

# Ryan McKay

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### CURRENT OFFICE ADDRESS

Centre for Anthropology and Mind  
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### EMPLOYMENT

2007 – present: Research Fellow, “Explaining Religion” project (EC's Sixth Framework Programme); Sept 2007 – Jan 2008: Institute of Cognition and Culture, Queen's University Belfast, UK; Feb 2008: Department of Psychology, Yale University, New Haven, USA; March 2008 – Aug 2009: Institute for Empirical Research in Economics, University of Zürich, Switzerland; Sept 2009 – Aug 2010: Centre for Anthropology and Mind, University of Oxford, UK.

2006 – 2007: Lecturer in Psychology, School of Social Sciences and Liberal Studies, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, Australia.

2005 – 2006: Research Associate, Center for Cognitive Studies, Tufts University, Boston, USA.

2004-2005: Clinical Neuropsychologist, Department of Neuropsychology, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London, UK.

### QUALIFICATIONS

2005: Masters in Clinical Psychology / PhD in Cognitive Neuropsychiatry (Supervised by Professor Max Coltheart and Dr Robyn Langdon), Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

1997: B.Sc Hons (Psychology, First Class), University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia.

### CLINICAL INTERSHIPS

2003: Waverley Community Health Centre, Sydney, Australia.

2002: Parramatta Sexual Health Clinic, Sydney, Australia.

2001: Riverglen Psychogeriatric Unit, Greenwich Hospital, Sydney, Australia.

2000 – 2001: The Psychology Clinic, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### 2006 – 2007: Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, Australia.

Lecturer and Coordinator for PSY304 - Psychopathology

Lecturer and Coordinator for PSY305 - Psychology of Personality

Lecturer and Coordinator for PSY425 - Cognitive Neuroscience

Lecturer and Coordinator for PSY527 - Clinical Psychologist in Practice

### 2000 – 2002: Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

Tutor for PSY 104 - Introduction to Psychology I

Tutor for PSY 105 - Introduction to Psychology II

Tutor for PSY 332 - Psychological Assessment

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book Chapters:

1. McKay, R. (in press). Delusions. To appear in H. Pashler, T. Crane, M. Kinsbourne, F. Ferreira & R. Zemel (Eds.) *The Encyclopedia of the Mind*. SAGE.
2. McKay, R., Langdon, R. & Coltheart, M. (2009). "Sleights of mind": Delusions and self-deception. In T. Bayne & J. Fernández (Eds.), *Delusion and Self-Deception: Affective and Motivational Influences on Belief Formation* (pp. 165-185). Hove: Psychology Press.
3. Langdon, R., McKay, R. & Coltheart, M. (2008). The cognitive neuropsychological understanding of persecutory delusions. In D. Freeman, R. Bentall & P. Garety (Eds.), *Persecutory Delusions: Assessment, Theory, and Treatment* (pp. 221-236). New York: Oxford University Press.

### Journal Articles:

4. Coltheart, M., Langdon, R. & McKay, R. (forthcoming). Delusional belief. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 62.
5. McKay, R., Arciuli, J., Atkinson, A., Bennett, E. & Pheils, E. (in press). Lateralisation of self-esteem: An investigation using a dichotically presented auditory adaptation of the Implicit Association Test. *Cortex*.
6. McKay, R. & Dennett, D. (in press). The evolution of misbelief (Target article); Our evolving beliefs about evolved misbelief (Response to commentaries). *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*.
7. McKay, R. & Kinsbourne, M. (in press). Confabulation, delusion, and anosognosia: Motivational factors and false claims. *Cognitive Neuropsychiatry*. (Also to appear in R. Langdon & M. Turner (Eds.) *Delusion and confabulation: Overlapping or distinct psychopathologies of reality distortion*. Macquarie Monographs in Cognitive Science series. Series edited by Coltheart, M. Psychology Press.)
8. Baird, A. D. & McKay, R. T. (2008). Psychological factors in retrograde amnesia: Self-deception and a broken heart. *Neurocase*, 14(5), 400-413.
9. Coltheart, M., Langdon, R. & McKay, R. (2007). Schizophrenia and monothematic delusions. *Schizophrenia Bulletin*, 33(3), 642-647.
10. McKay, R. & Anderson, M. (2007). Reconciling psychodynamic and neurological perspectives on denial. *Cortex*, 43, 1102-1103.
11. McKay, R. & Ciolotti, L. (2007). Attributional style in a case of Cotard delusion. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 16, 349-359.
12. McKay, R., Langdon, R. & Coltheart, M. (2007). Jumping to delusions? Paranoia, probabilistic reasoning and need for closure. *Cognitive Neuropsychiatry*, 12(4), 362-376.

13. McKay, R., Langdon, R. & Coltheart, M. (2007). Models of misbelief: Integrating motivational and deficit theories of delusions. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 16, 932-941.
14. McKay, R., Langdon, R. & Coltheart, M. (2007). The defensive function of persecutory delusions: An investigation using the Implicit Association Test. *Cognitive Neuropsychiatry*, 12(1), 1-24.
15. Dennett, D. & McKay, R. (2006). A continuum of mindfulness (Commentary on Mesoudi et al). *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 29(4), 353-354.
16. McKay, R., Langdon, R. & Coltheart, M. (2006). Need for closure, jumping to conclusions and decisiveness in delusion-prone individuals. *Journal of Nervous & Mental Disease*, 194(6), 422-426.
17. McKay, R., Langdon, R. & Coltheart, M. (2006). The Persecutory Ideation Questionnaire. *Journal of Nervous & Mental Disease*, 194(8), 628-631.
18. McKay, R., Langdon, R. & Coltheart, M. (2005). Paranoia, persecutory delusions and attributional biases. *Psychiatry Research*, 136, 233-245.
19. McKay, R., Langdon, R. & Coltheart, M. (2005). "Sleights of mind": Delusions, defences and self-deception. *Cognitive Neuropsychiatry*, 10(4), 305-326.
20. McKay, R. (2004). Hallucinating God? The cognitive neuropsychiatry of religious belief and experience. *Evolution and Cognition*, 10(1), 114-125.
21. Rhodes, G., Yoshikawa, S., Clark, A., Lee, K., McKay, R. & Akamatsu, S. (2001). Attractiveness of facial averageness and symmetry in non-Western cultures: In search of biologically based standards of beauty. *Perception*, 30, 611-625.
22. Rhodes, G., Zebrowitz, L. A., Clark, A., Kalick, S. M., Hightower, A. & McKay, R. (2001). Do facial averageness and symmetry signal health? *Evolution & Human Behavior*, 22(1), 31-46.

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. McKay, R., Efferson, C. & Fehr, E. (2009, October). Wrath of God: Priming and Punishment. *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion* (SSSR). Denver, USA.
2. McKay, R. & Dennett, D. (2009, March). The evolution of misbelief. *Perrott Warrick Workshop on Beliefs and Reason*. Trinity College, Cambridge, UK.
3. McKay, R. & Baird, A. (2008, July). Psychological factors in Retrograde Amnesia: Self-deception and a broken heart. Abstracts of the International Neuropsychological Society, Sociedad de Neuropsicología de Argentina, Joint Mid-Year Meeting, Buenos Aires, Argentina. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*, 14(2 Suppl), S3.
4. McKay, R. (2008, June). Conscious and unconscious processes in persecutory delusions - evidence for a defense account. Plenary speaker in *Delusions symposium at the 12th annual meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness (ASSC12)*. Taipei, Taiwan.
5. Paglieri, F. & McKay, R. (2008, Feb). Delusions, beliefs, and actions: Pragmatic commitment reconsidered. *Delusion and Self-Knowledge Workshop*. Bristol, UK.
6. McKay, R. & Dennett, D. (2007, August). Misbelief evolves. *Abstracts of Human Mind - Human Kind: Inter-disciplinary conference on human characteristics*. Aarhus, Denmark.
7. McKay, R. (2007, July). Motivated misbelief? Motivational processes in delusion and confabulation. *Delusions and Confabulations Workshop: Overlapping or distinct pathologies of reality distortion*. Sydney, Australia.
8. McKay, R. & Dennett, D. (2007, Jan). The evolution of misbelief. (See [http://www.interdisciplines.org/adaptation/papers/4/5/2#\\_5](http://www.interdisciplines.org/adaptation/papers/4/5/2#_5)). *Lyon Institute for Cognitive Sciences virtual conference "Adaptation and Representation"*.

9. McKay, R., Langdon, R. & Coltheart, M. (2006, Dec). The defensive function of persecutory delusions: An investigation using the Implicit Association Test. Abstracts of 'Brainwaves' - The Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research 2006 Ann. Meeting, Sydney, Australia. *Acta Neuro Psychiatrica*, 18(6), 261-262.
10. Paglieri, F. & McKay, R. (2006, Sept). Believing without accepting: The doxastic conception of delusions revisited. *The 7<sup>th</sup> National Conference of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy (SIFA)*. Milan, Italy.
11. McKay, R. & Cipolotti, L. (2006, Sept). Attributional style in a case of Cotard delusion. Abstracts of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Neuropsychiatry, Sydney, Australia. *Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment*, 2(3 Suppl), S8.
12. Paglieri, F. & McKay, R. (2006, Aug). Delusions, beliefs, and actions: Pragmatic commitment reconsidered. *European Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Meeting*. Belfast, UK.
13. McKay, R. & Cipolotti, L. (2006, July). Attributional style in a case of Cotard delusion. *Cognitive Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuropsychiatry Research Forum*. Sydney, Australia.
14. McKay, R. (2006, July). Motives, memory and misbelief: The role of motivational factors in confabulation and delusion. *Abstracts of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Memory (ICOM)*. Sydney, Australia.
15. McKay, R., Paglieri, F. & Pezzulo, G. (2006, June). A computational model of the Capgras delusion. *Abstracts of the Second Biennial Conference on Cognitive Science*. St. Petersburg, Russia.
16. McKay, R., Langdon, R. & Coltheart, M. (2006, April). The defensive function of persecutory delusions: An investigation using the Implicit Association Test. *Abstracts of the CNS 2006 Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, USA.
17. McKay, R. & Cipolotti, L. (2006, Feb). Attributional style in a case of Cotard delusion. *"Broken Minds/Broken Bodies: What cognitive science can learn from neuropsychopathologies"*. Orlando, USA.
18. McKay, R., Langdon, R. & Coltheart, M. (2005, July). Jumping to delusions? Paranoia, probabilistic reasoning and need for closure. *Abstracts of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science 15th Annual Meeting*. Montréal, Canada.
19. McKay, R., Langdon, R. & Coltheart, M. (2005, April). Models of misbelief: Integrating motivational and deficit theories of delusions. *Proceedings of the Artificial Intelligence and the Simulation of Behaviour (AISB) 2005 convention symposium on "Agents that want and like: motivational and emotional roots of cognition and action"*, 76-83. Hertfordshire, UK.
20. McKay, R., Langdon, R. & Coltheart, M. (2005, March). The defensive function of persecutory delusions: An investigation using the Implicit Association Test. *Abstracts of the VII International Symposium on Schizophrenia*. Bern, Switzerland.
21. McKay, R. (2003, Aug). Hallucinating God? The Cognitive Neuropsychiatry of Religious Belief and Experience. *New England Institute Second Annual Conference: Religion, Cognitive Science, and Evolutionary Psychology*. Portland, Maine, USA.
22. McKay, R. (2003, July). Hallucinating God? The Cognitive Neuropsychiatry of Religious Belief and Experience. *Abstracts of the ICCS/ASCS Joint International Conference on Cognitive Science*. Sydney, Australia.
23. McKay, R. (2002, June). Caloric Vestibular Stimulation: Applications to Delusions and Self-Deception. *Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science Cognitive Neuropsychiatry & Neuropsychology workshop*. Sydney, Australia.
24. McKay, R. (2001, July). "Sleights of mind": Delusions and self-deception. Abstracts of Inaugural Australian Conference for Cognitive Neuropsychology & Cognitive Neuropsychiatry, *Australian Journal of Psychology*, 53(2), 123.

### **INVITED TALKS/COLLOQUIA**

1. *Wrath of God: Religion and Punishment*. Seminar given at the Institute for Empirical Research in Economics, University of Zürich, Switzerland, 19/06/09.
2. *Explaining Delusions*. Research presentation given at the Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, 24/04/07.
3. *Explaining Delusions*. Colloquium given at the Psychology Department, University of Newcastle, Newcastle, Australia, 26/10/06.
4. *Explaining Delusions*. Colloquium given at the Psychology Department, University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia, 17/10/06.
5. *Explaining Delusions*. Seminar given at the School of Communications, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, Australia, 23/08/06.
6. *Delusions*. Seminar at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, USA, 30/03/06.
7. *Models of Misbelief: Explaining Delusions*. Seminar given at the Erich Lindemann Mental Health Center, Boston, USA, 24/03/06.
8. *Delusions*. Seminar given at Tufts University, Boston, USA, 16/02/06.
9. *Motivated misbelief: The defensive function of persecutory delusions*. Seminar given at London South Bank University, London, UK, 10/02/05.
10. *Hallucinating God? The Cognitive Neuropsychiatry of Religious Belief and Experience*. Seminar given at the New South Wales Institute of Psychiatry, Sydney, Australia, 6/02/04.
11. *Hallucinating God? The Cognitive Neuropsychiatry of Religious Belief and Experience*. Seminar given at the Maudsley Institute of Psychiatry, London, UK, 13/10/03.
12. *Hallucinating God? The Cognitive Neuropsychiatry of Religious Belief and Experience*. Seminar given in the Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science (MACCS), Sydney, Australia, 1/07/03.
13. *"Sleights of Mind": Delusions and Self-Deception*. Seminar given in the Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science (MACCS), Sydney, Australia, 20/06/01.

### **GRANTS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2008: The British Academy *Overseas Conference Grant*.

2008: *Brain Travel Grant*.

2007: The International Neuropsychanalysis Society *Clifford Yorke Prize*.

2006: Charles Sturt University *Small Grant*.

2006: Charles Sturt University Faculty of Arts *Publication Grant*.

2005: *The Young Scientist's Award* -VII International Symposium on Schizophrenia, University of Bern, Switzerland.

2005: The British Academy *Overseas Conference Grant*.

2003: Finalist in the Australian Skeptics Eureka Prize for Critical Thinking.

2003: Neuroscience Institute of Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders (NISAD) *Postgraduate Scholarship for Schizophrenia Research*.

2003: The NSW Institute of Psychiatry *Training Fellowship in Psychiatric Research*.

2003: Macquarie University *Postgraduate Research Fund*.

2001-2003: Macquarie University *Postgraduate Research Grant*.

2000-2003: *Australian Postgraduate Award (APA)*.

1995: St. Columba College *Craig Scholarship*.

1994: Australian Psychology Society *Free Student Subscriber Award* for most outstanding student in second year psychology.

## **REVIEWER AND EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

2009 - present: Book Reviews Editor for *Cognitive Neuropsychiatry*

Ad-hoc reviewer for: *Archives of General Psychiatry, Assessment, Behavioral and Brain Sciences, British Journal of Clinical Psychology, British Journal of Psychology, Cognitive Neuropsychiatry, Cognitive Processing, Consciousness and Cognition, European Journal of Psychiatry, Human Nature, Journal of Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry, Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease, Journal of Neuropsychology, Neuropsychoanalysis, Neuropsychologia, Psychiatry Research, Psychosis, Schizophrenia Research, Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, Spanish Journal of Psychology.*

## **MEDIA MENTIONS AND INTERVIEWS**

2006: Interview with Stephen Pincock of the *Financial Times* for article "Deadly serious". See transcript at <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/acd56ea4-7c2a-11db-b1c6-0000779e2340.html>

2003: Interview with John Clark from 1233 ABC Radio (Newcastle).

2003: Interview with Andrea Close from 666 ABC Radio (Canberra).

2003: Interview with Mike Welsh from Radio 2CC Stereo 1206 (Canberra).

2003: Interview with Judy Skatssoon, National Medical Writer, Australian Associated Press General News. Published in *The Age* (Melbourne), *The Daily Telegraph* (Sydney), *The Advertiser* (Adelaide), *The Border Mail* (Albury Wodonga), *The Newcastle Herald*, *The Daily News Tweed Heads*, *The Central Coast Herald*, *The Daily Advertiser* (Wagga), and *MX - Melbourne*.

2003: Interview with Leigh-Ann Pow, Associate Editor of *Vogue Australia* for article "In Denial".

2003: Commentary by Chris McGillion, Religious Affairs Editor for *The Sydney Morning Herald*: "Religion versus science might be all in the mind". See transcript at <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/04/28/1051381900365.html>

2002: Interview with Caroline Campbell from *Radio National's* "The Science Show".