

Aiyana Koka Willard

Department of Psychology
 University of British Columbia
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Education:

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|---|-----------------|
| PhD Candidate, Social Psychology | 2015 (expected) |
| Thesis: <i>The Basis of Belief: the cognitive and cultural foundations of supernatural belief</i> | |
| Advisors: Dr. Ara Norenzayan and Dr. Joseph Henrich | |
| Minor: Quantitative | |
| University of British Columbia | |
| MA, Social Psychology | 2011 |
| Thesis: <i>Memory and Belief in Religious Content</i> | |
| Advisors: Dr. Ara Norenzayan and Dr. Joseph Henrich | |
| University of British Columbia | |
| BA, Psychology, Class 1 | 2008 |
| University of British Columbia | |

Awards:

- CERC fellowship, 2013-2015: \$20,000
- Department of Psychology Travel award, 2014: \$500
- SSRCH Graduate Fellowship, 2013-2015: \$40,000
- CERC fellowship, 2012-2013: \$11,000
- Faculty of Graduate Studies Travel Award, 2012: \$400
- Four Year fellowship, 2011-2015: \$64,000
- Graduate Tuition Waiver, 2011-2015
- Department of Psychology Travel award, 2011: \$400
- Faculty of Arts Graduate Award, 2010-2011: \$16,000
- Faculty of Graduate Studies Travel Award, 2010: \$400
- Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship, 2009-2010: \$17,500
- Graduate Entrance Scholarship UBC, 2009-2010: \$5,000
- Trek excellence scholarship UBC, 2007-2008: \$1,500

Publications

Purzycki, B. G. & Willard, A. K. (forthcoming) MCI Theory: A Critical Discussion. *Religion Brain and Behaviour*.

Willard, A. K. & Norenzayan A. (2013). Cognitive Biases Explain Religious Belief, Paranormal Belief, and Belief in Life's Purpose. *Cognition* 129, 379-391.

Gervais, W., Willard, A. K., Norenzayan, A. & Henrich, J. (2011). The Cultural Transmission of Faith: Why natural intuitions and memory biases are necessary, but insufficient, to explain religious belief. *Religion* 41, 389-410.

Manuscripts Under Review

Willard, A. K. & Norenzayan, A. (under review) "Spiritual But Not Religious": cognition, schizotypy, and conversion in understanding alternative beliefs.

Willard, A. K., Henrich, J. & Norenzayan, A. (under review). The Role of Memory, Belief and Familiarity in the Transmission of Counterintuitive Content.

Willard, A. K. (under review). Religion and Prosocial Behaviour among the Indo-Fijians.

Shariff, A. F., Willard, A. K., Andersen, T. & Norenzayan, A. (under review). Priming God: A meta-analysis of religious priming with a focus on religious prosociality.

Norenzayan, A., Shariff, A. F., Gervais, W., Willard, A. K., McNamara, R., Slingerland, E. & Henrich, J. (revisions submitted). The Cultural Evolution of Prosocial Religions.

Conference Presentations

Willard, A. K. (April 2014) Cheating Behaviour among the Indo-Fijians. *Paper presented at the CERC Ethnographic Research Group annual meeting*.

Willard, A. K., Norenzayan, A. & Henrich, J. (February 2014) Do as I Do, Not as I say: Credibility Enhancing Displays of Belief. *Poster presented at the 15th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*

Willard, A. K. & Norenzayan, A. (May 2013). Spiritual but not religious. Poster presented at CERC Conference. Vancouver, British Columbia.

- Willard, A. K., Norenzayan, A. & Henrich, J. (January 2013) Signalling Belief: Credibility Enhancing Displays. *Poster presented at the 14th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*
- Willard, A. K. & McNamara, R. (December 2012) Measuring the Mind of God in Fiji. *Paper presented at the CERC Ethnographic Research Group annual meeting.*
- Willard, A. K. & Norenzayan, A. (January 2012) The Cognitive Basis of Religiosity. *Poster presented at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*
- Willard, A. K., Norenzayan, A. & Henrich, J. (January 2011) Memory and Belief in Religious Concepts. *Poster presented at the 12th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.*
- Willard, A. K., Norenzayan, A. & Henrich, J. (June 2010) Does Memory Increase Belief? *Poster presented at the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Human Behaviour and Evolution Society.*
- Willard, A. K., Norenzayan, A. & Gervais, W. (January 2010) Strangers in the Night: The Effects of Ambient Darkness on the Detection of Human Agency. *Poster presented at the 11th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology*
- Willard, A. K. & Gervais, W. (October, 2009) What's behind the HADD. *Paper presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion 2009 Meeting.*

Teaching Experience:

- Instructor: PSYC 307: Cultural Psychology, January 2015.
- Teaching Assistant: ISIC 302: Integrated Sciences Research Retreat Course (Prof: Micheal Doebeli & Rik Blok, Summer 2014)
- Teaching Fellow: PSYC 217: Psychology Research Methods (Prof: Will Gervais, Winter 2011; Amori Mikami, Winter 2011)
- Teaching Assistant: PSYC 407: Culture and Cognition (Prof: Ara Norenzayan, Winter 2009; Joe Henrich Winter 2010)
- Teaching Assistant: ASTU 201: Canada, Japan and the Pacific: Cultural Studies (Prof: Darrin Lehman, Winter 2009-2011)

Field Site

Lautoka, Fiji

2012 - present

This site was chosen for its ethnic and religious diversity. The primary focus of my research is on the Hindu and Muslim Indo-Fijian populations, but I have also done work with both Indo-Fijian and indigenous Fijian Christian populations.

Undergraduate Students Supervised:

- 2014-15: Nancy Tania, Directed Studies project
Jenny Zhao, Directed Studies project
Samuel Kim, Cognitive Systems project
Vincci Lee, volunteer
Mengyang Zhang, volunteer
- 2013-14: Jason Chang, Directed Studies project
Paul Grewl, Honours project
Melody Lam, Directed Studies project
Samantha Greenwood, Directed Studies project
Mengyang Zhang, volunteer
- 2012-13: Gibak Lee, Honours project
Elissa-Marie Wayne, volunteer
Samantha Greenwood, volunteer
Dakota Schlag, volunteer
- 2011-12: Sean Lee, PSYC 366 project
Gabriel Brooks, Directed Studies project
Dakota Schlag, volunteer
Wendy Xue, volunteer
- 2010-11: Chadis Pharnichyakul, Directed Studies project
Gabriel Brooks, Directed Studies project
Dan Asad, volunteer
- 2009-10: Chadis Pharnichyakul, volunteer
Gabriel Brooks, PSYC 366 project