' (PSYC6023) led by Dr Michael Pilling, for 3rd year undergraduate psychology students (n=~10), Oxford Brookes University.
2025, 2026	Lecturer on quantitative research (including survey and scale design, factor analysis) for 'Sensing Invisible Presence' (n=~10), a religious studies course led by Dr Ingela Visuri, Dalarna University, Sweden.
2026-curr.	Research project supervisor for undergraduate University of Oxford students at SCIO, Oxford.
2021-curr.	Lecturer/tutor for [Cognition], [Cognitive Psychology], [Language and Cognition], and [Psychology of Religion and Spirituality] for undergraduate University of Oxford students (previously Wycliffe Hall) at SCIO, Oxford (2020-2021 Hilary term; 2021-2022 Michaelmas term; 2022-2023 Michaelmas term; 2022-2023 Hilary term; 2023-

	2024 Michaelmas term; 2024-2025 Michaelmas term; 2024-2025 Hilary term; 2025-2026 Michaelmas term)
2022	Module co-leader 'Introduction to Research Design and Skills' for PhD students (with Dr Serena Hussain, Dr Laura Sulin), Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University.
2021	Lecture for PhD students: Doing Research during a Pandemic (Coventry University)
2020	Lecture for PhD students: Quantitative methods & statistics (Coventry University)
2012	Lecture for PhD students and postdocs: fMRI (University of Auckland)
2012	Tutor Biopsychology (20 second year BSc students; University of Auckland)
2011; 2012	Tutor Perception and Cognition (20 second year BSc students; University of Auckland)
2011	Poster seminar for Honours students (60 students; University of Auckland)
2008	Student assistant Introduction Generative Syntax (Utrecht University)
2008	Student assistant Introduction Language Development (Utrecht University)

Doctoral thesis examinations

2021	James Murphy (April, 2021). 'The self and the sacred: Exploring the relationships between experiences deemed spiritual and religious and beliefs using interpretative phenomenological analysis.' Canterbury Christ Church University, UK.

Grant reviews

2025	Österreichischer Wissenschaftsfonds (FWF) - Austrian Science Fund.
2025	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) - German Research Foundation.

Editorial service

2026-curr.	Editor on the Editorial board of Scientific Reports (Nature).
2026	Guest editor of a special issue of Zygon, '*Understanding (non)religious awe in conversation with psychology and cognitive science perspectives*'.
2019-2025	Editor of the Advances in the Cognitive Science of Religion book series (Equinox), together with Prof Armin Geertz and Dr Jesper Sørensen.
2018-2025	Editor of the Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion (Equinox).
2020-2023	Review editor on the topic of *Imagination* for the journal of Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture (Academic Studies Press).
2021	Topic Editor for Research Topic *'Imaginative Culture and Human Nature: Evolutionary Perspectives on the Arts, Religion, and Ideology'* at Frontiers in Psychology.
2016-2021	Editor of the monthly newsletter for the International Association for the Psychology of Religion (IAPR).
2018	Sole guest editor of a special issue of the Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion, *'Cognitive Science of Imagination and Religion'*.

2018 Third guest editor of a special issue of Contemporary Pragmatism, *'What are Religious Beliefs'*, together with Thomas J. Coleman III and Dr Jonathan Jong.

Ad-hoc reviews

PNAS; Nature Reviews Psychology; Nature Human Behaviour; Trends in Cognitive Sciences; Psychological Science; Social Science & Medicine; Cortex; Scientific Reports; Scientific Data; PLOS One; Royal Society Open Science; Social Psychological and Personality Science; European Journal of Social Psychology; British Journal of Social Psychology; British Journal of Sociology; Journal of Social and Political Psychology; Philosophical Psychology; New Ideas in Psychology; Human Nature; Psychology of Religion and Spirituality; Religion, Brain & Behavior; Consciousness & Cognition; Psychoneuroendocrinology; BMC Public Health; Stress & Health; Journal of Psychoactive Drugs; International Journal of Drug Policy; Public Health in Practice; Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts; Journal of Community Psychology; Frontiers in Psychology; Humanities and Social Sciences Communications; Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology; The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion; Archive for the Psychology of Religion; Zygon; Evolutionary Psychology; Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion; Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice; Social Compass.

Professional memberships

2026-curr.	Member of Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA)
2026-curr.	Elected Fellow of the International Society for Science and Religion (ISSR)
2026-curr.	British Psychological Society (BPS) Chartered Membership (CPsychology; #664600; also 2022-2023)
2026-curr.	British Psychological Society (BPS) Social Psychology Section (also 2022-2023)
2026-curr.	British Psychological Society (BPS) Consciousness & Experiential Psychology Section
2026-curr.	International Society for the Science of Existential Psychology (ISSEP)
2023-curr.	Sustainable and Resilient Futures (SRF) network, Oxford Brookes University
2020-curr.	Nordic Network for the Cognitive Science of Religion (NNCSR)
2016-curr.	International Association for the Psychology of Religion (IAPR)
2014-curr.	International Association for the Cognitive and Evolutionary Sciences of Religion (IACESR)
2023-2024	Council for European Studies (CES) member
2022-2023	British Psychological Society (BPS) Division of Academics, Researchers & Teachers in Psychology (DARTP)
2022-2023	European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA)
2020-2021	Cognitive Science Society (CSS)

Advisory board

2022-2023 'Becoming Non-believers: Explaining Atheism in Childhood', Explaining Atheism RFP1 Research Grant, Queen's University Belfast, 2022-2023; awarded to Anna Strhan (PI) and Lois Lee (co-PI)(£47,897).

Committee memberships

2026-curr. Oxford Brookes University's academic champion for *The Conversation*.

2025-curr. Co-lead of the AI working group of psychology, Oxford Brookes University.

2025-curr. Member of the HST Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group (Faculty of Health, Science and Technology, Oxford Brookes University).

2024-curr. Member-at-large of the International Association for the Cognitive and Evolutionary Sciences of Religion (IACESR) executive committee.

2023-curr. Member of the Cross-Faculty Research Ethics Sub-Committee (CRES), which meets several times a year to assess cross-faculty ethics applications.

2025 Member of the local IAPR conference organising committee (University of Birmingham) organising the 12th meeting of the biennial conference of the International Association for the Psychology of Religion, theme "Highlighting the Cross-Disciplinarity of the Psychology of Religion".

2024 Member of the local IACESR conference organising committee (Oxford Brookes University) organising the 9th meeting of the biennial conference of the International Association for the Cognitive and Evolutionary Sciences of Religion.

2020-2024 Publications Officer of the International Association for the Cognitive and Evolutionary Sciences of Religion (IACESR).

2020-2023 Member of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (EDIC), Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, promoting equal and diverse employment practices.

2018-2019 Member of the Equality and Diversity committee, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Coventry University, promoting equal and diverse employment practices.

2018 Member of the CABS Social Media & Communication committee, Coventry University, a committee dedicated to supporting academics in dispersing their research and establishing their research profile through media.

2015-2016 Communications manager of SciBar committee, British Science Association Oxfordshire; a committee dedicated to bringing science to a wider audience through monthly science talks in pubs and other public venues.

2013 Founding member of 'Centre for Brain Research PhD Day' organising committee, University of Auckland; a meeting and academic career's day for CBR's PhD students (75 attendees in 2013).

2012-2013 Member of Psychology & Sustainability Group, University of Auckland, a group that organises fundraising events for fair-trade and environment organisations, seeks to raise environmental awareness and promote sustainable options at the School of Psychology.

2011-2013 Member of BrainWaves Committee, Centre for Brain Research, University of Auckland, a committee that organizes monthly seminars and social events for the PhD students and postdocs at CBR.

2007-2009 Student member of the Curriculum Committee of the Research Master Linguistics, Utrecht University, a committee that is concerned with the quality and evaluation of the programme of the master.

2005 Member of the Introduction Committee of the Bachelor Language and Culture Studies, Utrecht University, a committee involved in the planning and organising of the introduction week for approximately 250 students.

Press & media

Popular science articles

1. **Popular science article**: The surprising science of awe - and what it reveals about consciousness, *Big Think (the Well)*, 18 November 2026.
2. **Popular science article**: Can picking up a book really improve your brain?, *The Conversation*, 07 October 2026.

   Published online on Mirage News, Samsung News, and Phys.org on 10 October 2026; Novoye Vremya (Ukraine) on 11 October 2026.
3. **Popular science article**: Feeling distracted? How hobbies can help you find 'flow state' and save your brain, *The Conversation*, 10 April 2026.

   Published online on Tolerance.ca on 10 April 2026, Yahoo news UK on 10 April 2026, Medical Xpress on 13 April 2026, Press Trust of India on 13 April 2026.
4. **Popular science article**: Use your imagination! The unreal in everyday life.., *The Psychologist* (BPS/British Psychological Society), 13 March 2026.
5. **Popular science article**: Intuition is the secret to great acting and many other skills – here's how to train it, *The Conversation*, 11 March 2024.

   Published online on Medical Xpress on 12 March 2024, Mirage on 12 March 2024, and Raw Story (Singapore) on 13 March 2024.
6. **Popular science article**: Rust out: why boredom at work can be harmful and what employers can do about it, *The Conversation*, 22 May 2023.

   Published online on Today Online (Singapore) on 23 May 2023; Phys.org on 23 May 2023; Social Europe on 24 May 2023; News24 on 24 May 2023; Moneyweb on 28 May 2023; Stuff (.co.za) on 1 June 2023. Used in the entrance exam of Tsuda University, Tokyo, Japan.
7. **Popular science article**: How your brain decides what to think, *The Conversation*, 20 February 2023.

   Published online on IFLScience on 21 February 2023; Stuff.co.nz on 21 February 2023; Medical Xpress on 21 February 2023; Real Clear Science on 21 February 2023; The Hindu on 21 February 2023; The Star Kenya on 22 February 2023. Translated into Danish for Videnskab.dk on 14 August 2023.
8. **Popular science article**: Young people may be more likely to believe in conspiracy theories that deny COVID facts – here's how to respond, *The Conversation*, 15 September 2022.

   Translated into Japanese for Archive4ones on 17 September 2022; Published online on All Africa on 15 September 2022; Medical Xpress on 16 September 2022; Wales Online on 19 September 2022.
9. **Popular science article**: Ritual, transcendence & psychedelics, *IAI.tv* (Institute of Art and Ideas), 08 October 2021.

10. **Popular science article**: How non-religious worldviews provide solace in times of crisis, *The Conversation*, 21 May 2020.

    Published online on: UK Yahoo News on 21 May 2020, Phys.org on 21 May 2020, and the Mandarin on 25 May 2020.

11. **Popular science article**: How imagination can help people overcome fear and anxiety, *The Conversation*, 10 December 2018.
12. **Popular science article:** Is it rational to trust your gut feelings? A neuroscientist explains, *The Conversation*, 16 May 2018.

    Published online on: Newsweek on 17 May 2018; Business Insider on 19 May 2018; World Economic Forum on 22 May 2018; BBC Future on 28 May 2018; Novoya Vremya (Ukrainian news outlet) on 7 June 2018; RTÉ (Ireland's National Television and Radio Broadcaster) on 28 August 2018.

13. **Popular science article**: An Indonesian translation of 'The secret to creativity – according to science': Rahasia menjadi lebih kreatif menurut sains. *The Conversation*, 31 January 2018.

    This article was published online on National Geographic Indonesia.

14. **Popular science article:** The secret to creativity – according to science, *The Conversation*, 3 January 2018.

    Printed in i newspaper on 11 January 2018 (daily circulation 265,949 copies), and published online on: the Daily Mail on 3 January 2018; Metro news on 4 January 2018; Science Alert on 5 January 2018; PBS on 7 January 2018; World Economic Forum on 8 January 2018; Business Insider on 11 January 2018; The Week on 15 January 2018; Riverside Quarterly on 28 June 2021.

Other publications

1. **Opinion article**: 'Build trust to combat dangerous conspiracy theories', *Local Government Chronicle*, 01 February 2021.
2. **Research blog post**: 'A cognitive profile of COVID-19 conspiracists', *Cognitive Science Society blog*, 16 November 2020.
3. **Press release**: 'Watching a scary movie this Hallowe'en? This is what happens to our brain and bodies when we view a frightening film', *Coventry University news*, 27 October 2017.
4. **Research blog post:** 'Using Neuromodulation to Change Belief – and Unbelief', Methods and Methodologies, *Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network (NSRN) Blog*, 15 August 2016.

Featured

1. **Newspaper article** (featured): 'What your summer reading list says about you'. BBC News: Health (Joe McFadden), 31 July 2026.
2. **Newspaper article** (featured): 'Les rituels religieux augmentent le lien social... et le seuil de douleur'. *France24.com*, AFP (Bénédicte Salvetat Rey), 26 June 2026.
3. **Newspaper article** (featured): 'Opium of the masses? Study suggests Marx was right about religion'. *The Times*, Rhys Blakely, 24 June 2026.
4. **Popular science article** (featured): 'Is a gut feeling real?' IFLScience CURIOUS, issue 35, June 2025.
5. **Popular science article** (featured): 'Ego tripping: Why do psychedelics "enlighten" some people — and make others giant narcissists?' *Salon*, Rich Haridy, 8 March 2024.
6. **Popular science article** (featured): 'How are you thinking?' *New Scientist* (issue 3448) cover story, Kate Douglas, 22 July 2023.

7. **Freelance news article** (featured): 'Most methods for squashing conspiracy theories don't work, study finds. Here's what does', *Live Science*, Anna Deming, 6 April 2023.
8. **Radio show** (contribution): 'From 4chan to international politics, a bug-eating conspiracy theory goes mainstream, All Things Considered, *National Public Radio* (NPR), Huo Jingnan, 2 April 2023.
9. **Radio show** (contribution): 'How a conspiracy theory about eating bugs made its way to international politics', All Things Considered, *National Public Radio* (NPR), Huo Jingnan, 31 March 2023.
10. **Popular science interview article**: 'Awe-inducing raves are linked to transformative experiences and social bonding, study finds', *PsyPost*, Eric Dolan, 9 November 2021.
11. **Popular science article** (featured): 'The surprising power of daily rituals', *BBC Future*, Karan Johnson, 15 September 2021.
12. **Popular science interview article**: 'Awe-inspiring psychedelic trips reduce narcissism by boosting connectedness and empathy, study suggests', *PsyPost*, Eric Dolan, 15 October 2020.

Interviews & podcasts

1. **Radio interviews**: Twelve consecutive radio interviews with BBC local radios (Guernsey, Leeds, Wiltshire, Northampton, Newcastle, Somerset, Berkshire, Devon, Leicester, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, 3CR), 19 August 2026, on the evolutionary psychology of fiction.
2. **Radio interview**: BBC Radio 4, PM programme with Evan Davis, 12 August 2026, on experiencing the solar eclipse (awe, memory, and spirituality).
3. **Radio interview**: BBC Radio Oxford, Saturday Breakfast with Lucy Ambache, 8 August 2026, on the evolutionary psychology of fiction.
4. **Radio interview**: Times Radio Breakfast with Stig Abell and Kate McCann, 24 June 2026, on religious rituals and social bonding.
5. **Radio interview**: 'The distraction economy: how hobbies can save your brain.' Afternoon drive with John Maytham, CapeTalk radio (Cape Town, SA), 22 April 2026.
6. **Radio interview**: 'Why do we like horror films?' Heart Thames Valley radio UK, 31 October 2025 (see also OBU press release).
7. **Podcast**: 'When to trust your gut instinct, and when to ignore it', ABC Radio National's *All in the Mind* podcast (Australia), 11 February 2024.
8. **Interview**: 'Valerie van Mulukom: "There is a point where the imaginary becomes real"', part of *The Reasoning Report* series by Vincent Tijms, 31 May 2023.
9. **Video (clip)**: 'Conspiracy Theories', part of the Conspiratorial Ideation and Pathological Belief project (British Academy) by Ema Sullivan-Bissett and Anna Ichino.
10. **Podcast**: 'Nature & Nurture #72: Dr. Valerie van Mulukom - Imagination, Memory, & Belief', *Nature & Nurture Podcast*, 15 September 2022.
11. **TV interview** (video clip): Requesting COVID-19 vaccine priority for pregnant women (invitation relayed via the charity Pregnant Then Screwed). *BBC News at Six*, 16 December 2021.
12. **Radio interview:** Part of the BBC World News radio programme *CrowdScience*, episode 'What's the best way to make a decision?', 10 December 2021.
13. **Video interview**: 'Conspiracies: Has fiction replaced reality?'. *Politics.co.uk*, 06 October 2021.
14. **Radio interview**: Breakfast on *BBC Radio Oxford* (with Sophie Law), discussing the 'Band of Mothers' article. Broadcast 31 October 2020.

15. **Podcast**: Part of the Naked Neuroscience podcast 'Go with your gut', by *The Naked Scientists* (the University of Cambridge), 20 November 2019.
16. **Radio discussion**: *BBC Radio 5 Live* Afternoon Edition programme with Nihal Arthanayake and guest presenter Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones, hosting a debate on 'Intuition versus data?', with Dr Valerie van Mulukom, Dr Dean Burnett, and Katy Leeson, on 29 November 2018.
17. **Podcast**: Part of the Conversation podcast *Anthill*, #25 Intuition, 16 May 2018.

Public engagement

Special interest talks

May 2026 **van Mulukom, V.** (2026). Why religion? A whirlwind tour of the cognitive and evolutionary science of (non)religion. Talk for the Oxford Humanists in their monthly talk series, Oxford, United Kingdom.

Feb 2026 **van Mulukom, V.** (2026). Awesome science & the science of awe: How we can and cannot find meaning and answers to life's big questions in a secular age. Virtual talk for Cornwall Humanists, UK.

Jul 2025 **van Mulukom, V.** (2025). Awesome science & the science of awe: How we can and cannot find meaning and answers to life's big questions in a secular age. Talk for the Oxford Humanists in their monthly talk series, Oxford, United Kingdom.

Jan 2025 **van Mulukom, V.** (2025). The psychology of the invisible forces that drive us, Keynote talk for the workshop "Investigating Themes" for screenwriters and TV producers, by the Creative Connection, Brussels, Belgium.

Mar 2024 **van Mulukom, V.** (2024). The Imaginative Brain. Keynote talk for 'Explore Your Brain', the Rumble Museum Sixth Form conference of 2024, at Cheney School, Oxford.

Mar 2024 **van Mulukom, V.** & Collicutt, J. (2024). The Spiritual Brain. Workshops for 'Explore Your Brain', the Rumble Museum Sixth Form conference of 2024, at Cheney School, Oxford.

May 2023 **van Mulukom, V.** (2023). The Science of Decision-Making: Balancing Rationality and Intuition in a World of Choices. Speaker for 'A Meeting of Minds Paraplanning' by Owen James group, London, UK (25 May 2023).

Apr 2023 **van Mulukom, V.** (2023). What can be learnt from rituals when designing transcendent experiences? Workshop, Transcendence research and performance design: research seminar on therapeutic design, King's College London, UK (17 April 2023).

Apr 2023 **van Mulukom, V.** (2023). The psychology of transcendent experiences and their impact on wellbeing and human flourishing. Workshop, Transcendence research and performance design: research seminar on therapeutic design, King's College London, UK (17 April 2023).

Jan 2022 **van Mulukom, V.** (2022). Explaining Secular Worldviews and Nonreligion: The world without God. Presentation for Leicester Secular Society, UK (9 January 2022, virtual).

Sep 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** (2021). Secular worldviews around the world: Psychology research on non-religious beliefs and worldviews in 10 countries. Presentation for Birmingham Humanists, UK (21 September 2021, virtual).

Jan 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** (2021). COVID-19 conspiracies: The danger of low levels of trust and information in an environment of threat and uncertainty. Presentation for LGA (Local Government Association) Safer and Stronger Communities Board, UK (14 January 2021, virtual, 177 attendees).

Dec 2020 **van Mulukom, V.** (2020). COVID-19 conspiracies: The danger of low levels of trust and information in an environment of threat and uncertainty. Seminar of SIGCE (Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism): 'Conspiracy theories and COVID: From the fringes to the mainstream', UK (9 December 2020, virtual).

May 2019 **van Mulukom, V.** (2019) The Cognitive Science of Creativity and Imagination. Public talk, *Pint of Science festival* (20-22 May 2019), theme: Beautiful Mind. Coventry, UK.

Talks

Invited academic talks

Oct 2026 **van Mulukom, V.** (2026). 'Imagining a brave new future: How simulating the future might bring about hope and action'. Heymans Colloquium, University of Groningen, the Netherlands.

May 2026 **van Mulukom, V.** (2026). 'Imagining the final frontier: How the psychology of (science) fiction makes space a human experience'. Seminar, The Leverhulme Centre for Humanity and Space, University of Leicester, UK.

May 2026 **van Mulukom, V.** (2026). 'Psychology of human-AI relationships'. **Keynote talk**, *New Trends in Psychology* conference, Lusophone University, Portugal.

Jun 2025 **van Mulukom, V.** (2025). 'Psychology of awe'. Workshop, Cognitive science of awe series, 'Awesome spirituality' project, Oxford Brookes University, UK.

Nov 2024 **van Mulukom, V.** (2024). 'The Psychology of Stanislavski's Psychological Realism'. Virtual symposium, *The S Word: Stanislavsky and Psychology*, the Stanislavsky Research Centre at the University of Malta.

Oct 2023 **van Mulukom, V.** (2023). 'From Asgard to Atheism: A comparative study of cultural and cognitive factors of religious and secular worldviews in the Nordic countries'. **Keynote talk**, Nordic Network for the Cognitive Science of Religion (NNCSR). University of Helsinki, Finland.

Jun 2023 **van Mulukom, V.** (2023). 'To be(lieve) or not be(lieve): The role of absorption in perceived realness of fictional imaginings'. Symposium, *Cognition and Fiction – Integrating Memory, Learning, Influence, Pretense, and Imagination: A Marcus Wallenberg Symposium*, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

May 2023 **van Mulukom, V.** (2023 – withdrawn due to scheduling conflict). 'A delusions approach to conspiracy beliefs elucidates paradoxes of low wellbeing and irrationality – with provisos'. Workshop, *The Implications of Pathologizing Conspiracy Beliefs*, Gargnano del Garda, Italy.

May 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** (2021). 'Threat and uncertainty in the time of COVID-19: Low levels of trust and information reduce guideline compliance and increase conspiracy

beliefs'. Annenberg Public Policy Center (APPC) speaker series, University of Pennsylvania, United States (virtual).

Feb 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** (2021). 'The psychology of intuition: Interactions between interoception, trust, and belief'. Seminar, Oxford Brookes University psychology seminar, Oxford, United Kingdom (virtual).

Apr 2020 **van Mulukom, V.** (2020 – postponed then cancelled due to COVID-19). Emerging International Leaders Programme on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, UK.

Dec 2014 **van Mulukom, V.** (2014). 'Remembering religious rituals: Contributions of memory research to the cognitive science of religion'. Seminar, Religion, Cognition and Culture unit, Aarhus University, Denmark.

May 2013 **van Mulukom, V.** (2013). 'Mental time travel: Cognitive, neural and evolutionary aspects'. Seminar, Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

Conference talks

Jul 2026 **van Mulukom, V.** (2026). 42 Days of Summer: A diary study of awe. Conference, *International Association for the Cognitive and Evolutionary Sciences of Religion* (IACESR) conference, Brno, Czechia.

Aug 2025 **van Mulukom, V.**, Lorrimar, V., and van Emmerik, M. (2025). The Spectrum of Awe: Bridging Religious and Secular Experiences of Self-Transcendence. Conference, *International Association of the Psychology of Religion* (IAPR) conference, Birmingham, UK.

Jul 2024 van Mulukom, V. & Mauritsen, A. L. (2024). 'Explaining Nordic Atheism: Combining insights from sociology and psychology'. Conference, *Explaining Atheism*, Oxford, UK.

Aug 2023 **van Mulukom, V.**, Clark, R., Newheiser, D., Eikelboom, L., and Farias, M. (2023). Blurring the boundaries between self and other: How self-transcendence facilitates bonding through religious rituals and artistic performances. Conference, *International Association of the Psychology of Religion* (IAPR) conference, Groningen, the Netherlands.

Aug 2023 **van Mulukom, V.**, Haimila, R., Turpin, H. and de Witt, A. (2023). Worldly Worldviews Worldwide: Introducing the Secular Worldviews Scale. Conference, *International Association of the Psychology of Religion* (IAPR) conference, Groningen, the Netherlands.

Jun 2023 **van Mulukom, V.** (2023). Trust In Scientists And Non-Populist Governments Associated With COVID-19 Safeguarding Behaviours. Conference, *29th International Conference of Europeanists*, Council for European Studies, Reykjavik, Iceland.

Jun 2023 **van Mulukom, V.** (2023). Examining Pathways To Willingness To Fight In Muslims In Western Europe Through Threat And Religious Social Identity. Conference, *29th International Conference of Europeanists*, Council for European Studies, Reykjavik, Iceland.

Apr 2023 **van Mulukom, V.** (2023). The belief type continuum: An evolutionary, dual-inheritance explanation of the acquisition and transmission of conspiracy beliefs in

light of paranormal and religious beliefs. Conference, *EHBEA* conference, London, UK.

Sep 2022 **van Mulukom, V.** & Mauritsen, A. L. (2022). Unbelief through a worldview & dual-inheritance lens. Conference, *IACESR* meeting, Aarhus, Denmark.

Dec 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** & Clasen, M. (2021). How the evolutionary functions of memory for the future and fiction may contribute to psychological wellbeing during a pandemic. Virtual conference, *SARMAC Regional Meeting Australasia* 'Reminiscing and Memory across the Lifespan'.

Nov 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** (2021) The dual-pathway model of conspiracy beliefs: the interaction of epistemic and socio-existential needs and resources. Virtual conference, *EASP* Small Group Meeting 'Social implications of conspiracy theories'.

Sep 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** & Farias, M. (2021) Art as Ritual: A Psychological Exploration. Virtual conference, *European Academy of Religion* (EuARe) conference.

Jul 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** (2021) COVID-19 conspiracies: The danger of low levels of trust and information in an environment of threat and uncertainty. Virtual conference, *International Society of Political Psychology* (ISPP) Annual Meeting.

Jun 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** & de Wet, M. (2021) Forgotten culture, ignored imagination: An evolutionary, dual-pathway cognition model of how humans navigate and make sense of reality. Virtual conference, *Culture Conference* 2021, theme 'Evolutionary Perspectives on Culture'.

Apr 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** & de Wet, M. (2021) Interoceptive, exteroceptive, and immersive abilities contribute to acting intuition. Virtual conference, *Society for Affective Science* (SAS) conference.

Jul 2020 **van Mulukom, V.** (2020). The Psychological Impact of Lockdown During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Virtual conference, *Social BRIDGES*: Society, psychology and behaviour during and post COVID-19 lockdown, hosted by Universität der Bundeswehr, München, Germany.

Feb 2019 **van Mulukom, V.** (2019). Belief in Psychic Ability is predicted by high levels of Intuitive Thinking & low levels of Cognitive Inhibition. Conference, *International Convention of Psychological Science* (ICPS) 2019, Paris, France.

Sep 2018 **van Mulukom, V.** (2018). How Religious Rituals Become Emotional Symbols: Neurochemical and cognitive mechanisms of memory and emotion. Conference, *Association of Social Anthropologists conference* (ASA18) 'Sociality, matter, and the imagination: re-creating Anthropology', Oxford, UK.

Jul 2018 **van Mulukom, V.** (2018). Secular Worldviews in World View: How do secular worldviews differ cross-culturally and what psychological functions do they have? Special panel, 'Keeping Worldviews in Mind: The Psychology and Cognitive Anthropology of Nonreligion', *Nonreligion & Secularity Research Network conference* 'Worldviews in World View: Particularizing Secularism, Secularity and Nonreligion', London, UK.

Jul 2018 **van Mulukom, V.**, Rutjens, B.T. & Farias, M. (2018). Secular versus Religious Worldviews: Do they fulfil the same psychological functions? Conference, *Nonreligion & Secularity Research Network* (NSRN) conference 'Worldviews in World View: Particularizing Secularism, Secularity and Nonreligion', London, UK.

Jul 2018 **van Mulukom, V.**, Rutjens, B. T. & Farias, M. (2018). What secular beliefs do non-believers have, and what psychological functions do they serve. Workshop, *Understanding Unbelief workshop*, Canterbury, UK.

May 2018 **van Mulukom, V.** (2018). Associations between analytical/intuitive thinking and religious beliefs. Meeting talk, *Nordic Network for the Cognitive Science of Religion* (NNCSR) meeting, Aarhus, Denmark.

Aug 2017 **van Mulukom, V.**, Jong, J., & Farias, M. (2017). Examining the relationship between intuitive thinking and supernatural belief through a cognitive style training. Conference, *International Association of the Psychology of Religion* (IAPR) conference, Hamar, Norway.

Mar 2017 **van Mulukom, V.**, Farias, M. (2017). The role of cognitive inhibition in eliciting supernatural disbelief – a neurostimulation study. Conference, *International Convention of Psychological Science* (ICPS) 2017, Vienna, Austria.

Jul 2016 Jong, J., **van Mulukom, V.**, Coleman, T., & Farias, M. (2016). What do atheists believe? Some meaningful answers to a silly question. Conference (presented by VVM), *2016 Ian Ramsey Centre Conference*: A Postsecular Age? New Narratives of Religion, Science, and Society, Oxford, United Kingdom.

Apr 2012 **van Mulukom, V**., Schacter, D.L., Corballis, M.C., & Addis, D.R. (2012). Imagining the implausible: the effect of plausibility on future event imagination. Conference, *KiwiCAM* (Cognition and Memory) conference, Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand.

Sep 2010 **van Mulukom, V**., Schacter, D.L., Corballis, M.C., & Addis, D.R. (2010). Medial temporal responses to the novelty of future simulations. Conference, *Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research (AWCBR)*, Wanaka, New Zealand.

Seminars & other talks

Jan 2026 **van Mulukom, V.** (2026). Affective salience as a way to understand non-reflective consciousness and self-transcendent experiences. Virtual seminar, Emotion Research Group meeting, Bath University, UK.

Sep 2025 **van Mulukom, V.** (2025). The empirical study of awe. Symposium, 'Awesome Spirituality' symposium, Jesus College, Oxford, UK.

Sep 2025 **van Mulukom, V.** (2025). The measurement of awe. Symposium, 'Awesome Spirituality' symposium, Jesus College, Oxford, UK.

Sep 2025 **van Mulukom, V.** (2025). The meaning of awe. Symposium, 'Awesome Spirituality' symposium, Jesus College, Oxford, UK.

Apr 2025 **van Mulukom, V.** (2025). Do psychedelics dissolve or inflate egos? Virtual seminar, Advanced Psychedelic Science Journal Club & Factory, Department of Psychology, Stockholm University, Sweden.

Dec 2024 **van Mulukom, V.** (2024). Lack of faith in nonreligion research: a proposal for new approaches. Virtual seminar, WIP seminar series at the Society & Cognition Unit, Faculty of Sociology, University of Bialystok, Poland.

Dec 2024 **van Mulukom, V.** (2024). Psychedelics and raves can contribute to wellbeing via feelings of connectedness. Seminar, 'Wellbeing Series', Oxford Brookes University.

Oct 2022 **van Mulukom, V.** & Farias, M. (2022). Self-transcendence and social bonding in rituals and artistic experiences. Symposium, 'Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Art

and Ritual', symposium of the 'Spiritual Understanding in a Secular Age: Engaging Art as Religious Ritual' project, Rome, Italy.

Oct 2019 **van Mulukom, V.** (2019). Beyond the Here & Now: How the cognitive science of imagination can inform the study of religion. Workshop, 'Religion, Belief, and Experience' for Prof. Tanya Luhrmann (Stanford University), School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

Apr 2016 **van Mulukom, V.** (2016). Intuition. Seminar, Brain, Belief and Behaviour group, Psychology, Behaviour and Achievement research centre, Coventry University, UK.

Jun 2015 **van Mulukom, V.** (2015). Future directions: Dysphoria, narrative and reflection. Workshop presentation, Workshop on Ritual, Memory and Identity, Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

Feb 2015 **van Mulukom, V.** (2015). Future thought in religion: Towards a social psychology of prophecies and visions. Seminar, Religion, Cognition and Culture unit, Aarhus University, Denmark.

Feb 2015 **van Mulukom, V.** (2015). Remembering the heat of the moment: Specific and emotional memories of fire-walking may support self and directive functions. AGHOK meeting, Centre on Autobiographical Memory Research, Aarhus University, Denmark.

Mar 2014 **van Mulukom, V.** (2014). Exploring the past and future with episodic memory: investigations in episodic simulation and religious rituals. Seminar, Religion, Cognition and Culture unit, Aarhus University, Denmark.

Oct 2012 **van Mulukom, V**., Addis, D.R. (2012). Effects of plausibility on episodic simulation. Departmental talk, CogNeuro seminars, School of Psychology, the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

May 2012 **van Mulukom, V**., Schacter, D.L., Corballis, M.C., & Addis, D.R. (2012). Imagining the future: effects of recombination and plausibility. Seminar, for visiting Prof. Alison Gopnik (University of California, Berkeley), University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Mar 2012 **van Mulukom, V**., Addis, D.R. (2012). Imagining the implausible. Research presentation, Department of Psychology, Harvard University, United States.

Nov 2011 **van Mulukom, V**., Addis, D. R. (2011). Any novelty in future event simulations? Examining potential roles of the hippocampus and amygdala with fMRI. Departmental talk, given for the CogNeuro seminars at Department of Psychology, the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Poster presentations

Jul 2026 **van Mulukom, V.** (2026). A new approach to consciousness and self-transcendent experiences. Poster, *International Association for the Cognitive and Evolutionary Sciences of Religion* (IACESR) conference, Brno, Czechia.

Jun 2026 **van Mulukom, V.** (2026). Evolutionary functions of episodic simulation and their effects on wellbeing. Poster, *Autobiographical Processing and Psychopathology* (APP2026) conference in Plymouth, UK.

Jun 2018 **van Mulukom, V.** (2018). Individual Differences in Imaginative Ability. Poster, C*enter on Autobiographical Memory Research (CON AMORE) meeting* 'Autobiographical Memory & the Self', Aarhus, Denmark.

Jun 2018 **van Mulukom, V.**, Muzzulini, B., Willard, A., & Whitehouse, H. (2018). Poster, Autobiographical Memory Pathway from Shared Dysphoria to Identity Fusion. *Center on Autobiographical Memory Research (CON AMORE) meeting* 'Autobiographical Memory & the Self', Aarhus, Denmark.

May 2016 **van Mulukom, V.,** Jong, J., & Whitehouse, H. (2016). The Event Opacity Scale and the event-specific Rumination-Reflection Scale. Poster, *Cognitive and Neural Mechanisms of Human Memory*, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Oct 2012 **van Mulukom, V.** (2012). Mental time travel: Imagining your future with your memory. Poster, Faculty of Science poster competition & the University of Auckland Exposure poster competition (see Awards), Auckland, New Zealand.

Apr 2012 **van Mulukom, V.**, Roberts, R.P., & Addis, D.R. (2012). Examining the effects of plausibility on the construction of future events. Poster, *Cognitive Neuroscience Society* (CNS) conference, Chicago, USA.

Dec 2011 **van Mulukom, V**., Roberts, R.P., & Addis, D.R. (2011). The effects of repetition on the simulation of past and future events. Poster, *Australian Cognitive Neuroscience Conference* (ACNC), Sydney, Australia.

Jul 2011 **van Mulukom, V**., Roberts, R.P., Schacter, D.L., Corballis, M.C., & Addis, D.R. (2011). Hippocampal and Amygdalar Connectivity during Simulation of Novel Future events. Poster, *International Neuropsychological Society* (INS) Mid-Year Meeting, Auckland, New Zealand.

Jun 2011 **van Mulukom, V**., Schacter, D.L., Corballis, M.C., & Addis, D.R. (2011). Hippocampal and amygdala responses to novelty of future simulations. Poster, *Human Brain Mapping* (HBM), Quebec City, Canada.

Training/Professional development

2025	Fellow with Advance HE (Higher Education), teaching education
2024	Associate Fellow with Advance HE (Higher Education), teaching education
2021	Human Relations Area Files (HRAF) Summer Institute for Cross-Cultural Anthropological Research
2018	Mplus: Structural Equation Modelling
2018	Mplus: Testing for Mediation & Moderation
2018	Multilevel Modelling course: MLwiN
2017	Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course (two day)
2012	Neuroimaging course: FSL and Freesurfer
2011	Neuroimaging course: SPM8 for Basic and Clinical Investigators
2008	Summer School: Evolution of Language (UU)
2008	Summer School: Statistics for Experimental Linguists (UU)

Software and (technical) abilities

- General software: Microsoft Office, Matlab, Linux
- Teaching software: Moodle, Mentimeter
- Statistical packages: R, SPSS, Mplus, Jamovi

- Experiment presentation software: E-Prime
- Survey software: Qualtrics, Google Forms
- Languages: Dutch (native speaker), English (fluent), German (intermediate), Italian (intermediate), French (beginner).

Miscellaneous education

2010	Postgraduate course: PSYCH 725 Evolutionary Psychology (A+, Univ. of Auckland)
2010	Postgraduate course: PSYCH 714 Cognitive Neuroscience (A, Univ. of Auckland)

Career breaks

2022	Maternity leave (February-August)
2019	Maternity leave (July-December)