

# VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2020

# ECHRANZ

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### ASSISTANT PROFESSOR NEV JONES

#### Experiencer Involvement in Clinical 'Hallucinations' Research: Unpacking Epistemic Agency

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 10.15am

**SUMMARY:** This presentation takes as its point of departure philosopher Jose Medina's contention that epistemic injustice is fundamentally tied to the contextual negation of epistemic agency: "When one is allowed to be an informant without being allowed to be an inquirer, one is allowed to enter into one set of communicative activities—those relating to passing knowledge and opinions—but not others, precisely those others that are more sophisticated, happen at a higher level of abstraction, and require more epistemic authority: formulating hypotheses, probing and questioning, assessing and interpreting opinions, and so forth." With this starting point in place, the talk will go on to explore both the consequences of arrested epistemic agency with respect to the social status of 'experiencers' and the nature of knowledge produced, specifically focusing on 'hallucinations' research.

**BIO:** Nev Jones PhD is an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of South Florida. Nev's training background is interdisciplinary with extensive pre-doctoral training in continental philosophy, a PhD in community psychology, and postdoc in medical anthropology. Research interests span early psychosis services, the social, economic and cultural determinants of mental health and disability, and theory-informed investigation of the assumptions and implications of particular research methods, including participatory approaches.



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## ASSISTANT PROFESSOR BEN ALDERSON-DAY

### Hearing the Voice: Eight Years of Interdisciplinary Research on Voice-Hearing

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 4.30pm

**SUMMARY:** What do people talk about when they talk about voices? What makes something a voice? And how do these things relate to auditory verbal hallucinations, as understood from a psychological or psychiatric perspective? The contention of *Hearing the Voice* was that we need a range of different kinds of expertise to answer these kinds of questions. Now in its eighth year, the project has contributed to the understanding of voice-hearing in fields as diverse as clinical psychology, medical anthropology, and literary theory, while working closely with voice-hearers to reorient misunderstandings of the phenomenon. My talk will cover some of the main research milestones of the project, and some of the controversies and mis-steps along the way.

**BIO:** Dr Ben Alderson-Day is an Assistant Professor in Psychology at Durham University, UK. Since 2012 Ben has been part of *Hearing the Voice*, a research team of psychologists, psychiatrists, philosophers, anthropologists, historians, theologians, and literary scholars based at Durham. His work on auditory verbal hallucinations – or voice-hearing – spans phenomenology, experience sampling, cognitive psychology, and neuroimaging. In 2018 he founded the Early Career Hallucinations Research Group with Cassie Hazell (University of Westminster) and in 2019 he joined the steering committee for the International Consortium on Hallucinations Research. He has published over 50 articles in journals such as *Brain*, *the Lancet Psychiatry*, *Schizophrenia Bulletin*, and *Cortex*.



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