

## Joseph A.Bulbulia

Professor, School of Psychology  
Faculty of Science  
Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand  
Research Associate, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History,  
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## Work

2020 → Professor of Psychology, Victoria University, New Zealand  
2018→2020 Maclaurin Goodfellow Chair, School of Humanities, The University of Auckland  
2000→2017 Lecturer→Senior Lecturer→Reader→Professor of Religion, Victoria University

## Specialisations

Longitudinal Psychology; Evolutionary Dynamics; Religion; Rituals; Beliefs; Causal Inference.

## Education

2001 Princeton University, Ph.D.  
1997 Princeton University, M.A.  
1993 Harvard University, M.T.S.  
1990 Holy Cross, A.B. (Phi Beta Kappa)

## Service/Appointments

2022→ Director [Centre for Applied Cross-Cultural Research, Victoria University](#)  
2019→ Research Associate, [Max Plank Institute for the Science of Human History](#)  
2018→ Advisory Board: Templeton Religion Trust: Social Consequences of Religion Initiative:  
2018→2020 Maclaurin Goodfellow Chair, University of Auckland  
2014→ Co-editor: [Religion Brain & Behavior](#)  
2014→2016 President: [International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion](#)  
2012→2014 President Elect: [International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion](#)  
2013→ Editorial Advisory Board: [Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science](#)  
2011→ Editorial Advisory Board: [Journal of The Cognitive Science of Religion](#)  
2010→2012 Secretary General (elected): [International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion](#)  
2010→2014 Editorial Advisory Board: [Religion, Brain & Behavior](#)  
2010→2012 Advisor: [The Adaptive Logic of Religious Belief and Behaviour Group](#)  
2012 Ernst Strugmann Forum: Cultural Evolution (Religion) Rappporteur. 26 May–1 June, 2012.  
2012→2015 Editorial Advisory Board: [Zygon: Journal of Science and Religion](#)  
2011→2014 Editorial Advisory Board: [Journal of The Cognitive Science of Religion](#)  
2008→2010 Steering committee, [Cognitive Study of Religion Group, American Academy of Religion](#).  
2008→2010 Co-chair, Explanation, International Association for the History of Religions Conference. Toronto, Canada. 2010.  
2006→ Distinguished Fellow: [Religion Cognition and Culture Group, Aarhus University](#)  
2006→2010 Executive Committee (elected): [International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion](#)  
2006 Gæsteprofessor: [Religion, Cognition, Culture Group: Aarhus University](#)  
1996→1999 Assistant Master, Stevenson Hall: Princeton University

## Awards

2016	Victoria University Research Excellence Award
2000	Faculty Fellowship, Stevenson Hall: Princeton University
1996	Melon Fellowship: Princeton University
1996	Bowen Merit Award: Princeton University
1990	Flatly Award (top philosophy graduate): Holy Cross

## Grants

### Principal Investigator

Total awards as Principal Investigator, NZD 13.77 million

2022	J. Bulbulia (PI): <b>TRT0418: New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study Matching Grant: NZD 4,706,119.</b>
2021	J. Bulbulia (PI): <b>Extension grant Templeton Religion Trust (TRT0196): quantifying the dynamic interplay between virtue and human flourishing: a national-scale longitudinal study, NZD 771,964.</b>
2020	J. Bulbulia (AI) with J. Shaver (PI): <b>The Longitudinal Study of Cohesion and Conflict: Testing Hypotheses of Social and Religious Change in Fiji Marsden 19-UOO-090, NZD 300,000</b>
2017	J. Bulbulia (PI): <b>Quantifying the dynamic interplay between virtue and human flourishing: a national-scale longitudinal study, Templeton Religion Trust (TRT0196): NZD 4,596,114.</b>
2013	J. Bulbulia (PI), <b>The Social Consequences of Religion.</b> , Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden NZD 769,000
2013	J. Bulbulia (PI), C. G. Sibley (PI), and G. Troughton (AI) <b>The Personal Consequences of Religion, Templeton World Charity Foundation (TWCF0077): NZD 614,816.</b>
2013	J. Bulbulia (PI), R. Fischer, P. Singh, S. Tewari, and R. Weiss. <b>The interplay between religion, community making, and well-being, New Zealand India Research Institute: NZD 30,000.</b>
2011	W. McCorkle (Director), D. Xygalatas (Director), J. Bulbulia (PI). Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. <a href="#">LEVYNA: Laboratory for the Experimental Study of Religion, Department for the Study of Religions at Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic: € 1,100,000 (NZD 1,843,409)</a>
2012	J. Bulbulia (PI) and R. Fischer (AI). Victoria University URF: <b>Experimental Studies of Ritual Solidarity: NZD 40,000.</b>
2009	J. Bulbulia (PI) and M. Frean (AI). Victoria University URF: <b>The evolutionary dynamics of religious culture: NZD 17,000.</b>
2006	J. Bulbulia. Aarhus University, Religion, Cognition, Culture. Denmark. <b>Guest Professor, Religion Cognition and Culture: NZD 80,000.</b>

### Associate Investigator

2021	Quentin Atkinson (PI), Russell Gray (AI), Joseph Bulbulia (AI) <b>Deep cultural ancestry and the fortunes of nations. Marsden 3721245 20-UOA-123 NZD 869,000</b>
2017	J. Bulbulia (consultant): <b>High Fertility and Child Flourishing: The Success of Religions, Sir John Templeton Foundation: USD 82,404.</b>
2016	J. Bulbulia (consultant): <b>The Religious Replication Project: Using Pre-registered Replications and Bayesian Statistics to Improve the Experimental Study of Religion, Sir John Templeton Foundation: USD 215,000.</b>
2016	J. Bulbulia (AI), Justin McBrayer Fort Lewis College USA (PI), <b>Explaining Religion: A Planning Grant, Sir John Templeton Foundation: NZD 208,343.15.</b>
2012	J. Bulbulia. :Center for Theological Inquiry, Princeton NJ: <b>The Reverend Bayes Meets Charles Darwin visiting fellowship, USD 31,000.</b> [Offered: not accepted owing to family reasons].

- 2012 R. Gray (PI), S. Greenhill (PI), J. Bulbulia (AI), and Q. D. Atkinson (AI). Sir John F. Templeton Foundation: **The functional role of religion in the evolution of human society: NZD 393,330.60.**
- 2012 R. Gray (PI), S. Greenhill (PI), and J. Bulbulia (AI). RSNZ Marsden: **The Cultural Evolution of Religion: NZD 775,000.**
- 2009 J. Bulbulia (AI). Aarhus University, MindLAB, Denmark: **Housing and accommodation grant, NZD 5,000.**
- 2008 J. Bulbulia (AI), J. Aarhus University, MindLAB, Denmark: **Interacting Minds, Travel Grant: NZD 4,000.**
- 2008 J. Bulbulia (AI), J. European Science Foundation: **ESF Travel and Accommodation Grant: NZD 6,000.**
- 2007 R. Sosis (PI), J. Bulbulia (AI), G. P. R., and C. Genet. Sir John F. Templeton Foundation: **JFT Grant: Hawaii Evolution and Religion Conference: USD 30,000.**

## Publications

Selected science publications in [orange](#)

Selected theory publications in [green](#)

Selected overviews of the scientific research [purple](#)

## References

### 2022

- [1] Hoogeveen, S., Haaf, J. M., Bulbulia, J. A., Ross, R. M., McKay, R., Altay, S., Bendixen, T., Berniūnas, R., Cheshin, A., Gentili, C., Georgescu, R., Gevais, W. M., Hagel, K., Kavanagh, C. M., Levy, N., Neely, A., Qiu, L., Rabelo, A., Ramsay, J. E., Rutjens, B. T., Turpin, H., Uzarevic, F., Wuyts, R., Xygalatas, D., & van Elk, M. (in press). The Einstein effect provides global evidence for scientific source credibility effects and the influence of religiosity. *Nature Human Behaviour*. [OSF LINK](#)
- [2] H Byrne, K. G., Yogeeswaran, K., Dorahy, M. J., Gale, J., Afzali, M. U., **Bulbulia, J.**, & Sibley, C. G. (2022). Psychological impact of far-right terrorism against Muslim minorities on national distress, community, and wellbeing. *Scientific reports*, 12(1), 1620. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-05678-x>
- [3] H. Eisenbarth, C. M. Hart, E. Zubielevitch, T. Keilor, M. Wilson, **J. Bulbulia**, C. G. Sibley, and C. Sedikides. Aspects of psychopathic personality relate to lower subjective and objective professional success. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 186:111340, 2022.
- [4] Piven, S. D., Fischer, R., Shaver, J. H., Mogan, R., Karl, J., Kesberg, R., Richardson, A., Singh, P., Tewari, S., & **Bulbulia, J.** (in press). Kiwi Diwali: A Longitudinal Investigation of Perceived Social Connection Following a Civic Religious Ritual. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*.

### 2021

- [5] Beheim, B., Atkinson, Q. D., Bulbulia, J., Gervais, W., Gray, R. D., Henrich, J., Lang, M., Monroe, M. W., Muthukrishna, M., Norenzayan, A., Purzycki, B. G., Shariff, A., Slingerland, E., Spicer, R., & Willard, A. K. (2021). Treatment of missing data determined conclusions regarding moralizing gods. [LINK](#) *Nature*, 595(7866), E29–E34. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-03655-4>
- [6] J. Bulbulia, U. Schjoedt, J. H. Shaver, R. Sosis, and W. J. Wildman. Causal inference in regression: advice to authors. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 11(4):353–360, 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1080/2153599X.2021.2001259>

- [7] J. Bulbulia, W. J. Wildman, R. Sosis, and U. Schjoedt. Announcing a new type of manuscript submission: the “retake”. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 11(1):1–4, 2021. [LINK](#)
- [8] J. Bulbulia & Johnson, D. Can evolution make sense of fear? Lessons from Bonhoeffer and Darwin. *The Bonhoeffer Legacy: An International Journal*, 7(1 and 2), pp 59-79 2021. [LINK](#)
- [9] I. Cristofori, W. Zhong, S. Cohen-Zimmerman, J. Bulbulia, B. Gordon, F. Krueger, and J. Grafman. Brain networks involved in the influence of religion on empathy in male Vietnam war veterans. *Scientific Reports*, 11(1):1–13, 2021.
- [10] C. K. Deak, M. D. Hammond, C. G. Sibley, and J. Bulbulia. Individuals’ number of children is associated with benevolent sexism. *Plos one*, 16(5):e0252194, 2021.
- [11] A. Ejova, J. Krátký, E. Kundtová Klocová, R. Kundt, J. Cigán, S. Kotherová, J. Bulbulia, and R. D. Gray. The awe-prosociality relationship: evidence for the role of context. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 11(3):294–311, 2021. doi:10.1080/2153599X.2021.1940254
- [12] A. Ejova, P. Milojev, E. L. Worthington Jr, C. G. Sibley, and J. Bulbulia. Church attendance buffers against longer-term mental distress. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 11(2):123–138, 2021.
- [13] B. Highland, E. L. Worthington, D. E. Davis, C. G. Sibley, and J. A. Bulbulia. National longitudinal evidence for growth in subjective well-being from spiritual beliefs. *Journal of Health Psychology*, [LINK](#) <https://doi.org/10.1177/13591053211009280>
- [14] U. Schjoedt, W. J. Wildman, R. Sosis, and J. Bulbulia. Celebrating the uninvited. *Religion Brain & Behaviour*, 11(2):121–122, 2021.
- [15] S. Shanaah, K. Yogeeswaran, L. Greaves, J. A. Bulbulia, D. Osborne, M. U. Afzali, and C. G. Sibley. Hate begets warmth? the impact of an anti-muslim terrorist attack on public attitudes toward Muslims. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, pages 1–19, 2021.
- [16] S. Stronge, J. Bulbulia, D. E. Davis, and C. G. Sibley. Religion and the development of character: Personality changes before and after religious conversion and deconversion. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 12(5):801–811, 2021.
- [17] D. R. Van Tongeren, C. N. DeWall, Z. Chen, C. G. Sibley, and J. Bulbulia. Religious residue: Cross-cultural evidence that religious psychology and behavior persist following de-identification. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 120(2):484–503, 2021. [LINK](#)

## 2020

- [18] Sibley, C. G., Afzalib, M. U., Satherley, N., Ejova, A., Stronge, S., Yogeeswaran, K., Grimshaw, M., Hawi, D., Mirnajafi, Z., Barlow, F., Milojev, P., Greaves, L. M., Kapeli, S., Zubielevitch, E., Hamley, L., Basabas, M. C., Wu, M. H., Howard, C., Lee, C. H. J., Huang, Y., Lockhart, C., Bahamondes, J., Manuela, S., Milfont, T. L., Perry, R., Sengupta, N. K., Overall, N. C., Shaver, J. H., Troughton, G., Osborne, D., & **Bulbulia, J.** ( 2020). Prejudice toward Muslims in New Zealand: Insights from the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study. *New Zealand Journal of Psychology*.
- [19] Slingerland, E., Atkinson, Q. D., Ember, C. R., Sheehan, O., Muthukrishna, M., **Bulbulia, J.**, & Gray, R. D. (2020). Coding Culture: Challenges and Recommendations for Comparative Cultural Databases. *Evolutionary Human Sciences*.
- [20] L. M. Greaves, A. Rasheed, S. D’Souza, N. Shackleton, L. D. Oldfield, C. G. Sibley, B. Milne, and J. Bulbulia. Comparative study of attitudes to religious groups in New Zealand reveals muslim-specific prejudice. *Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online*, 15(2):260–279, 2020.
- [21] G. Fraser, Y. Huang, K. Robinson, M. S. Wilson, J. Bulbulia, and C. G. Sibley. New zealand pet owners’ demographic characteristics, personality, and health and wellbeing: More than just a fluff piece. *Anthrozoös*, 33(4):561–578, 2020.
- [22] Fraser, G., **Bulbulia, J.**, Greaves, L., Wilson, M. S., & Sibley, C. G. (2020). Coding responses to an open-ended gender measure in a New Zealand national sample. *Journal of Sex Research*.

- [23] Ejova, A., Milojev, P., Worthington Jr, E. L., **Bulbulia, J.**, & Sibley, C. G. (2020). The Big Six personality traits and mental distress: Dynamic modelling in a population panel study reveals bi-directional relationships involving Neuroticism, Extraversion and Conscientiousness. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.
- [24] Shaver, J. H., Power, E.A., Purzycki, B. G., Watts, J., Sear, R., Shenk, M. K., Sosis, R., & **Bulbulia J.** (2020). Church attendance and alloparenting: an analysis of fertility, social support and child development among English mothers. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B*, 375:20190428. DOI: [10.1098/rstb.2019.0428](https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2019.0428)
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- [26] Sibley, C. G., Greaves, L. M., Satherley, N., Wilson, M. S., Overall, N. C., Lee, C. H. J., Milojev, M., **Bulbulia, J.**, Osborne, D., Milfont, T. L., Houkamau, C. A., Duck, I. M., Vickers-Jones, R., & Barlow, F. K. (2020). Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown on trust, attitudes toward government, and well-being. *American Psychologist*. DOI: [10.1037/amp0000662](https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0000662)
- [27] Cohen-Zimmerman, S., Cristofori, I., Zhong, W., **Bulbulia, J.**, Krueger, F., Gordon, B., & Grafman, J. (2020). Neural underpinning of a personal relationship with God and sense of control: A lesion-mapping study. *Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience*. DOI: [10.3758/s13415-020-00787-4](https://doi.org/10.3758/s13415-020-00787-4)
- [28] Grafman, J., Cristofori, I., Zhong, W., & **Bulbulia, J.** (2020). The Neural Basis of Religious Cognition. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 1–8. DOI: [10.1177/0963721419898183](https://doi.org/10.1177/0963721419898183)

## 2019

- [29] **Bulbulia, J.**, Troughton, G., Highland, B., & Sibley, C. G. (2019). A National-Scale Typology of Orientations to Religion Poses New Challenges for The Cultural Evolutionary Study of Religious Groups. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 1–13. DOI: [10.1080/2153599X.2019.1678516](https://doi.org/10.1080/2153599X.2019.1678516)
- [30] Stronge, S., Mok, T., Ejova, A., Lee, C., Zubielevitch, E., Yogeewaran, K., Hawi, D., Osborne, D., **Bulbulia, J.**, & Sibley, C. G. (2019). Social Media Use is (Weakly) Related to Psychological Distress. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*, 22(9), 604–609. DOI: [10.1089/cyber.2019.0176](https://doi.org/10.1089/cyber.2019.0176)
- [31] **Bulbulia, J.**, Wildman, W. J., Schjoedt, U., & Sosis, R. (2019). Religion, In praise of descriptive research. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 9(3), 219–220. DOI: [10.1080/2153599X.2019.1631630](https://doi.org/10.1080/2153599X.2019.1631630)
- [32] Hawi, D., Osborne, D., **Bulbulia, J.**, & Sibley, C. G. (2019). Terrorism anxiety and attitudes toward Muslims. *New Zealand Journal of Psychology*, 48(1), 80–89.
- [33] Highland, B. R., Troughton, G., Shaver, J. H., Barrett, J. L., Sibley, C. G., & **Bulbulia, J.** (2019). Attitudes to Religion Predict Warmth for Muslims in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Psychology*, 48(1), 122–132.
- [34] Mogan, R., **Bulbulia, J.**, & Fischer, R. (2019) Joint action enhances cohesion and positive affect, but suppresses aspects of creativity when combined with shared goals. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9.
- [35] Schjoedt, U., Wildman, W. J., Sosis, R., & **Bulbulia, J.** (2019) Vikings, virtual reality, and supernatural agents in predictive minds. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 9(1), 1–1.
- [36] Shaver, J. H., Sibley, C. G., Sosis, R., Galbraith, D., & **Bulbulia, J.** (2019). Alloparenting and religious fertility: A test of the religious alloparenting hypothesis. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 40(3), 315–324.
- [37] Beheim, B., Atkinson, Q., **Bulbulia, J.**, Gervais, W. M., Gray, R., Henrich, J., Lang, M., Monroe, M., Muthukrishna, M., Norenzayan, A., Purzycki, B., Shariff, A., Slingerland, E., Spicer, R., & Willard, A. K. (2019). Corrected analyses show that moralizing gods precede complex societies but serious data concerns remain. DOI: [10.31234/osf.io/jwa2n](https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/jwa2n)

## 2018

- [38] **Bulbulia, J.** (2018). Ritual and cooperation. In R. Uro, J. J. Day, and R. Roitto (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Ritual*, (pp. 95–114). Oxford University Press.
- [39] Gervais, W. M., van Elk, M., Xygalatas, D., McKay, R. T., Aveyard, M., Buchtel, E. E., Dar-Nimrod, I., Klocová, E. K., Ramsay, J. E., Riekk, T., & **Bulbulia, J.** (2018). Analytic atheism: A cross-culturally weak and fickle phenomenon? *Judgment and Decision Making*, 13(3), 268–274. [PDF](#)
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- [42] Watts, J., Sheehan, O., **Bulbulia, J.**, Gray, R. D., & Atkinson, Q. D. (2018). Christianity spread faster in small, politically structured societies. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 2(8), 559–564. [DOI: 10.1038/s41562-018-0379-3](#)
- [43] Watts, J., Gray, R., & **Bulbulia, J.** (2018). The New Collaborative Scientific Study of Religious History. In A. K. Petersen, I. S. Gilhus, L. H. Martin, J. S. Jensen, and J. Sorensen (Eds.), *Evolution, Cognition, and the History of Religion: A New Synthesis*, (pp. 62–80). BRILL. [PDF](#)
- [44] Wildman, W. J., Schjoedt, U., Sosis, R., & **Bulbulia, J.** (2018). “God is watching you”... and might be influencing your brain, too. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 8(3), 263–264. [DOI: 10.1080/2153599X.2018.1486619](#)
- [45] Zhong, W., Krueger, F., Wilson, M., **Bulbulia, J.**, & Grafman, J. (2018). Prefrontal brain lesions reveal magical ideation arises from enhanced religious experiences. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, 24(2), 245–249. [DOI: 10.1037/pac0000336](#)

## 2017

- [46] Sosis, R., Schjoedt, U., **Bulbulia, J.**, & Wildman, W. J. (2017). Wilson’s 15-year-old cathedral. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 7(2), 95–97. [DOI: 10.1080/2153599X.2017.1314409](#)
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- [48] Shaver, J., Fraser, G., & **Bulbulia, J.** (2017). Charismatic Signaling: How religion stabilizes cooperation and entrenches inequality. In J. Liddle and T. Shackelford, (Eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Perspectives on Religion*, Oxford: Oxford University Press. [DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199397747.013.17](#) [PDF](#)
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- [50] **Bulbulia, J.** (2017). Anthropology: Tradition’s hidden economy. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1, Article number: 0070. [DOI: 10.1038/s41562-017-0070](#)
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- [55] Sosis, R., **Bulbulia, J.**, Wildman, W. J., & Schjoedt, U. (2017). Religion, Brain & Behavior's seventh year. *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, 7(1), 1–2. DOI: [10.1080/2153599X.2017.1267953](https://doi.org/10.1080/2153599X.2017.1267953) BIB
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## 2016

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## Edited Books

- [149] **Bulbulia, J.**, Sosis, R., Genet, R., Harris, E., Wyman, K., & Genet, C. (2008). *The Evolution of Religion: Studies, Theories, and Critiques*. Collins Foundation Press, Santa Margarita, CA.
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## Dissertation

- [151] **Bulbulia, J.** (2001). *Before Eden: Religion and The Evolved Mind*. PhD thesis, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.

## Supervisions

### Completed

- 2015→2020 K. Deak. The religious paradox of gender inequality and well-being an evolutionary account of parental cooperation.
- 2015→2018 S. A. Teo. *Ph.D. Religious Studies*. Religion as a marker of communal boundaries: Revivalism and Hindu temples in Malaysia. Secondary supervisor.
- 2015→2018 R. Mogan. *Ph.D. Psychology*. Aligning Bodies And Minds: New Insights And A Synthesis Of Synchronys Effects On Creative Thinking, Cohesion And Positive Affect. Secondary supervisor.
- 2014→2017 B. A. Blaschke. *Ph.D. Religious Studies*. Contemplative Responses to the Problem of Self: An Ethnography of the Spirit. Secondary supervisor.
- 2016→2017 D. Robinson. *M.A. Religious Studies*. Religion and Social Capital in New Zealand. Primary supervisor.
- 2012→2018 B. Davis. *Ph.D. Religious Studies*. Psychology, Cosmology and the Christian Concept of God: Reconciling Theology and Science. Primary supervisor
- 2011→2015 R. Somerfield. *Ph.D. Theatre Studies*. Moving Minds: Undoing cognition in performance environments. Secondary supervisor.
- 2010→2015 D. Murphy. *Ph.D. Religious Studies (scholarship)*. Maori Myth and Extended Cognition: a cognitive approach to memory and oral tradition in the Pacific. Primary supervisor.
- 2009→2013 P. Reddish. *Ph.D. Psychology (scholarship)*. The Cooperative Effects of Synchronous Interactions. Secondary supervisor.
- 2010→2011 C. Dalzell. *M.A. Religious Studies*. Selecting for Celibacy - Cultural evolution and the puzzling case of Buddhist celibacy. Awarded with distinction. Primary supervisor.
- 2010→2011 T. McVicar. *M.A. Religious Studies*. Implicit Cultures: Towards a Psychosocial Theory of Intuitive Religious Beliefs. Awarded with distinction. Primary supervisor.
- 2007→2010 A. Mahoney. *Ph.D. Religious Studies (Bright Futures)*. The Evolutionary Psychology of Theology. Primary supervisor.
- 2002→2009 S. Hill. *Ph.D. Sociology*. Torn Between Boundaries: Bodies-in-pain, Christianity and Feature Film. Secondary supervisor.
- 2008→2009 D. Murphy. *M.A. Religious Studies*. Sacred Technologies: The evolution of the religious cognitive Niche. Awarded with distinction. Primary supervisor.
- 2003→2007 A. Robertson. *Ph.D. Psychology*. In Search of a Theoretical Explanation for The Relationship Between Religion and Prejudice. Secondary supervisor.
- 2003→2006 Y. Jeon. *Ph.D. Media Studies*. Communication Models of Adolescent Religious Education on The Internet in A Global Age. Secondary supervisor.

### Ongoing

- 2021→ Johnmark Kempthorne. the Role the Behavioral Immune System Plays in New Zealanders' Psychology During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Primary Supervisor.
- 2019→ R. Bonifant. Transmission of Anglican Belief and Practice in Aotearoa New Zealand. Primary Supervisor.

## Presentations

### Keynotes & Invited

- 2019<sup>k</sup> Attitudes to religion and trade in New Zealand (2009-2018). Religion and Business: Reaping the Diversity Dividend. Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand. 12 August 2019. [LINK](#)
- 2019<sup>t</sup> The interplay of religious affiliation and volunteering, evidence from The New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study 2009-2019. Templeton Annual Meeting. Nassau, Bahamas. 24 June 2019.
- 2019<sup>t</sup> What are the sources of Muslim Acceptance in New Zealand? Maclaurin Chapel, Auckland, New Zealand. May 28 2019.

- 2019<sup>k</sup> Changing Attitudes to Muslims in New Zealand: years 2013-2017. Amnesty International Annual Hui 2019: IMPACT for Human Rights. Wellington, New Zealand. 10 May 2019.
- 2018<sup>t</sup> How Spiritual Are We Really? Engage Conference. Auckland, New Zealand. 21 September 2018.
- 2018<sup>k</sup> Teams > STEM + HASS. Plenary Session. International. Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities Conference (Australasia). Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. 12 September 2018.
- 2018<sup>k</sup> Is Virtue Worth The Effort? International Humanist Conference. Auckland, New Zealand. 4 August 2018.
- 2018<sup>k</sup> Religion and the evolution of second nature? Erice, Sicily. 12 May 2018.
- 2017<sup>k</sup> Computational Phylogenetic Methods Test Functional Hypotheses About Culture. University of Helsinki. 25 May 2017.
- 2016<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Presidential Address. International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion. Vancouver, Canada. 24 August 2016.
- 2012<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, [Religious Ritual, Identity, and Coordination: Surprising Results From the Field](#) Keynote: Aarhus University, [Biological and Cultural Evolution and Their Interactions](#). Denmark. 26 June 2012.
- 2011<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, [Experimental Anthropology: How Quantitative Field Studies are Revealing New Subtleties in Religious Rituals](#) (invited talk). Aarhus University, Denmark. 18 October 2011. [Website](#)
- 2009<sup>k</sup> I. Konvalinka, **J. Bulbulia**, D. Xygalatas, and U. Schjoedt, Synchronous arousal memory in a Spanish firewalk. Keynote Address, International Association for the Cognitive Study of Religion: Cognitive Science Society Annual Meeting. Amsterdam, Netherlands. July 2009.
- 2008<sup>k</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Bayes theorem and the economics of religious reciprocity. Keynote Address, European Collaborative Research Foundation. Consciousness in Natural Context. Aarhus University, Denmark. June 2008.
- 2008<sup>k</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, [The human nest: Epistemic niche construction and religiosity](#). Keynote Address, Religious Ritual, Cognition and Culture. Aarhus University, Denmark. May 2008.
- 2006<sup>k</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Why religious commitment is also moral commitment. Faculty Keynote. Aarhus University, Denmark. 7 December 2006.

## Talks

- 2021<sup>t</sup> "Transformation and transferral of acceptance following the 2019 Christchurch New Zealand Mosque Attacks", Otago University Centre for Peace and Conflict and Religion Department, Dunedin, 11 June, 2021. [link](#)
- 2021<sup>t</sup> Longitudinal Anatomy of Covid-19 Distress: For high school students, Victoria University School of Psychology, 17 June, 2021 [link](#)
- 2021<sup>t</sup> Longitudinal Anatomy of Covid-19 Distress, Victoria University School of Psychology, 23 April, 2021 [link](#)
- 2021<sup>t</sup> "A national longitudinal study of religion and climate beliefs/behaviours": International Society for Religious Psychologists (IRPS), Biola CA, 9 January 2021. [link](#)
- 2020<sup>t</sup> A national scale longitudinal analysis of the Social Consequences of Religion in New Zealand: 2009-2017 (Three Studies). Templeton Religion Trust. Nassau, Bahamas. 14 January 2020.
- 2019<sup>t</sup> A national scale longitudinal analysis of mis/perceptions about Religious Faith and Practice in New Zealand: 2009-2017 (Three Studies). University of the 3rd Age (U3A). New Plymouth, New Zealand. 13 November 2019. [LINK](#)
- 2019<sup>t</sup> Extremism in New Zealand reveals challenges and opportunities for international education partnerships. University of Auckland U21. University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand. 25 October 2019. [LINK](#)
- 2019<sup>t</sup> The interplay of religious affiliation and volunteering, evidence from the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study 2009-2019. Templeton Religion Trust advisory meeting on the SCORE initiative. Oxford, UK. October 2019. [LINK](#)
- 2017<sup>t</sup> Two paradoxes of religious change in New Zealand. NCLANZ Meeting. Wellington, New Zealand. 19 September 2017.
- 2017<sup>t</sup> Punctuated Evolution of Religion, Cultural Evolution Society Conference. Jena, Germany. 14 September 2017.



- 2017<sup>t</sup> Religion and the good life in New Zealand, 8th Christian Leaders Congress. Hope Centre, Wellington, New Zealand. 23 March 2017.
- 2017<sup>t</sup> Darwin meets Luther: How Evolutionary Religious Studies Explains the Protestant Reformation. Empirical Philosophy Workshop. Wellington, New Zealand. 1 June 2017.
- 2016<sup>t</sup> Secularization and Simpson's Paradox. Otago University, Dunedin, New Zealand. October 2016.
- 2016<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Sex, Signaling, & Religion Today. International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion. Vancouver, Canada. 24 August 2016.
- 2016<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Evolutionary Theory meets Big Longitudinal Data: Modeling Religion, Tolerance, and Prejudice in a Western Secular Society. International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion. Vancouver, Canada. 23 August 2016.
- 2016<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Religion Evolves Social Inequality. Victoria University Religious Studies Seminar. Wellington, New Zealand. 24 March 2016.
- 2016<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Religion and the Evolution of Social Inequality. University of Otago, Psychology Department. University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. 22 February 2016.
- 2015<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Longitudinal Study of Religion: recent findings from the New Zealand Attitudes & Values Study. Queenstown. 8 December 2015.
- 2015<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Religion and the Evolution of Social Inequality. Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand. October 6 2015
- 2015<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Computational Phylogenetic Methods Test Functional Hypotheses About Culture. California Technical Institute, Los Angeles, USA. 2 September, 2015.
- 2015<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, J. Watts, S. Greenhill, and R. Gray, The Punctuated Evolution of Religion. International Association for the History of Religions. Erfurt, Germany. 28 Aug, 2015.
- 2015<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Recording History to Understand it: Longitudinal Study of Religion in New Zealand. International Association for the History of Religions. Erfurt, Germany. 25 Aug, 2015.
- 2015<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Religion and Charity in New Zealand. International Association for the History of Religions. Erfurt, Germany. 25 Aug, 2015.
- 2015<sup>t</sup> J. Watts, R. Gray, and **J. Bulbulia**, Broad supernatural punishment but not moralising high gods precede the evolution of political complexity in Austronesia. Victoria University Empirical Philosophy Workshop. Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand. 15 March 2015.
- 2015<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia** and C. G. Sibley, What is the Dollar Value of Religion? Society of Australian Social Psychology Conference. Newcastle, Australia. 10 April 2015.
- 2014<sup>t</sup> G. Troughton, **J. Bulbulia**, D. Osborne, L. Greaves, Y. Huang, P. Milojev, and C. G. Sibley, Religion in Contemporary New Zealand: Insights from a National Probability Study. Combined Australian and New Zealand Religious History Conference. Massey University, Albany Campus. Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand. Wednesday 26 November 2014.
- 2014<sup>t</sup> J. H. Shaver, C. G. Sibley, and **J. Bulbulia**, Fast or Slow? Religion and Life History Strategies in New Zealand. IACSR panel, American Academy of Religion. San Diego, USA. Friday, 21 November 2014.
- 2014<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, J. H. Shaver, and C. G. Sibley, Are Religious People Really More Charitable? IACSR panel, American Academy of Religion. San Diego, USA. Friday 21 November 2014.
- 2014<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia** and C. G. Sibley, The New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study: An overview. Presentation to Government: Association of Social Science Research. 5 November 2014 [link](#)
- 2014<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, G. Troughton, and C. G. Sibley, Charity and Religion in New Zealand: The New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study. Laidlaw Theological Seminary. Auckland, New Zealand. 11 September 2014.
- 2014<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia** and C. G. Sibley, The New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study: How to Survive a Longitudinal National Probability Sample. LEVYNA, Masaryk University. Brno, Czech Republic. 24 June 2014.
- 2014<sup>t</sup> D. Xygalatas and **J. Bulbulia**, Integration in the Cognitive Science of Religion: Methods, Theories, and People. IACSR Conference. Brno, Czech Republic. 21 June 2014.
- 2014<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Why Painful Rituals? Philosophy Workshop. Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand.
- 2013<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Quantifying Ritual Emotion. Victoria University Psychology Seminar. Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand. 19 July 2013. [poster](#)
- Latex file: [here](#)

- 2013<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Bayesian Analysis of Rated Images From a Sacred Ritual Shows Role-Dependent Responses. Invited Poster. University of British Columbia CERC meeting. Vancouver, Canada. 5 May 2013.[poster](#)
- 2013<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Faith After the Quake. Religious Studies Seminar. Wellington, New Zealand. 15 March 2013.
- 2012<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Rituals, Pain, and Cooperation. The Elowitz Lab, California Institute of Technology, Biology Division. 22 November 2012.
- 2012<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia** and C. G. Sibley, How Religion Interacts with Personality to Affect Social Cognition. American Academy of Religion Conference. Chicago, USA. 18 November 2012.[pdf](#)
- 2012<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Five Predictions For The Next Fifteen Years In The Experimental Study of Religion, Homo Experimentalis, LEVYNA. Masarky University, Brno, Czech Republic. 24 October 2012.
- 2012<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, J. Watts, Q. D. Atkinson, S. Greenhill, and R. Gray. Three Big Questions Cultural Phylogenetics Has Helped Historians to Answer. Society of Biblical Literature. Chicago, USA. 17 November 2012.
- 2012<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Why Rituals? Results from experimental field studies. Language and Cultural Evolution Group. Auckland University. 12 October 2012.
- 2012<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Plenary session report: The Cultural Evolution of Religion. Ernst Strügnman Forum: [Cultural Evolution](#). Frankfurt, Germany. 1 June 2012
- 2012<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Subtractive and Additive Conceptions of Experimental Ritual Studies. Laboratory for the Experimental Study of Religion, Department for the Study of Religions. Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. 9 January 2012.(Webinar)
- 2011<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, P. Reddish, R. Callander, and R. Fischer, [Differential Effects on Cooperation from Rituals Varying in Body Synchrony and Sacred Values](#) AAR Cognitive Science of Religion Group. San Francisco, USA. 20 November 2011.
- 2011<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, P. Reddish, R. Callander, and R. Fischer, [Explaining collective rituals](#).(invited talk): Auckland Psychology Department. 21 September 2011.  
<http://necsi.edu/events/iccs2011/accepted.html> [PDF](#)
- 2011<sup>t</sup> P. Reddish, R. Fischer and **J. Bulbulia**, Assessing the Cooperative Effects of Ritual Interactions: Synchrony or Choreography? Conference: The Cognitive Science Society/IACSR Workshop: New developments in the cognitive science of religion. Boston MA, USA. 20 July 2011.
- 2010<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Evolutionary cognitive science of religion. Conference: IAHR. Toronto, Canada. 19 August 2010.
- 2010<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, P. Reddish, R. Callander, and R. Fischer, Explaining effervescence. Conference: IAHR. Toronto, Canada. 19 August 2010.
- 2010<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia** and M. Frean, Religious cooperation in large social worlds. Conference: IAHR. Toronto, Canada. 17 August 2010.
- 2010<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Animal magnetism and social prediction. Conference: Toward a Unified Science of Religion. Otago University, Dunedin, New Zealand. 12 February 2010.
- 2010<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Coordination at scale: the cooperative affordances of religious rituals. Adaptive Logic Group. Santa Barbara, California, USA. 9 January 2010.
- 2009<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Cognitive study of religion: perspectives from social cognition. University of Vermont: Burlington Vermont, USA. 11 November 2009.
- 2009<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, The neuroeconomics of religion. AAR Cognitive Science of Religion Group. Montreal Quebec, Canada. 7 November 2009.
- 2009<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, The evolutionary study of religion: a primer. AAR Panel: evolution of Religion. Montreal Quebec, Canada. 8 November 2009.
- 2009<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Explanation in the study of religion: the role of evidence & models. Aarhus University, Religion Cognition and Culture. Aarhus, Denmark. 20 August 2009.
- 2009<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia** and D. Xygalatas, [Evidence of Emotional but not Perceptual Episodic Memory in a Spanish Firewalk](#). Aarhus University, Center for Integrated Neuroscience. Aarhus, Denmark. 17 August 2009
- 2009<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Evolving religious coordination through cues. Association for the Study of Religion and Economics. Washington D.C., USA. 3 April 2009.
- 2009<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia** and D. Xygalatas, Firewalking and the evolutionary theory of games. Society for Scientific Anthropology. Asilomar California, United States. 28 March 2009.

- 2009<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Collective effervescence. Center for the Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. Stanford University, Palo Alto California, United States. 30 March 2009.
- 2008<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Anthropomorphism and solidarity. Biblical Literature and Biblical Religions. Auckland, New Zealand. August 2008.
- 2008<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Religious signalling in a firewalk. Australian National University, Philosophy Programme RSSS: Biological Signaling workshop. Canberra, Australia. 25 July 2008.
- 2007<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Religion as coordination: Variable religious frames and the stag hunt. Association for the Study of Religion and Economics. Tampa Florida, USA. 3 November 2007.
- 2007<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Religious schmelief: Religiosity as skilfull social engagement. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Tampa Florida, USA. 4 November 2007.
- 2007<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Religious altruism: results of an economic game. Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark. 31 May 2007.
- 2007<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, The commitments of commitment signalling theory. Hawaii Conference on Evolution and Religion. Makaha Resort Hawaii, USA. 6 January 2007.
- 2006<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Why evolutionary niche construction matters to evolutionary understandings of religion. University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark. 14 December 2006.
- 2006<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Constructing the schizophrenic niche: Cognitive adaptations for religious culture (featured speaker). Evolution and Religion Workshop, Institute for Cognition and Culture. Queens University Belfast, Northern Ireland. 30 October 2006.
- 2006<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, Religious cognition, social cognition, and moral niche construction. Danish Society for Philosophy of Psychology. Copenhagen, Denmark. September 2006.
- 2006<sup>t</sup> **J. Bulbulia**, The cognitive origins of religion: what cultural inheritance does not explain. International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion. Aarhus, Denmark. January 2006.

### University Service

- 2022→ Director, Centre for Applied Cross-Cultural Research
- 2021→ Faculty of Science, Strategic Planning Group (elected)
- 2020→ School of Psychology, Academic Advisory Group (elected)
- 2018→2020 Head, Theological and Religious Studies, University of Auckland
- 2015→2016 Religious Studies Seminar Series.
- 2011→2017 Convener and Chair, Animal Ethics Committee, Victoria University.
- 2008→2015 Honours Coordinator, Religious Studies, Victoria University.
- 2006→2010 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Research Committee.
- 2003→2008 School Marketing Committee.
- 2001→2005 Programme Library Liaison.
- 2006→2010 Member, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Research Committee.