

CURRICULUM VITAE OF JOHN VERVAEKE

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. PERSONAL

John Vervaeke 55 Montclair Avenue, Apt. 601, Toronto University College F 307
905-409-4721 416-978-8111

2. DEGREES

- PhD 1997 University of Toronto, Philosophy
 - BSc 1991 University of Toronto, Specialist in Cognitive Science
 - MA 1985 University of Toronto, Philosophy
 - HBA 1984 McMaster University, Philosophy, Summa Cum Laude
- *Thesis: The Naturalistic Imperative in Cognitive Science*, Ph.D. Supervisor: Jack Stevenson

3. EMPLOYMENT

- Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream 2016
- Permanent lecturer July 2014- 2016
- 3 year contract lecturer July 2011-June 2014
- Sessional lecture 2008-2011
- Contract lecturer 2005-2007
- Sessional lecturer 1994-2007

4. HONOURS

- 2012 Ranjini Ghosh Excellence in Teaching Award.
- 2012 Nominated for Dean's Small Group Award.
- 2006 Nominated for the Prime Minister's Best Teacher Award
- 2006 Nominated for Best Lecturer in Ontario, TV Ontario Big Ideas
- 2005 Psychology Department Teaching Award, University of Toronto
- 2001 Students' Administrative Council and Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students teaching award.

B. ACADEMIC HISTORY

5. A. RESEARCH ENDEAVOURS

- Revising work with Juensung Kim to finish manuscript, *Fighter, Healer, Scholar, Sage: A naturalistic account of qi and its place in martial Praxis* for re-submission
- Currently working with Juensung Kim, Thalia Vratsidis, and Philip Rajewicz on a paper on the psychological construct of Meaning in Life
- Currently working with Christopher Mastropeitro on *Unsheltered: The genealogy of the Meaning Crisis. Follow up book to Zombies in Western Culture: A Twenty-first Century Crisis*. Expected completion is March, 2019.
- Currently working with Christopher Mastropeitro and Phillip Misevic

- on the third book in the series, *The Big Bang of Meaning and The Cognitive Science of the Sacred*. Expected completion is December 2019.
- Currently working with Hannah Cho, Daniel Greg, and Madlene Abramian on *The Cognitive Continuum from Insight to Enlightenment*. This is a book building on four talks I have given on altered states of consciousness and transformative experience. Expected completion April 2019.
- Currently working with RAs to design and run an MTurk study to see if there is a positive manifold between various standard insight task which would indicate a general factor of insight. This could be relevant to understanding transformative experience. Ethics approved.
- Currently working with RAs and using *In Viv* software to code from multiple journals in order to provide forecasting to the Psychology Department as to future trends in the discipline. Expected completion is February 13, 2019.
- Currently working with RAs on the VERwiki, a wikipedia of all the course constructs, theories and material from all the courses I teach and the work that I have published.

C. SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL WORK

7. Refereed Publications

2018:

John Vervaeke, Leo Ferraro and Arianne Herrera-Bennett. "Flow as Spontaneous Thought: Insight and Implicit Learning." in *The Oxford Handbook of Spontaneous Thought* (K.C.R. Fox & K. Christoff, Editors). Oxford University Press.

2017:

John Vervaeke, Chrisopher Mastropeitro, and Filip Misevic. *Zombies in Western Culture: A Twenty-first Century Crisis*. Open Book Publishers.

<https://www.openbookpublishers.com/product.php/602/zombies-in-western-culture--a-twenty-first-century-crisis?602/zombies-in-western-culture--a-twenty-first-century-crisis>

John Vervaeke, 'Intelligence' in *Introduction to Psychology*, Top Hat Publishers, August 1 2017
<https://tophat.com/marketplace/oer-introduction-to-psychology-meaghan-altman/>

2016:

John Vervaeke and Leo Ferraro, 'Reformulating the Mindfulness Construct: The Cognitive Processes at work in Mindfulness, Hypnosis, and Mystical States' in Amir Raz and Michael Lifshitz (eds) *Hypnosis and Meditation: Toward an integrative science of conscious planes*.

2013:

John Vervaeke and Leo Ferraro, 'Relevance Realization on the Neurodynamics and Neuroconnectivity of General Intelligence' in Inman Harvey, Ann Cavoukian, Geroge Tomko, Don Borrett, Hon Kwan, and Diminrios Hatzinakos (eds.) *SmartData: Privacy Meets Evolutionary Robotics*, pp. 57-68, Springer.

2012:

John Vervaeke and Leo Ferraro, 'Relevance, Meaning, and the Cognitive Science of Wisdom' in Michel Ferrari and Nic Westrate (eds) *The Scientific Study of Personal Wisdom: From Contemplative Traditions to Neuroscience*, pp. 21-51, Springer.

John Vervaeke, Timothy Lillicrap and Blake Richards, 'Relevance Realization and the Emerging Framework in Cognitive Science' *Journal of Logic and Computation*, 22, (1) Special Issue: Relevance: Philosophical and Logical Issues, pp. 79-99. First published online 2009

2008:

John Kennedy and John Vervaeke, 'How Does the Body Ground Mind? Margaret Wilson, Internalization and Metaphor' Festschrift: Essays in honour of Dunja Jutroni, University of Malibor. 26 pages

2004:

John Vervaeke and John Kennedy, 'Conceptual Metaphor and Abstract Thought'. *Metaphor and Symbol*, Vol. 14, no.3, pages 213-231.

1997:

Chris Green and John Vervaeke, 'But What Have You Done for us Lately? Some Recent Perspectives on Linguistic Nativism. In D. Johnson, and C. Erneling (eds) *The Future of the Cognitive Revolution*, pp. 149-164.

John Vervaeke and Chris Green, 'Women, Fire and Dangerous Theories: A critique of Lakeoff's theory of categorization', *Metaphor and Symbol*, Vol 12, no. 1, pages 59-80.

Chris Green and John Vervaeke, 'The Experience of Objects and the Objects of Experience', *Metaphor and Symbol*, Vol 12, no. 1, pages 3-17.

Dan Chiappe and John Vervaeke, 'Fodor, Charniak, and the Naturalization of Rationality', *Theory and Psychology*, Vol 7, no. 6, pages 799-821.

1996:

Chris Green and John Vervaeke, 'What Kind of Explanation, if any, is a Connectionist Net?', in C. Tolman, F. Cherry, R. Hezewijk, and I. Lubeck (eds.), *Problems of Theoretical Psychology*. Pp 201-210

John Vervaeke and John Kennedy, 'Metaphors in Language and Thought: Falsifications and Multiple Meanings', *Metaphor and Symbolic Activity*, Vol 11, no.4, pages 273-284.

1993:

John Kennedy and John Vervaeke, 'Metaphor and Knowledge Attained via the Body', *Philosophical Psychology*, vol. 6, no. 4, pages 407-412.

John Kennedy, Chris Green and John Vervaeke, 'Metaphoric Thought and Devices in Pictures', *Metaphor and Symbolic Activity*, vol. 8, pages 243-255.

1991:

John Kennedy and John Vervaeke, Review for *Canadian Journal of Literature of More than Cool Reason: A field-guide to metaphor* by George Lakoff and Mark Turner. 2 pages

8. Invited lectures and presentations to learned societies.

Invited:

Hamza Tsortzis and John Vervaeke, 'A conversation on faith, science, and the modern world' to the Dar Al-Tawheed Islamic Centre, November 3, 2018, University of Toronto, Mississauga.

John Vervaeke, 'Why the creation of A.I. requires the cultivation of wisdom on our part' to *The Centre for Ethics: A.I. in Context*, October 30, 2018, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'Mindfully looking into insight: attention and problem solving' to *the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies*. October 17, 2018, The Bloor Hot Docs Cinema, 506, Bloor Street Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'Psychedelic experience and transformative understanding: how awakening experiences can be radical transformative experiences' to *PHIL088: the philosophy of transformative experience led by Professor Laurie Paul*, October 2, 2018, Yale University.

John Vervaeke, 'What is higher about higher states of consciousness' to *Mapping the Mind with Mushrooms 4, 2018*. September 22, 2018, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'Mindfully looking into insight: attention and problem solving' to *the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies*. April 5, 2018, Markham Civic Centre.

John Vervaeke, 'All the king's disciplines: cognitive science rescues the deconstructed mind' *TEDxUofT*, March 10, 2018.

John Vervaeke, 'Development as Disruption' to *Utism 2018, What to expect when you are unexpected: the cognitive science of disruption*. February 3, 2018. University of Toronto

John Vervaeke, 'Gnosis as the cognitive process linking psychotherapy to mystical transformation' to *From micro-dosing to mystical experience: reports from the field*. January 20, 2018, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, Keynote speaker, 'Mindfulness, mystical experience, and meaning in life' to *Arts and Science Undergraduate Research Conference*, January 19, 2018, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'Mindfully looking into insight: attention and problem solving' to *the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies*. November 13, 2017, Oakville.

John Vervaeke, Flagship event, 'Getting clear about mindfulness and how it probably works' to the *Spring Reunion*, June 3, 2017, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'Reconceptualizing mindfulness to reveal its connections to insight and flow' to *The Academy of Well Being, Organizational and Development Learning Centre, University of Toronto*, June 2, 2017, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, Daniel Araya, & Creig Lamb, panel discussants for 'Humanity in a post-A.I. era' to SingularityU, Toronto Chapter, June 1, 156 Front Street West, Toronto.
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/singularityu-toronto-panel-discussion-humanity-in-a-post-ai-era-tickets-34622073554#>

John Vervaeke, Keynote speaker, 'The Interdisciplinary Generation of Neurotechnology: A case study in developing a mindfulness app' to *Neuotech: Converging and Emerging Fields*, February 23rd, 2017, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'Why Altering Consciousness Can Have Cognitive Enhancing and Sapiential effects' to *Mycelium: Mapping the Mind with Mushrooms*, September 24th, 2016, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'The Sapiential Function of Altered States of Consciousness' to *Mind Matters VI*, February 27, 2016, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'Dynamical, Developmental Psychology: Its power, promise, and peril' to *UTISM*, February 6, 2016, University of Toronto.

Geoff MacDonald and John Vervaeke, 'The Nature of Love' to *Mind Masters*, September 30th 2015, OISE, University of Toronto.

Dan Dolderman and John Vervaeke, 'The End of the World' to *Mind Masters*, June 5th, 2015 OISE, University of Toronto.

Ferrari, M., Ardel, M., Bang, H., Edmondson, R., Noghabi, R.K., Mongeau, G., Vervaeke, J., (2015) 'Motivating the Self to Virtue in Western and Non-Western Countries: Does Nation or Faith Matter More?' This presentation was delivered at the Self, Motivation & Virtue Project's Interdisciplinary Moral Forum, held at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

John Vervaeke, 'Cognitive Processes at Work in Narrative' to *Wisdom and Narrative Conference*, March 26th, 2015 OISE, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'Reverence and Power' to *Mind Matters 5*, March 15, 2015. University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke and Jordan Peterson, 'The Meaning of Life' to *Mind Masters*, February 5th, 2015. OISE, University of Toronto.

Brian Cantwell Smith and John Vervaeke, 'Is Consciousness Inherently Representational?' to *Mutual Relevance*, January 21st, 2015, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'Mindfulness and Mental Health' to *Minding our Minds: Conference on Mental Health in University*, October 30th, 2014, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'Relevance, Significance, and Religo' to *UTISM*, October 25th, 2014. University of Toronto

John Vervaeke, 'The Cognitive Science of Wisdom: Wisdom as Rationally Self-Transcending Rationality That Enhances Relevance Realization' to *Mind and Life Summer Research Institute*, June 19th, 2014, Garrison, New York.

John Vervaeke, 'Reformulating the Mindfulness Construct' to *Mind and Life Summer Research Institute*, June 19th, 2014, Garrison, New York.

John Vervaeke, 'When Mystery Becomes Darkness' to *Mind Matters 4*, March 1 2014, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'Eros in the Age of Embodied Cognitive Science' to *Symposium on Love, Philosophy Course Union*, February 13, 2014, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'Neuro-enlightenment' to *TEDxUofT*, May 18, 2013, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'Eros into Agape, and the Core of Buddhist Training' to *Mind Matters III: Desire and Entanglement for the University of Toronto's Jungian Society and Buddhism and Psychology Student Union*. February 9th, 2013

John Vervaeke, Keynote speaker, 'The Cognitive Processes within Mindfulness Practices' to *Hypnosis: The Mind, the Body, and Words, for the Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis*. October 14, 2012, Toronto.

John Vervaeke, Keynote speaker, 'The practice of science and the cultivation of personal wisdom: can we renew Aristotle's vision' to *The Wise Scientist: Historical and Philosophical Reflections on the Place of Wisdom in Science Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Toronto, Graduate Conference* at the University of Toronto, June 2, 2012

John Vervaeke 'Relevance Realization and the Neurodynamics of Intelligence of Intelligence' to *IPSI SmartData International Symposium* at the University of Toronto May 14, 2012

John Vervaeke 'The scientific study of mindfulness practices' to *Mindful of Change: Staying Present for the Future* at George Brown College February 29, 2012.

John Vervaeke 'Wisdom as rationally self-transcending rationality that enhances relevance realization' to *Mind Matters Two: New Perspectives on the Psychology of Wisdom* at the University of Toronto, February 18, 2012

John Vervaeke, Key Note Speaker, 'A cognitive scientific and completely naturalistic theory of the *chi* phenomenon in martial arts' to *Performing Philosophy Symposium* at the University of Toronto, October 23rd 2011.

John Vervaeke, 'The intersection between ancient philosophy and modern cognitive science in the study of wisdom' to *Where can wisdom be found? Interdisciplinary discussion on evidence for wisdom* at the University of Toronto, April 9th, 2011.

John Vervaeke, 'Salience, Dysregulation and the continuum between foolishness and pathology' to *Mind Matters: towards and new understanding of psychopathology* at the University of Toronto, March 19th, 2011

John Vervaeke, 'Mindfulness and the cognitive science of wisdom' to *Mindfulness and Psychotherapy: Deepening our theory and practice* at the University of Toronto, May 1st, 2010.

John Vervaeke, 'Three Visions of the Nature of Cognitive Science' to *University of Toronto Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Mind: The place of emotions in the cognitive sciences* at the University of Toronto, April 18th, 2010.

John Vervaeke, 'The Possibility of a Secular Spirituality and its Connections to Cognitive Science and Neuroscience', at the *Centre for Inquiry* at the University of Toronto, December 11th, 2009.

John Vervaeke, 'Pure Consciousness and the Purely Procedural Proto-self' to Buddhism, Psychology and Mental Health Student Association's *Symposium on the Self*, November 20th, 2009.

John Vervaeke, 'The Foundations of Mindfulness: A Micro and Macro Reconceptualization', to University of Toronto Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence Student Association's *Buddhism, Brains and Behaviour*, March 21st, 2009.

John Vervaeke, 'Faith, Education, and The Meaning of Life: Relevance, wisdom and compassion' at *The Veritas Forum* at the University of Toronto, March 13th, 2009.

John Vervaeke, 'Contemplative Practice and Wisdom in Buddhism and Cognitive Science' at an event celebrating 500 years Charles de Bovelles' book of the Wise Man at the University of Toronto, 2009.

John Vervaeke, 'Increasing Teacher Effectiveness: What can teachers do to improve problem solving?' to the Rotman Centre at the University of Toronto, 2005.

Accepted:

Thalia Vratsidis, Philip Rajewicz, Juensung Kim, & John Vervaeke., (Accepted). "An integrative account of the experience of meaning in life". Paper to be presented to the *2019 meeting of the American Psychological Association*, Chicago, USA

Juensung Kim & John Vervaeke, (Accepted). 'Making sense of it all: Coherency and religiosity predict sense of meaning after anomalous experiences.' Paper to be presented to *the 80th annual Canadian Psychological Association National Convention*, Halifax, Canada.

Juensung Kim, John Vervaeke, & Michel Ferrari, (Accepted). 'Wise elders emphasize formal study and spiritual practice in the development of wisdom'. Poster to be presented to the *80th annual Canadian Psychological Association National Convention*, Halifax, Canada.

John Vervaeke, Juensung Kim, & Leonardo Ferraro, (Accepted). 'Plausibility: Beyond content and source factors'. Poster to be presented to the *2019 meeting of the American Psychological Association*, Chicago, USA.

Juensung Kim, & John Vervaeke, (Accepted). 'Making sense: Coherency and religiosity predict meaning in life following mystical experience'. Poster to be presented to the *2019 meeting of the American Psychological Association*, Chicago, USA.

John Vervaeke & Anderson Todd, 'Mystical experience predicts enhanced meaning in life via coherence' to *Mapping the Mind with Mushrooms 4*, September 22, 2018, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke & Filip Miscevic, 'Is Wisdom an Irrational Epistemic Virtue' poster presented to *The Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 44th Annual Meeting*, July 15, 2018, University of Michigan.

Juensung Kim, Michel Ferrari, & John Vervaeke, 'Common conceptions of achieving the exemplary life in comparatively wise and unwise participants' to the *29th International Congress of Applied Psychology*, June 2018, Montreal, Canada.

John Vervaeke & Anderson Todd, 'Mystical experience predicts enhanced meaning in life' to *4th Canadian Conference on Positive Psychology*, May 24, 2018, University of Toronto

Juensung Kim, Michel Ferrari, & John Vervaeke, 'Knowledge of the best life: Comparatively wise and unwise participants' perspectives on the exemplary life' to *4th Canadian Conference on Positive Psychology*, May 24, 2018, University of Toronto.

Juensung Kim, and John Vervaeke, 'Fighter, Healer, Scholar, Sage: A Naturalistic Account of Qi and Its Role in Martial Praxis' to the *American Philosophical Association*, Pacific Division, March 30th, 2016.

Richard Wu, John Vervaeke, and Anderson Todd. 'Consciousness and the Frame Problem' Poster to *Mind and Life Summer Research Institute*, June 16th, 2014, Garrison, New York.

John Vervaeke, 'Mindfulness and the Cognitive Science of Wisdom'. Presentation to *Mindfulness and Psychotherapy: Deepening our Theory and Practice*. A symposium hosted by the Centre for Diversity in Counselling and Psychotherapy, Department of Adult Education and Counselling Psychology at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, May 1st, 2010.

John Vervaeke, Zachary Irving, and Leo Ferraro. 'Relevance Realization: An emerging framework of intelligence'. Presentation to the *University of Toronto Metapsychology group*, April 20th & May 18th, 2010.

Zachary Irving and John Vervaeke, 'More Appropriate Plasticity: A rigorously embedded account for intelligence' at to *University of Toronto's Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Mind*, 2008.

John Vervaeke, 'Humans as Endangered Species: will machines make us obsolete?' at *Café Scientifique*, Toronto, Ontario, 2007.

Chris Green and John Vervaeke, 'Fusion, Protolanguage and Pictures' at the *American Psychological Association's* annual conference, Toronto Ontario, 1996.

John Vervaeke, 'Deconstruction and the Psychology of Concept' at the *American Psychological Association's* annual conference, New York NY, 1995.

John Vervaeke and Chris Green, 'Connectionism and its Discontents: Of eliminativism and cognitive explanation' at the *American Psychological Association's* annual conference, New York NY, 1995.

Chris Green and John Vervaeke, 'Mental Causation, Psychological Explanation and Connectionism', at the *International Society for Theoretical Psychology*, Ottawa Ontario, 1995.

John Vervaeke, 'The Eternal Return of the Same Problem of the Other: A deconstructionist approach to the history of psychology at the *International Society for the History of Behavioural and Social Sciences*, 1994.

John Vervaeke and Chris Green, 'Thinking Metaphorically: A critique of Lakeoff and Johnson' to the *Toronto Semiotics Circle*, Toronto Ontario, 1993.

John Vervaeke, Chris Green and John Kennedy, 'Women, Fire and Dangerous Theories', at the *Canadian Psychological Association*, Montreal Quebec, 1993.

John Vervaeke and Chris Green, 'Pictorial Metaphor' at the *American Psychological Association*, Washington DC, 1992.

Academic Seminar Presentations

John Vervaeke, 'Reformulating the Mindfulness Construct' for the *Psychology Student Association (PSA)*, November 14th, 2014, University of Toronto

John Vervaeke, 'Relevance Realization Theory as a Bridging Theory between the Categorical and Psychometric Constructs of Intelligence' for the *Psychology Student Association (PSA)*, January 31st, 2014, University of Toronto.

John Vervaeke, 'Relevance Realization and the Neurodynamics and Neuroconnectivity of General Intelligence' for the *Neuroscience Association for Undergraduate students (NAUS)*, October 24th, 2013, University of Toronto.

D. LIST OF COURSES (in preceding 5 years)

9.

A. Undergraduate courses

COG 250: Introduction to Cognitive Science

COG 401/402: Advanced Cognitive Science: Neuroscientific theories of Consciousness.

PSY 100: Introduction to Psychology

PSY 270: Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

PSY 312: Cognitive Development

PSY 370: Thinking and Reasoning

PSY 371: Higher Cognitive Processes

PSY 471: Seminar: Critical Examination of the Mindfulness Construct
NEW 333: Buddhism and Cognitive Science
NEW 331: The Science of Mindfulness Meditation
NEW 432: Cultivating Consciousness

B. Other teaching and lectures given

Interviewed by Carl Christensen for the podcast *Change Truth*, November, 2018, 'Cognitive Science of Wisdom, Meaning, and Psilocybin Mushrooms'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUvaCfPrKjI&index=6&list=PLND1JCRq8VuhuWf1FIslj6bqNF6hB2jkV>

Interviewed by Jonathan Pageau for *The Symbolic World*, May, 2018, 'Cognitive Science and the Sacred'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PGglf5j_I&index=2&list=PLND1JCRq8Vuj9U2DCHRN0gBfOwGy-Vcnq

Graduate student teaching workshop 2013-present

Graduate Tutorial on test review and marking 2015-present

Guest appearance on *Mr. Tachyon, Viceland*, February 19, 2018.

Coffee with Profs, UC LIT October 25, 2017. University of Toronto

Keynote speaker 'Getting clear about mindfulness and how it probably Works' *University of Toronto Where You Are Event*. October 19, 2017,

Los Angeles, CA.

Keynote speaker 'Getting clear about mindfulness and how it probably Works' *University of Toronto Where You Are Event*. October 18, 2017, San Francisco, CA.

Coffee with the Profs, UC Orientation, September 6th, University of Toronto

Presentation at Cognitive Science STEP Orientation, September 5, 2017, University of Toronto.

Guest Lecturer for *Iam Yoga* teacher training, May 8th 2017, St. James Cathedral, Toronto

Guest Lecturer for Suzanne Erb in Professional Psychology February 15, 2017.

Interviewed by Ben Thomas for *The Connectome* podcast December 2016, 'Mindfulness and other neuro-technologies'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1mY3iEvvVg>

Guest Lecturer for Suzanne Erb in Professional Psychology January 5, 2016.

Guest Lecturer for Susanne Ferber in Professional Psychology November 4, 2014.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

10. A. Acting Director of the Cognitive Science Program July 2016-July 2017
Progress Through the Ranks Committee, University College, May 2017
Associate Director of the Cognitive Science Program 2005-2007:
Responsible for running all aspects of the program.
Cognitive Science Advisory Committee 2014-current
Sessional Lecturer Promotion Committee 2014

Sessional Lecturer Promotion Committee 2013

B. Academic Chair: The Dragon Academy 2002-2008, Toronto).