

# Valerie van Mulukom

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## Education

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- 2009-2013      PhD in Psychology, University of Auckland (2014)  
*Cognitive neuroscience and experimental psychology of imagination; Dean's List in recognition of excellence achieved with the PhD thesis*
- 2007-2009      MPhil in Linguistics, Utrecht University (2009)  
*Majors: Syntax & Experimental Psycholinguistics; Graduated cum laude*
- 2004-2007      BA in Language and Culture studies, Utrecht University (2007)  
*Major: Language & Cognition; Graduated cum laude*

## Academic employment

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- 2021-curr.      Assistant Professor, *Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations*, Coventry University (Jun-).
- 2021-curr.      Adjunct lecturer, *SCIO*, Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford.
- 2016-curr.      Research Affiliate, *Centre for the Study of Social Cohesion*, University of Oxford (Apr-).
- 2019-2021      Research Fellow, *Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations*, Coventry University (Aug-May).
- 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.

## Grants

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1. 'Explaining Nordic Atheism: How cultural learning mechanisms predict atheism in Nordic cultural contexts', [Explaining Atheism RFP1 Research Grant](#), Queen's University Belfast (subgranting scheme through the John Templeton Foundation), 2022-2023. Role: PI (£76,167.87).

2. 'Examining conspiracy beliefs through socio-existential motives and group processes', Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations (Coventry University) PhD studentship, 2022-2025. Role: Director of Studies (£70,000).
3. 'Spiritual Understanding in a Secular Age: Engaging Art as Religious Ritual'. [Art Seeking Understanding grant](#), Templeton Religion Trust, 2021-2022. PIs: Dr Lexi Eikelboom & Dr David Newheiser (Australian Catholic University). Role: Research Fellow (\$230,267 USD).
4. 'Mindfulness Meditation: A Secular Religion for Unbelievers?' [Understanding Unbelief RFP1 Research Grant](#), University of Kent, awarded to Masoumeh (Sara) Rahmani, Miguel Farias, and Valerie van Mulukom, 2017-2019. Role: Co-PI (£59,535).
5. 'Secular Worldviews : What secular beliefs do non-believers have, and what psychological functions do they serve?' [Understanding Unbelief RFP2 Early Career Award](#), University of Kent (subgranting scheme through the John Templeton Foundation), 2017-2019. Role: PI (£14,929).
6. '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

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1. Double finalist (2 of 4 teams) for Outstanding Research Supervisory Team Award, 2021
2. National Centre for Research Methods Training Bursary, 2018 (£560 GBP)
3. Centre for Advances in Behavioural Science travel award, 2018 (£800 GBP)
4. University of Auckland Doctoral Completion Award, 2013 (\$6,000 NZD)
5. University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship Extension, 2012-2013 (\$12,500 NZD)
6. Australian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment travel award, 2011 (\$750 AUD)
7. Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research travel award, 2010 (\$425 NZD)
8. Utrecht Institute of Linguistics-OTS travel award, 2009 (€500 EUR)

## Book

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### *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](#)

## Publications

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### 2023

1. Tuncçenç, B., **van Mulukom, V.**, and Newson, M. (2023) Social bonds are related to health behaviors and positive well-being globally. *Science Advances*. [DOI](#)

### 2022

2. 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*. [DOI](#)
3. **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*. [DOI](#)

4. Hoogeveen, S., Sarafoglou, [...] **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*, 1-47. [DOI](#)
5. **van Mulukom, V.**, Pummerer, L., Alper, S., Bai, M. H., Čavojeová, 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](#)
6. 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](#)
7. 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](#)
8. **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](#)
9. 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

10. Brown, J., **van Mulukom, V.**, Charles, S.J., & Farias, M. (2021) 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*. [DOI](#)
11. **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](#)
12. 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](#)
14. **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](#)
15. 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

16. 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](#)
17. 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](#)
18. **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](#)

19. 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

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

2017

21. 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](#)
22. **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

23. 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](#)
24. **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 (special feature on Episodic Future Thinking), 234-242. [DOI](#)

2013

25. **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

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

## Editorial articles

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1. **van Mulukom, V.** (2022). Imagination. *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture*, 6(2).

2. 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](#)
3. **van Mulukom, V.** (2022). Imagination. *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture*, 6(1), 127-130. [DOI](#)
4. 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](#)
5. **van Mulukom, V.** (2021). Imagination. *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture*, 5(1), 121-124. [DOI](#)
6. 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](#)
7. 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

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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

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1. Messick, K.J., Jong, J., **van Mulukom, V.** & Farias, M. (under review). The Nontheistic Sacred: The Psychological Functions of Metal Music and Artefacts.
2. Rahmani, M., **van Mulukom, V.**, & Farias, M. (under review) Believing in the powers of mindfulness: A thematic narrative approach and the development of a new scale.
3. **van Mulukom, V.** (under review) Trust in scientists and non-populist governments supports COVID-19 information and safeguarding behaviors. <http://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/chy4b> (PREPRINT)
4. **van Mulukom, V.**, Baimel, A., Maraldi, E., Coleman, T.J. III, & Farias, M. (under review). Examining the relationship between metacognitive trust in thinking styles and supernatural beliefs. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/nsp2h> (PREPRINT)
5. de Wet, M. & **van Mulukom, V.** (under review) Sense-sational acting: Intuition in actors is supported by interoceptive, exteroceptive, and immersive abilities.
6. **van Mulukom, V.** & Clasen, M. (preprint) The evolutionary functions of imagination and fiction and how they may contribute to psychological wellbeing during a pandemic. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/wj4zg> (PREPRINT)
7. 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. (preprint) Religious Rituals Increase Social Bonding and Pain Threshold. <http://dx.doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/my4hs> (PREPRINT)
8. **van Mulukom, V.** & Geertz, A.W. (preprint) The importance of imagination and subjective knowledge: The evolution of art and religion as symbolic representations of feelings, experiences, and beliefs. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/7y6w8> (PREPRINT)

## Supervision

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### *Ongoing*

2022-curr. Marie Curie Fellow: Nella van den Brandt (second mentor + maternity leave substitute first mentor)

2022-curr. PhD student: Eylül Atalay (director of studies)

### *Revisions*

2016-curr. PhD student: Jennifer Brown (fourth supervisor)

2019-2022 PhD student: Micia de Wet (third supervisor)

### *Graduated*

2020-2021 Master's student: Georgia Dee (main supervisor)

2018-2021 PhD student: Sarah J. Charles (second supervisor)

2019-2021 Master's student: Charlotte Gunn (main supervisor)

2016-2021 PhD student: Thomas Coleman Jr III (third supervisor)

2016-2019 PhD student: Kyle Messick (third supervisor)

2018-2019 Master's student: Ruairi Patterson (main supervisor)

2016-2018 PhD student: Ivana Burić (fourth supervisor)

2017-2018 Master's student: Wioletta Cartano (main supervisor)

2016-2017 Honours student: Philo Tin Man (main supervisor)

## Teaching

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2021-curr. Lecturer for [Cognition], [Cognitive Psychology], [Language and Cognition], and [Psychology of Religion and Spirituality] for undergraduate University of Oxford students (Wycliffe Hall) at SCIO, Oxford (2020-2021 Hilary term; 2021-2022 Michaelmas term; 2022-2023 Michaelmas term; 2022-2023 Hilary term)

2022 Module co-leader 'Introduction to Research Design and Skills' for PhD students (with Serena Hussain, Laura Sulin), Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University.

2021 Lecture for PhD students: Doing Research during a Pandemic (CU)

2020 Lecture for PhD students: Quantitative methods & statistics (CU)

2012 Lecture for PhD students and postdocs: fMRI (UoA)

2012 Tutor Biopsychology (20 second year students; UoA)

2011; 2012 Tutor Perception and Cognition (20 second year students; UoA)

2011 Poster seminar for Honours students (60 students; UoA)

2008 Student assistant Introduction Generative Syntax (UU)

2008 Student assistant Introduction Language Development (UU)

## Lectures

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- **van Mulukom, V.** (2022, November) 'Literature Review and Storylines'. Lecture for doctoral students in 'Introduction to Research Design and Skills' course at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University.

- **van Mulukom, V.** (2022, November) ‘Research Design: Why and How?’. Lecture for doctoral students in ‘Introduction to Research Design and Skills’ course at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University.
- **van Mulukom, V.** (2021, January) ‘Doing Research during a Pandemic: Making the most of virtual interfaces’. Lecture for doctoral students at Coventry University (32 attendees).
- **van Mulukom, V.** (2020, February) ‘Using your statistical intuition: From surveys to experiments’. Lecture for doctoral students in the ‘Quantitative Methods’ course at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University.
- **van Mulukom, V.** (2012, January) ‘fMRI’. Lecture for doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers at the School of Psychology, the University of Auckland.

## Doctoral thesis examinations

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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.

## Editorial service

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2020-curr. Review editor on the topic of *Imagination* for the journal of [Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture](#) (Academic Studies Press).

2019-curr. Editor of the [Advances in the Cognitive Science of Religion](#) book series (Equinox), together with Prof Armin Geertz and Dr Jesper Sørensen.

2018-curr. Editor on Editorial Board of the [Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion](#).

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

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*PNAS; Nature Human Behaviour; Scientific Data; Scientific Reports; Cortex; PLOS One; Royal Society Open Science; Social Psychological and Personality Science; British Journal of Social Psychology; European Journal of Social Psychology; Psychoneuroendocrinology; BMC Public Health; Stress & Health; International Journal of Drug Policy; Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology; Journal of Community Psychology; Frontiers in Psychology; Psychology of Religion and Spirituality; Religion, Brain & Behavior; The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion; Archive for the Psychology of Religion; Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts; Evolutionary Psychology; Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion; Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice.*

## Professional memberships

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2022-curr. British Psychological Society (BPS) Chartered Membership (CPsychology)

2022-curr.	British Psychological Society (BPS) Social Psychology Section
2022-curr.	British Psychological Society (BPS) Division of Academics, Researchers & Teachers in Psychology (DARTP)
2022-curr.	European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA)
2022-curr.	Evolutionary Aesthetics Research Network (virtual)
2020-curr.	The International Association for the Cognitive and Evolutionary Sciences of Religion (IACESR)
2016-curr.	The International Association for the Psychology of Religion (IAPR)
2020-2021	Cognitive Science Society (CSS)
2020-2021	Association for Psychological Science (APS)

## Advisory board

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2022-curr.	'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).
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## Committee memberships

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2020-curr.	Publications Officer of the <u>International Association for the Cognitive and Evolutionary Sciences of Religion</u> (IACESR).
2020-curr.	Member of the <u>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (EDIC)</u> , Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, promoting equal and diverse employment practices.
2018-2019	Member of the <u>Equality and Diversity committee</u> , Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Coventry University, promoting equal and diverse employment practices.
2018	Member of the <u>CABS Social Media &amp; Communication committee</u> , Coventry University, a committee dedicated to supporting academics in dispersing their research and establishing their research profile through media.
2015-2016	Communications manager of <u>SciBar committee</u> , 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 ' <u>Centre for Brain Research PhD Day</u> ' 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 <u>Psychology &amp; Sustainability Group</u> , 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 <u>BrainWaves Committee</u> , 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 <u>Curriculum Committee</u> 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

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### *Popular science articles*

1. **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; on [Real Clear Science](#) on 21 February 2023; [The Hindu](#) on 21 February 2023; [The Star Kenya](#) on 22 February 2023.

2. **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.

3. **Popular science interview article:** '[Awe-inducing raves are linked to transformative experiences and social bonding, study finds](#)'. *PsyPost*, 9 November 2021.

4. **Popular science article:** '[Ritual, transcendence & psychedelics](#)' *IAI.tv* (Institute of Art and Ideas), 08 October 2021.

5. **Popular science article (featured):** '[The surprising power of daily rituals](#)'. *BBC Future*, 15 September 2021.

6. **Popular science interview article:** '[Awe-inspiring psychedelic trips reduce narcissism by boosting connectedness and empathy, study suggests](#)'. *PsyPost*, 15 October 2020.

7. **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.

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9. **Popular science article:** '[How imagination can help people overcome fear and anxiety](#)', *The Conversation*, 10 December 2018.

10. **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.

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

This article was published online on [National Geographic Indonesia](#).

12. **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.

#### *Interviews & podcasts*

1. **Podcast:** '[Nature & Nurture #72: Dr. Valerie van Mulukom - Imagination, Memory, & Belief](#)', *Nature & Nurture Podcast*, 15 September 2022.
2. **Radio interview:** Part of the BBC World News radio programme *CrowdScience*, episode '[What's the best way to make a decision?](#)', 10 December 2021.
3. **Video interview:** '[Conspiracies: Has fiction replaced reality?](#)'. *Politics.co.uk*, 06 October 2021.
4. **Radio interview:** Breakfast on *BBC Radio Oxford* (with Sophie Law), discussing the 'Band of Mothers' article. Broadcast 31 October 2020.
5. **Podcast:** Part of the Naked Neuroscience podcast '[Go with your gut](#)', by *The Naked Scientists* (the University of Cambridge), 20 November 2019.
6. **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.
7. **Podcast:** Part of the Conversation podcast *Anthill*, [#25 Intuition](#), 16 May 2018.

## Talks

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#### *Invited academic talks*

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| May 2021 | <b>van Mulukom, V.</b> (May 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) <a href="#">speaker series</a> , University of Pennsylvania, United States (virtual). |
| Feb 2021 | <b>van Mulukom, V.</b> (February 2021). The psychology of intuition: Interactions between interoception, trust, and belief. <a href="#">Seminar</a> , Oxford Brookes University psychology seminar, Oxford, United Kingdom (virtual).   |
| Apr 2020 | <b>van Mulukom, V.</b> (April 2020 – postponed due to COVID-19). Emerging International Leaders Programme on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, UK.   |
| Dec 2014 | <b>van Mulukom, V.</b> (December 2014). Remembering religious rituals: Contributions of memory research to the cognitive science of religion. <a href="#">Seminar</a> , Religion, Cognition and Culture unit, Aarhus University, Denmark.   |
| May 2013 | <b>van Mulukom, V.</b> (May 2013). Mental time travel: Cognitive, neural and evolutionary aspects. <a href="#">Seminar</a> , Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.  |

#### *Conference talks*

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| Sep 2022 | <b>van Mulukom, V.</b> & Mauritsen, A. L. (September 2022). Unbelief through a worldview & dual-inheritance lens. <a href="#">Conference talk</a> , <i>IACESR</i> meeting, Aarhus, Denmark. |
| Dec 2021 | <b>van Mulukom, V.</b> & Clasen, M. (December 2021). How the evolutionary functions of memory for the future and fiction may contribute to psychological wellbeing during a                 |

- pandemic. Virtual conference talk, *SARMAC Regional Meeting Australasia* 'Reminiscing and Memory across the Lifespan'.
- Nov 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** (November 2021) The dual-pathway model of conspiracy beliefs: the interaction of epistemic and socio-existential needs and resources. Virtual conference talk, *EASP Small Group Meeting* 'Social implications of conspiracy theories'.
- Sep 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** & Farias, M. (September 2021) Art as Ritual: A Psychological Exploration. Virtual conference talk, *European Academy of Religion* (EuARE) conference.
- Jul 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** (July 2021) COVID-19 conspiracies: The danger of low levels of trust and information in an environment of threat and uncertainty. Virtual conference talk, *International Society of Political Psychology* (ISPP) Annual Meeting.
- Jun 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** & de Wet, M. (June 2021) Forgotten culture, ignored imagination: An evolutionary, dual-pathway cognition model of how humans navigate and make sense of reality. Virtual conference talk, *Culture Conference 2021*, theme 'Evolutionary Perspectives on Culture'.
- Apr 2021 **van Mulukom, V.** & de Wet, M. (April 2021) Interoceptive, exteroceptive, and immersive abilities contribute to acting intuition. Virtual conference talk, *Society for Affective Science* (SAS) conference.
- Jul 2020 **van Mulukom, V.** (July 2020). The Psychological Impact of Lockdown During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Virtual conference talk, *Social BRIDGES: Society, psychology and behaviour during and post COVID-19 lockdown*, hosted by Universität der Bundeswehr, München, Germany.
- Feb 2019 **van Mulukom, V.** (February 2019). Belief in Psychic Ability is predicted by high levels of Intuitive Thinking & low levels of Cognitive Inhibition. Conference talk, *International Convention of Psychological Science* (ICPS) 2019, Paris, France.
- Sep 2018 **van Mulukom, V.** (September 2018). How Religious Rituals Become Emotional Symbols: Neurochemical and cognitive mechanisms of memory and emotion. Conference talk, *Association of Social Anthropologists conference* (ASA18) 'Sociality, matter, and the imagination: re-creating Anthropology', Oxford, UK.
- Jul 2018 **van Mulukom, V.** (July 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. (July 2018). Secular versus Religious Worldviews: Do they fulfil the same psychological functions? Conference talk, *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. (July 2018). Exploring the Belief Replacement Hypothesis: What secular beliefs do non-believers have, and what psychological functions do they serve. Workshop talk, *Understanding Unbelief workshop*, Canterbury, UK.
- May 2018 **van Mulukom, V.** (May, 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. (August 2017). Examining the relationship between intuitive thinking and supernatural belief through a cognitive style training. Conference talk, *International Association of the Psychology of Religion* (IAPR) conference, Hamar, Norway.
- Mar 2017 **van Mulukom, V.**, Farias, M. (March 2017). The role of cognitive inhibition in eliciting supernatural disbelief – a neurostimulation study. Conference talk, *International Convention of Psychological Science* (ICPS) 2017, Vienna, Austria.
- Jul 2016 Jong, J., **van Mulukom, V.**, Coleman, T., & Farias, M. (July 2016). What do atheists believe? Some meaningful answers to a silly question. Conference talk (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. (April 2012). Imagining the implausible: the effect of plausibility on future event imagination. Conference talk, *KiwiCAM* (Cognition and Memory) conference, Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand.
- Sep 2010 **van Mulukom, V.**, Schacter, D.L., Corballis, M.C., & Addis, D.R. (September 2010). Medial temporal responses to the novelty of future simulations. Conference talk, *Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research (AWCBR)*, Wanaka, New Zealand.
- Seminars & other talks*
- Oct 2022 **van Mulukom, V.** & Farias, M. (October 2022). Self-transcendence and social bonding in rituals and artistic experiences. Symposium talk, ‘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.** (October 2019). Beyond the Here & Now: How the cognitive science of imagination can inform the study of religion. Talk, Workshop on 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.** (April 2016). Intuition. Seminar, Brain, Belief and Behaviour group, Psychology, Behaviour and Achievement research centre, Coventry University, UK.
- Jun 2015 **van Mulukom, V.** (June 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.** (February 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.** (February 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.** (March 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. (October 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. (May 2012). Imagining the future: effects of recombination and plausibility. Talk, seminar for Prof. Alison Gopnik (University of California, Berkeley), University of Auckland, New Zealand.
- Mar 2012 **van Mulukom, V.**, Addis, D.R. (March 2012). Imagining the implausible. Research presentation, Department of Psychology, Harvard University, United States.
- Nov 2011 **van Mulukom, V.**, Addis, D. R. (November 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.

*Invited public talks*

- Jan 2022 **van Mulukom, V.** (January 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.** (September 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.** (January 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).
- Dec 2020 **van Mulukom, V.** (December 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).

*Public talks*

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

*Poster presentations*

- Jun 2018 **van Mulukom, V.** (June 2018). Individual Differences in Imaginative Ability. Poster, *Center on Autobiographical Memory Research (CON AMORE) meeting* 'Autobiographical Memory & the Self', Aarhus, Denmark.
- Jun 2018 **van Mulukom, V.**, Muzzolini, B., Willard, A., & Whitehouse, H. (June 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. (May 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.** (September/October 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. (March/April 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. (December 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. (July 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. (June 2011). Hippocampal and amygdala responses to novelty of future simulations. Poster, *Human Brain Mapping* (HBM), Quebec City, Canada.

## Training/Professional development

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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

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- General software: Microsoft Office, Matlab, Linux
- Teaching software: Moodle, Aula
- Statistical packages: SPSS, R, Mplus
- Experiment presentation software: E-Prime
- Survey software: Qualtrics
- fMRI analysis software: Statistical Parametric Mapping (SPM), Partial Least Squares (PLS)
- Languages: Dutch (native speaker), English (fluent), German (intermediate), Italian (intermediate), French (beginner).

## Miscellaneous education

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

## Leave

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