

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Extraordinary Variations of the Human Mind: Lessons for Anthropogeny

Friday, May 5, 2017



Daniel Geschwind is the Gordon and Virginia MacDonald Distinguished Professor of Human Genetics, Neurology, and Psychiatry at UCLA. He is also the Senior Associate Dean and Associate Vice Chancellor of the Institute for Precision Health. Geschwind's laboratory has pioneered the application of systems biology methods in neurologic and psychiatric disease discovering multiple disease causing genes and disease mechanisms. He has served on numerous scientific advisory boards and serves on the editorial boards of *Cell*, *Neuron*, and *Science*. He is an elected Member of the American Association of Physicians and the National Academy of Medicine.



Karen Berman is a Senior Investigator and Chief of the Section on Integrative Neuroimaging and the Clinical Brain Disorders Branch at the National Institutes of Health, NIMH Intramural Research Program. Her research group conducts translational investigations, using multimodal neuroimaging to bridge the gap between neurogenetic, molecular, cellular, and system-level mechanisms of brain dysfunction and the cognitive and behavioral manifestations of neuropsychiatric disorders neurodevelopmental and genetic sources such as schizophrenia and Williams syndrome, as well of other conditions impacting cognition such as normal aging.



Simon Fisher is the director of the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics and a Professor of Language and Genetics at the Donders Institute, Netherlands. He obtained his degree from Cambridge University and his doctorate from Oxford University. His postdoctoral research at Oxford's Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics (WTCHG) pioneered genomic investigations of speech, language and reading disorders, including discovery of the FOXP2 gene. From 2002-2010, Simon was a Royal Society University Research Fellow, running his own group at the WTCHG, and uncovered how language-related genes impact on brain development. Awards include the Francis Crick Medal/Lecture and the Eric Kandel Young Neuroscientists Prize.



James L. McGaugh is a Research Professor and Founding Chair of the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior and Founding Director of the Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory at the University of California, Irvine. His research investigates brain systems that regulate the formation of lasting memories. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His awards include the William James Fellow Award from the Association for Psychological Science, the Distinguished Science Award from the American Psychological Association and the Grawemeyer Award.



Darold Treffert received his medical degree and residency training at the University of Wisconsin Medical School. He was a clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry there until 2012. He met his first savant in 1962. He has the world's largest library of books, tapes and publications on savant syndrome, now housed at the Treffert Center at Agnesian HealthCare in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. The Center is dedicated to preserving and expanding research on savant syndrome and other forms of exceptional brain performance. Dr. Treffert was a consultant to the movie *Rain Man*.

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Bruce Miller holds the A.W. and Mary Margaret Clausen Distinguished Professorship in Neurology at UC San Francisco where he directs the Memory and Aging Center. He is a behavioral neurologist whose work in neurodegenerative conditions emphasizes brain-behavior relationships and the genetic and molecular underpinnings of disease. He is the principal investigator of the NIH-sponsored Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and program project on frontotemporal dementia. Additionally, he helps lead the Tau Consortium, Consortium for Frontotemporal Research and Global Brain Health Institute. He was awarded the Potamkin Award from the American Academy of Neurology and elected to the National Academy of Medicine.



Isabelle Peretz is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Montreal and the holder of a Canada Research Chair in neurocognition of music. She is renowned for her work on congenital and acquired musical disorders (amusia) and on the biological foundations of music processing in general. In 2005, Dr. Peretz became the founding co-director of the international laboratory for Brain, Music, and Sound research (BRAMS), a unique multi-university consortium that is jointly affiliated to Université de Montréal and McGill University. Dr. Peretz is the founding Editor-in-chief of the open-access *Frontiers of Auditory Cognitive Neuroscience* and is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the American Psychological Association.



Adam Ockelford is Professor of Music and Director of the Applied Music Research Centre at the University of Roehampton, London, UK. He has an international reputation as a teacher, researcher and writer in the field of autism and special musical abilities. His TED talk with his long-term protégé, musical savant Derek Paravicini, can be found at:

https://www.ted.com/talks/derek_paravicini_and_adam_ockelford_in_the_key_of_genius



Jamie Ward is a Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Sussex, UK, and a Co-Director of Sussex Neuroscience. He is one of the world's leading authorities on synaesthesia and has published widely on topics such as multi-sensory perception, social cognition, enhanced and impaired memory, and sensory substitution. His research methods draw on experimental psychology and human neuroscience. He is also well-known for his undergraduate textbooks *The Students Guide to Cognitive Neuroscience* (Psychology Press, 2009) and *The Students Guide to Social Neuroscience* (Psychology Press, 2011), as well as being the founding editor of *Cognitive Neuroscience*.

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