
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: Veissière, Samuel Paul Louis

POSITION TITLE: Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, McGill University

EDUCATION/TRAINING (

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
McGill University, Montreal, Canada	Postdoctoral training	06/2017	Cognitive Science, Psychiatry
McGill University, Montreal, Canada	PhD	10/2007	Anthropology
McGill University, Montreal, Canada	MA	10/2005	Culture & Values in Ed.
Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland	BSc	09/2003	Educational Science

A. Personal Statement

An interdisciplinary anthropologist and cognitive scientist, Dr. Veissière studies sociocultural dimensions of cognition, consciousness, and human well-being through a variety of projects including placebo effects and hypnosis, smartphone and internet use disorders, social and psychological impacts of the Internet, social polarization, gender and mental health, and cultural evolution. Having first earned a PhD in anthropology, he completed postdoctoral studies in cognitive and behavioural science with additional training in contemplative science, microphenomenological interviewing, clinical hypnosis, cultural psychiatry, public health, and cognitive neuroscience. He has worked with such varied populations as street children, indigenous peoples in the Arctic and the Amazon, children with neurodevelopmental disorders, people who intentionally conjure friendly auditory hallucinations, and Tibetan Buddhist monks in the Himalayas. His work is motivated by a keen attention to multiple facets of the human experience from ethnographic, phenomenological, cross-cultural, developmental, evolutionary, neuroscientific, experimental, and clinical perspectives. He has published broadly and spoken in the media on novel theories and experimental findings on the social nature of attention, cognition, mental health, and healing, and on the impact of the internet and new technologies on human sociality and well-being.

B. Positions and Honors

- 2017 – present. Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, McGill University
- 2017 – present. Associate Member, Department of Anthropology, McGill University.
- 2019 – present Cultural Broker, Cultural Consultation Clinic, Institute for Community and Family Psychiatry, Jewish General Hospital, Montreal
- 2014-17 Postdoctoral researcher, Division of Social & Transcultural Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, McGill University.
- 2014-17 Senior Research Associate, Department of Communication Studies, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2012-14 Research Associate, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Winnipeg, MB.
- 2010-13 Visiting Professor & CAPES Fellow, Postgraduate program in Anthropology, Federal University of Pará, Belém, Brazil.
- 2007-14 Assistant Professor of Social Science and Anthropology, University College of the North, Thompson, MB

Honours

2009. Winner of the Honorable Mention in the Experimental Category: Illinois Distinguished Qualitative Dissertation Award

2005. Dean's Honour List for Master's thesis, McGill University

2003. Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours, Dublin City University

C. Contributions to Science

Most significant contributions

1. Impact of technology and the internet on human behaviour.

Sandra, D. A., Olson, J.A., Chmoulevitch, D., Sheldon, S. & **Veissière, S. P. L.** (2019). Reducing Smartphone Overuse through Behavioural Nudges. Poster presentation for *Cognitive Science Society Conference* in Montreal, QC on July 24-27, 2019.

Sandra, D. A., Olson, J.A., Sheldon, S. & **Veissière, S. P. L.** Individual differences and interventions in smartphone addiction. Poster presented at the *International Convention of Psychological Science*, Paris, France, on 8 Mar 2019.

Olson, J.A., Stendel, M., Sandra, D.A., & **Veissière, S. P. L.** Smartphone addiction correlates with hypnotic suggestibility. Poster presented at the *International Convention of Psychological Science*, Paris, France, on 8 Mar 2019.

Veissière, S. & Stendel, M. (2018). Hypernatural Monitoring: a Social Rehearsal Account of Smartphone Addiction. *Front. Psychol.* doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2018.00141

Stendel, M., & Ramstead, M, & **Veissière, S.** (2020) Internet sociality. In. Cummings, C. & Kirmayer, L. (Eds.) *Culture, Mind, Brain*. Cambridge University Press

Veissière, S. (2016) 'Varieties of Tulpa Experiences: The Hypnotic Nature of Human Sociality, Personhood, and Interphenomenality'. In. Amir Raz and Michael Lifshitz (eds) *Hypnosis and meditation: Towards an integrative science of conscious planes*. Oxford University Press.

Veissière, S. (2016). 'The Internet is Not a River: Space, Movement and Personhood in a Wired World'. In. Friedman, M., & Schultermandl, S. (eds.). *Click and Kin: Transnational Identity and Quick Media*. (forthcoming, University of Toronto Press)

2. Evolutionary and cultural modulations of attention and cognition

Veissière, S., Constant, A., Ramstead, M., Friston, K., Kirmayer, L. (2019) Thinking Through Other Minds: A Variational Approach to Cognition and Culture. *Behavioural and Brain Sciences*.

Constant, A., Ramstead, M. J. D., **Veissière, S.**, & Friston, K. J. (2019) Regimes of Expectations: An Active Inference Model of Social Conformity. *Frontiers in Robotics*.

Marini, D., Medema, W., Adamowski, J., **Veissière, S. P.**, Mayer, I., & Wals, A. E. (2018) Socio-Psychological Perspectives on the Potential for Serious Games to Promote Transcendental Values in IWRM Decision-Making. *Water*.

Constant A, Ramstead MJD, **Veissière S**, Campbell JO, Friston KJ. (2018) A variational approach to niche construction. *J. R. Soc. Interface* 15: 20170685.

Veissière, S. (2018). Cultural Markov blankets? Mind the other minds gap!. *Physics of life reviews*, 24, 47-49.

Ramstead M*, **Veissière S***, and, Kirmayer L* (2016) Cultural Affordances: Scaffolding Local Worlds Through Shared Intentionality and Regimes of Attention. *Front. Psychol.* (Cognitive Science). 7:1090. *authors contributed equally

3. Cultural, psycho-social, and technical dimensions of placebo effects

Olson, J. A., Suissa-Rochelleau, L., Lifshitz, M., Raz, A., & **Veissière, S.** (under review). Tripping on nothing: Contextual factors in placebo psychedelics.

Veissière, S. (2019) Neuroplacebo: When healing is a no-brainer. In. Thibault, R., & Raz, A (eds). *The Dark Side of Brain Imaging*. Elsevier.

Thibault, R. T., **Veissière, S.**, *Olson, J. A., & Raz, A. (2018). EEG-neurofeedback and the correction of misleading information. *Journal of Attention Disorders*. 1087054718808379.

Thibault, R. T*, **Veissière, S***, Olson, J. A., & Raz, A. (2018). Treating ADHD with suggestion: Neurofeedback and placebo therapeutics. *Journal of Attention Disorders*. (*authors contributed equally)

Veissière, S., Olson., A., Lifshitz, M., Stevens, M., Raz., A. Positive Suggestion to Improve Self-Regulation in ADHD. (in review)

4. Cultural dimensions of mental illness

Kirmayer, L.J., Gomez-Carrillo, A., **Veissière, S.**, (2017) Culture and depression in global mental health: An ecosocial approach to the phenomenology of psychiatric disorders, *Social Science & Medicine* doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2017.04.034.

Veissière, S. . (2018). "Toxic Masculinity" in the age of# MeToo: ritual, morality and gender archetypes across cultures. *Society and Business Review*, 13(3), 274-286.

Gomez-Carrillo, A., Lencucha, R., Faregh, N. **Veissière, S.**, Kirmayer, L. (under review) Fostering Reflexive Deliberation in Practice: A Framework for Enhancing Cultural and Context Responsiveness in mhGAP Implementation. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization: Perspectives*

D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

- 2019. Samuel Veissière, Principal Investigator, (Co-applicants, Suparna Choudhury (McGill Psychiatry), Ashesh Mukherjee (McGill, Management). *Healthy smartphone use to reduce stress and improve cognition: A randomized controlled trial*. Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives (Canada First Research Excellence Fund) Knowledge Mobilization Grant. \$70 017 (awarded, August 1 2018).
- 2019. Samuel Veissière Principal Investigator. Foundation for Psychocultural Research. International Research Collaboration Travel Grant. Co-Investigator, David Dupuis (Durhman); Collaborators, Michael Lifshitz and Tanya Lurhmann (Stanford). "Social and cognitive mechanisms of voluntary auditory verbal hallucinations in Yidam meditation: an exploratory micro-phenomenological ethnography in Ladakh" \$USD 8,000.
- 2018. Samuel Veissière, Principal Investigator, (Co-applicants, Veronique Bohbot (McGill Psychiatry), Gregory West (UdM Psych), Signy Sheldon (McGill Psych),, Suparna Choudhury (McGill Psychiatry), Ashesh Mukherjee (McGill, Management). *Promoting Healthy Smartphone Use to Improve Cognition and Well-being*. Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives (Canada First Research Excellence Fund) Knowledge Mobilization Grant. \$70 017 (awarded, August 1 2018).

- 2018. Samuel Veissiere, Principal Investigator (Co-Investigators, Jerome Sackur (EHES), Robert Thibault (McGill IPN), Samuel Hickmann (Joy Family, Inc.) *Suggestion-based, Technology-assisted attention training for neurodevelopmental disorders*. Mitacs Accelerate. \$15 000 (awarded, May 2018)
- 2018. Co-Investigator, Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Partnership Engage Grant "*Supporting and measuring youth well-being in a community music education program*". P.I. Bronwen Low (DISE), M.A Student, Marcelle Partouche (DISE/Psychiatry), \$24,893 (awarded August 2018)