

“EXPLORING INNER EXPERIENCE”



Russell T. Hurlburt, PhD
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
October 5, 2016, 5:30-7:00
Building 50, Room 51A

Do people silently speak to themselves most of the time? What goes on in the inner experience of women with bulimia nervosa just before they purge? If you task a participant in an fMRI scanner to innerly speak, is that the same phenomenon as when he spontaneously innerly speaks? Is it possible (or frequent) to think without experiencing words, visual images, or any other symbols? How is the visual imagery of a 12-, and 22-, and a 72-year-old similar and different? How do feelings differ from one person to another? Such questions would seem to be important to psychology, neuroscience, poetry, art, and the human condition in general, yet they draw almost no study. This talk presents my work on inner experience and the method I have developed to study it.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas psychologist Russ Hurlburt is widely regarded as perhaps Western science's leading expert in the exploration of naturally occurring, spontaneous inner experience. In this talk he will describe the methodological perils that surround such research and the ways they can perhaps be mitigated.

Cultures, Minds and Medicines

Cultures, Minds and Medicines aims to bring together scholars from the social sciences, humanities, medicine and bioscience and technology to explore the ways that health and illness are made through complex social forces. We aim for informal, interactive sessions, full of debate and good will. We will meet every other week on Wednesday evening 5:30-7:00, for dinner and conversation. Talks will take place in Anthropology, Building 50, 51A (Conference room).

We are able to offer graduate students, medical students and residents a certificate in “Cultures, Minds and Medicines,” supported through the Institute for Research in the Social Sciences. iriss.stanford.edu/cmm

Fall 2016 Seminars:

Oct. 12: Nev Jones (Felton Institute)

Oct. 26: Vivian Dzokoto (Virginia Commonwealth University)

Nov. 2: Vikram Patel (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)