

# VINCE POLITO

## PERSONAL DETAILS

Current Position      Research Fellow  
                                 Department of Cognitive Science  
                                 Macquarie University

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## QUALIFICATIONS

PhD in Cognitive Science (MQRES scholarship), Macquarie University, 2014.  
Doctoral thesis: "Sense of Agency and Hypnosis".

Bachelor of Psychology (Honours, First Class), Macquarie University, 2004.

## RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

- 2017- Present      *Macquarie University Research Fellow*, Department of Cognitive Science, Macquarie University. In this research only position I am investigating self representation, sense of agency and body representation in behavioural illusions, hypnosis, schizophrenia and virtual reality.
- 2015- 2017      *Postdoctoral Research Fellow*, ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders, Macquarie University. In this research only position I am explored explicit and implicit measures of sense of agency.
- 2013 - 2014      *Early Career Research Fellow*, Department of Psychology, Macquarie University. In this research only position I investigated objective and subjective measures of self representation and sense of agency in expertise.

## AWARDS

- 2018      *Best Research Paper in Hypnosis in 2018*. Presented by the Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis to Coltheart, M., Cox, R., Sowman, P., Morgan, H., Barnier, A., Langdon, R., Connaughton, E., Teichmann, L., Williams, N., & Polito, V.
- 2015      *Top 5 Under 40 Finalist*. A science communication competition presented by the Science Show on Radio National and the University of New South Wales.
- 2014      *Ernest Hilgard Award for the Best PhD thesis in hypnosis*. Presented by the American Psychological Association's Division 30.

- 2014 *Australian National Finalist in the British Council's Famelab competition, Freemantle Maritime Museum, Western Australia.*
- 2014 *NSW State Finalist in the British Council's Famelab competition, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney*
- 2011 *Crasilneck Award for the best first paper presented by a graduate student or young scientist at a Society of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis meeting. This award was given for my presentation at the 61st Meeting of the Society of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis, Boston, USA.*
- 2011 *Award for Higher Degree Research Excellence, Faculty of Human Sciences, Macquarie University.*
- 2011 *University Finalist in the Macquarie University Three Minute Thesis Competition, Macquarie University.*
- 2011 *People's Choice Award, Faculty of Human Sciences Three Minute Thesis Competition, Macquarie University.*
- 2010 *Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis Travel Prize. A travel scholarship to attend the 61st Meeting of the Society of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis, Boston, USA.*

## **RESEARCH INCOME & COLLABORATIONS**

### **Grants**

- 2018 *National Science Week Grant (\$6,718)  
A Night of Illusions. (Ransley, K., & **Polito, V.**)*
- 2018 *ARC CCD Cross Program Support Scheme (\$22,576)  
Reasoning, memory and beliefs: Using hypnosis and TMS to facilitate or inhibit rational thought and belief bias. (Howarth, S., **Polito, V.**, Barnier, A., Coltheart, M., Handley, S., Trippas, D., Klein, L., & Sowman, P.)*
- 2018 *ARC CCD Neural Markers Training Scheme (\$7,436)  
Electrophysiological markers of sense of agency and body ownership. (**Polito, V.**, Zopf, R., Bowman, P., Brock, J., & Lutherborough, A.)*
- 2018 *ARC CCD Cross Program Support Scheme (\$24,846)  
The Effect of Visual Body Size Adaptation on Multimodal Representations of the Self. (Stephen, I., Brooks, K., Zopf, R., & **Polito, V.**)*
- 2017 *Macquarie University Research Fellowship [2017 – 2019]  
The science of human responsibility: Mapping sense of agency in hypnosis, virtual reality and psychosis. (**Polito, V.**)*
- 2015 *Macquarie University Research Development Grant [2016 – 2017] (\$49,962)  
The science of human responsibility: An interdisciplinary approach to understanding the*

- sense of agency. (**Polito, V.**, Klein, C., Kaplan, D., Langdon, R., Hitchens, M., Zopf, R., Carruthers, G., & Woody, E.)
- 2015 *Macquarie University Research Development Grant [2016 – 2017] (\$49,962)* The science of human responsibility: An interdisciplinary approach to understanding the sense of agency. (**Polito, V.**, Klein, C., Kaplan, D., Langdon, R., Hitchens, M., Zopf, R., Carruthers, G., & Woody, E.)
- 2015 *Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness Tutorial Grant (\$809)* Experimental hypnosis research (Terhune, T., **Polito, V.**, & Barnier, A.)
- 2015 *Macquarie University Innovation and Scholarship Program (\$57,232)* A scalable, cost-effective, highly immersive lab-based approach to undergraduate teaching in the cognitive and brain sciences. (de Wit, B., Kaplan, D., Badcock, N., Pritchard, S., Zopf, R., **Polito, V.**, Williams, M. A)
- 2015 *Macquarie University Faculty of Human Sciences Equipment Grant (\$2,738)* A large-format, 32-inch touchscreen and a consumer-grade hand motion and gesture tracker. (Pritchard, S., Kaplan, D., Zopf, R., **Polito, V.**, & Williams, M.)
- 2014 *CCD 2015 Cross Program Support Scheme (\$38,000)* Investigating the effects of visual feedback information on body representation, sense of ownership and agency using next-generation virtual reality. (Pritchard, S., Kaplan, D., **Polito, V.**, Zopf, R., Williams, M., & Coltheart, M.)
- 2013 *Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis Travel Prize. (\$500)* A travel scholarship to attend the 64th Meeting of the Society of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis, Berkeley, USA. (**Polito, V.**)
- 2013 *CCD 2014 Cross Program Support Scheme (\$20,000).* Understanding multiple components of self: Agency and body representation in healthy and impaired cognition (**Polito**, Zopf, Williams, Barnier, Langdon, Moore, Morgan).
- 2013 *CCD 2014 Cross Program Support Scheme (\$20,000).* Exploring the role of meditation in language remediation: A behavioural and neurophysiological study. (Biedermann, B., McArthur, G., Savage, G., Mahajan, Y., DeLissa, P., **Polito, V.**, Quinto, L., Connors, M., Badcock, N., and Larsen, L.)
- 2013 *Faculty of Human Sciences Open Access Journal Assistance Scheme (\$1,942).* Awarded to support open access publication of the paper: Developing the Sense of Agency Rating Scale (SOARS): An empirical measure of agency disruption in hypnosis. (**Polito, V.**, Barnier, B., Woody, E.)
- 2013 *Macquarie University New Staff Grant (\$19,879).* Sense of agency across contexts: A multimethod approach to understanding how we control our actions. (**Polito, V.**)
- 2013 *Macquarie University Early Career Research Fellowship (\$220,428).* A two year competitive research fellowship awarded for exceptional teaching record and research potential. (**Polito, V.**)
- 2012 *CCD Belief Formation Program Small Equipment Grant (\$5,377).*

Computerisation of experimental flowsheets and scoresheets. (Barnier, Cox, **Polito**, Janczuk, Sutton, Harris, Congleton, Richardson, Ockenden & Saunders)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal articles

- Polito, V.**, Barnier, A. J., & Connors, M. H. (2018). Hypnotic clever hands: Agency and automatic responding. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 147(6), 815-828.
- Barnes, L. J., McArthur, G. M., Biedermann, B. A., de Lissa, P., **Polito, V.**, & Badcock, N. A. (2018). No meditation-related changes in the auditory N1 during first-time meditation. *International Journal of Psychophysiology*, 127, 26–37.
- Castles, A., **Polito, V.**, Pritchard, S., Anandakumar, T., & Coltheart, M. (2018). Do nonword reading tests for children measure what we want them to? An analysis of year 2 error responses. *Australian Journal of Learning Difficulties*, 23(2), 153–165.
- Coltheart, M., Cox, R., Sowman, P., Morgan, H., Barnier, A., Langdon, R., ... **Polito, V.** (2018). Belief, delusion, hypnosis, and the right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex: a transcranial magnetic stimulation study. *Cortex*, 101, 234–248.
- Klein, C., Clutton, P., & **Polito, V.** (2018). Topic Modeling Reveals Distinct Interests within an Online Conspiracy Forum. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9, 189.
- Zopf, R., **Polito, V.**, & Moore, J. (2018). Resisting the link between body and agency: Visual movement congruency enhances intentional binding but is not body-specific. *Scientific Reports*, 8, 196.
- Költő, A., & **Polito, V.** (2017). Changes in the sense of agency during hypnosis: The Hungarian version of the Sense of Agency Rating Scale (SOARS-HU) and its relationship with phenomenological aspects of consciousness. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 49, 245-254.
- Biedermann, B., de Lissa, P., Mahajan, Y., **Polito, V.**, Badcock, N., Connors, M.H., Quinto, L., Larsen, L., & McArthur, G.M. (2016). Meditation and auditory attention: An ERP study of meditators and non-meditators. *International Journal of Psychophysiology*, 109, 63-70.
- Marsh, P.J., **Polito, V.**, Singh, S., Coltheart, M., Langdon, R., & Harris, A.W. (2016). A quasi-randomized feasibility pilot study of specific treatments to improve emotion recognition and mental-state reasoning impairments in schizophrenia. *BMC Psychiatry*, 16, 360.
- Terhune, D.B., **Polito, V.**, Barnier, A.J., & Woody, E.Z. (2016). Variations in the sense of agency during hypnotic responding: Insights from finite mixture modelling. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 3(4), 293-302.
- Biedermann, B., de Lissa, P., Mahajan, Y., **Polito, V.**, Badcock, N., Connors, M.H., Quinto, L., Larsen, L., & McArthur, G.M. (2016). Meditation and auditory attention: An ERP study of meditators and non-meditators. *International Journal of Psychophysiology*, 109, 63-70.

- Pritchard, S.C., Zopf, R., **Polito, V.**, Kaplan, D.M., & Williams, M.A. [Note: The first three authors contributed equally to writing this manuscript.] (2016). Non-hierarchical influence of visual form, touch and position cues on embodiment, agency and presence in virtual reality. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 7, 1649.
- Polito, V.**, Langdon, R. A., & Barnier, A. J. (2015). Sense of agency across contexts: Insights from schizophrenia and hypnosis. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 2(3), 301-314
- Polito, V.**, Waters, F. A. V. & McIlwain, D. (2015). Sense of Agency: Theory, Methods and Application. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 2(3), 207-209.
- Polito, V.**, Barnier, A. J., Woody, E. Z., & Connors, M. H. (2014). Measuring agency change across the domain of hypnosis. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 1(1), 3-19.
- Polito, V.**, Barnier, A. J., & McConkey, K. M. (2014). Defining hypnosis: Process, product, and the value of tolerating ambiguity [Commentary on Wagstaff's 'On the centrality of the concept of an altered state to definitions of hypnosis']. *Journal of Mind-Body Regulation*, 2(2), 118–120.
- Connors, M. H., Halligan, P. W., Barnier, A. J., Langdon, R., Cox, R. E., Elliott, J., **Polito, V.**, Coltheart, M. (2014). Hypnotic analogues of delusions: The role of delusion proneness and schizotypy. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 57, 48-53.
- Connors, M. H., Barnier, A. J., Langdon, R., Cox, R. E., **Polito, V.**, & Coltheart, M. (2014). Delusions in the Hypnosis Laboratory: Modeling Different Pathways to Mirrored-Self Misidentification. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 1(2), 184-198.
- Polito, V.**, Barnier, A. J., & Woody, E. Z. (2013). Developing the Sense of Agency Rating Scale (SOARS): An empirical measure of agency disruption in hypnosis. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 22(3), 684-696.
- Connors, M. H., Barnier, A. J., Langdon, R., Cox, R. E., **Polito, V.**, & Coltheart, M. (2013). A laboratory analogue of mirrored-self misidentification delusion: The role of hypnosis, suggestion, and demand characteristics. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 22, 1510–1522.
- Marsh, P., Langdon, R., McGuire, J., Harris, A., **Polito, V.**, & Coltheart, M. (2013). An open clinical trial assessing a novel training program for social cognitive impairment in schizophrenia. *Australasian Psychiatry*, 21(2), 122–126.
- Polito, V.**, Langdon, R., & Brown, J. (2010). The experience of altered states of consciousness in shamanic ritual: the role of pre-existing beliefs and affective factors. *Consciousness & Cognition*, 19(4), 918-925.
- Langdon, R., McLaren, J., **Polito, V.**, Coltheart, M., & Ward & P. B. (2007). Willed action in schizophrenia. *Psychiatry Research*, 150(2), 193-197.

## Books

Marsh, P. J., McGuire, J., **Polito, V.**, Lee, B., Langdon, R., Anandakumar, T., Attwell, J., Lockett, G., Surev, A., Harris, A. W. F., & Coltheart, M. (2013). *SoCog: Manual for mental-state reasoning and emotion recognition training*. Sydney: Macquarie University.

## Book Sections

**Polito, V.**, & Connors, M. H. (2016). Towards a science of internal experience: Conceptual and methodological issues in hypnosis and meditation research. In A. Raz & M. Lifshitz (Eds.), *Hypnosis and meditation: Toward an integrative science of conscious planes*. (pp. 171-187). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press [Winner of the 2016 Arthur Shapiro Award for Best Book on Hypnosis from the Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis].

## Published abstracts

Marsh, P. J., Langdon, R., McGuire, J., Harris, A. W. F., **Polito, V.**, Anandakumar, T., Lee, B., Singh, S. & Coltheart, M. (2012). SoCog: A novel social cognitive training program for people with schizophrenia. *Schizophrenia Research*, 136, S38.

Langdon, R., Connaughton, E., & **Polito, V.** (2011). Social skills training or social cognitive remediation? Insights from an experimental study of social knowledge and social cognition in schizophrenia. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, 45, A21.

Marsh, P., Langdon, R., McGuire, J., Harris, A., Lockett, G., **Polito, V.**, & Coltheart, M. (2010). The development of the mental-state reasoning training (MSR) program: Phase I and II. *Schizophrenia Research*, 117(2-3), 404-405.

Langdon, R., Connaughton, E., & **Polito, V.** (2008). Normative social knowledge and social cognition dissociate in schizophrenia. *Schizophrenia Research*, 102(1-3, Suppl. 2), 141.

Langdon, R., Connaughton, E., & **Polito, V.** (2007). Social knowledge and social cognition dissociate in schizophrenia. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, 41(Suppl. 2), A449.

## Published conference proceedings

Perry, G., **Polito, V.**, & Thompson, W.F. (2016). Chanting meditation improves mood and social cohesion. In T. Zanto (Ed.), *Proceedings of the 14th International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition* (pp. 324-327). San Francisco: Causal Productions Pty Ltd.

## Other output or publications

I have created a number of training materials for the SoCog project run by Dr Pamela Marsh. This project involves a remediation program targeted at improving social cognition skills in people with schizophrenia. Along with the training manual, I have developed a number of computer and board games that are used in this training.

Arnold, J., Ashander, J., Attali, D., Bagchi, R., Bazaar, R., Becker, E., ... **Polito, V.**, ... Zimmerman, N. (2017). *Software Carpentry: R for Reproducible Scientific Analysis*. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.838770>

- Polito, V.**, Winning, A., & Marsh, P. (2013). *Face off*, social cognition training computer software.
- Polito, V.**, Lee, B., & Marsh, P. (2012). *What's up doc*, social cognition training computer software.
- Polito, V.**, Marsh, P., Anandakumar, T. & Lee, B. (2011). *Fix my face*, social cognition training computer software.
- Polito, V.**, & Marsh, P. (2011). *Face reveal*, social cognition training computer software.
- Marsh, P., Lee, B., Anandakumar, t., Lockett, G. & **Polito, V.** (2010). *Face detective*, social cognition training board game.
- Marsh, P., McGuire, J. & **Polito, V.** (2010). *SoCog cartoons*, social cognition training computer software.
- Marsh, P., McGuire, J., **Polito, V.** & Lockett, G. (2010). *Lifeball SocialWiz*, social cognition training computer software.

## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

### International Conferences

- Polito, V.** (2018, October). *Cognitive and physiological markers of altered agency in hypnosis*. Invited address at the 69th Annual Congress of the Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis, Las Vegas, USA.
- Polito, V.** (2018, June). *A systematic investigation of microdosing psychedelics*. Poster presented at 22nd Annual Meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Krakow, Poland.
- Polito, V.** (2017, June). *A systematic study of microdosing: Reported effects from 6 weeks of regular ingestion of low dose psychedelics in healthy individuals*. Paper presented at the Science of Consciousness, San Diego, USA.
- Polito, V.** (2017, June). *Development of a new psychometric measure of agency, embodiment, and presence*. Poster session presented at the 21st Annual Meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Beijing, China.
- Terhune, D. & **Polito, V.** (2017, June). *A primer on experimental hypnosis research [Tutorial]*. Presentation given at the 21st Annual Meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Beijing, China.
- Polito, V.**, Zopf, R., & Pritchard, S. (2016, August). *Exploring the effect of sensory cues on embodiment, agency and presence in the Virtual Hand Illusion*. Poster presented at the 20th Annual Meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Green, O. L., Wastell, C. A., & **Polito, V.** (2016, July). *Hypnosis: A New Methodological Approach to Investigating the Hyperactive Agency Detection Device (HADD)*. Poster presented at the

International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion, August 2016, Vancouver, Canada.

Perry, G., **Polito, V.**, & Thompson, B. (2016, July). *Chanting improves positive affect and altruism*. Poster presented at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference for Music Perception and Cognition, San Francisco, USA.

**Polito, V.**, Zopf, R., & Pritchard, S. (2016, June). *Exploring the effect of sensory cues on embodiment, agency and presence in the Virtual Hand Illusion*. Poster presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Perry, G., Thompson, W. T., & **Polito, V.** (2016, April). *Chanting improves mood and social cohesion*. Presentation given at the 11th biennial Science of Consciousness conference, Tucson, USA.

Terhune, D., **Polito, V.**, & Barnier, A.J. (2015, July). *A primer on experimental hypnosis research [Tutorial]*. Presentation given at the 19th Meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Paris, France.

**Polito, V.** (2015, July). *Agency and automatic responding: Hypnotic alterations to conscious control*. Poster session presented at the 19th Meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Paris, France.

Költő, A., & **Polito, V.** (2015, May). *Az Ágenciaérzék-megítélő Skála magyar változata (SOARS-HU) [The Hungarian version of the Sense of Agency Rating Scale (SOARS-HU) in Hungarian]*. Poster presented at the XXIV Scientific Convention of the Hungarian Psychological Association, Eger, Hungary.

**Polito, V.** (2014, July). *Altered experiences of control in expertise, schizophrenia and hypnosis: Measuring and understanding changes to the sense of agency*. Presentation given at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, Brisbane, Australia

**Polito, V.** & Barnier, A. (2013, October). Using hypnotic models to influence ‘automatic’ responses. In A. Barnier (Chair), *Instrumental hypnosis: Putting hypnosis to work*. Symposium conducted at the 64th Annual Congress of the Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis, Berkely, USA.

**Polito, V.** & Barnier, A. (2010, November). *Mapping agency changes in the hypnotic state: hypnotic analogues and clinical cases*. Presentation given at the 61st Annual Congress of the Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis, Boston, USA.

**Polito, V.**, & Barnier, A. (2010, April). *Hypnotic alterations of the sense of agency*. Presentation given at the 9th biennial "Toward a Science of Consciousness" conference, Tucson, USA.

**Polito, V.**, Barnier, A.J., & Langdon, R.A. (2008, October). *Whose hand is that? Changes in agency and self awareness in hypnosis*. Presentation given at the Annual Congress of the Australian Society of Hypnosis, Norfolk Island.



**Polito, V.** (2007, September). *Factors influencing the experience of altered states of consciousness in anomalous environments*. Presentation given at the International Conference on Humanistic and Transpersonal Psychologies and Psychotherapies, Guangzhou, China.

## **National Conferences**

**Polito, V.** (2018, December). Placebo or Panacea? Expectations and Experiences of People who Microdose Psychedelics. In *Beliefs beyond rationality*. Symposium conducted at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Australasian Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Sydney.

**Polito, V.** (2018, October). *How to measure a sense of self*, Paper presented at the CCD Annual Workshop, Bowral, NSW.

**Polito V.** (2017, December). *A systematic study of microdosing*. Paper presented at Entheogenesis Australis Psychedelic Symposium, Eildon, Victoria.

**Polito V.** (2017, December). *Research into the medical use of psychedelics*. Invited presentation at the South Eastern Sydney Health Annual Drug and Alcohol Forum, Sutherland Hospital.

Barnes, L., McArthur, G.M., Biedermann, B.A., de Lissa, P., **Polito, V.**, & Badcock, N.A. (2017, November). *No meditation-related changes in the auditory NI during first-time meditation*, Poster session presented at the CCD Annual Workshop, Mercure Resort Hunter Valley Gardens.

Biedermann, B., Tran, V., Croasdale, R., Whitworth, A., Sedlmeier, P., **Polito, V.**, Mahajan, Y., Badcock, N., & McArthur, G. (2017, November). *Is meditation an effective tool in aphasia rehabilitation?* Poster session presented at the CCD Annual Workshop, Mercure Resort Hunter Valley Gardens.

**Polito, V.** (2017, November). *Modulating sensory responses with hypnotic manipulations of the sense of agency*. Poster session presented at the Science of the Self: The Agency and Body Representation Research Forum, Coogee.

Perry, G., **Polito, V.**, & Thompson, W.F. (2017, April). *Chanting promotes altruism*. Paper presented at the 44th Annual Conference of Australasian Society of Experimental Psychology (EPC17), Shoal Bay.

Barnes, L. J., McArthur, G. M., Biedermann, B., de Lissa, P., **Polito, V.**, Badcock, N. (2016, November). *Distinguishing confounds from true meditation effects: Insights from auditory ERPs*. Poster presented at the Australasian Cognitive Neuroscience Society conference, Newcastle, Australia.

Biedermann, B., Croasdale, R., Whitworth, A., Sedlmeier, P., Chen, N., de Lissa, P., **Polito, V.**, Mahajan, N., Badcock, N., & McArthur, G. (2016, October). *Is meditation an effective tool in aphasia rehabilitation?* Paper presented at the Aphasiology Symposium of Australia, Flinders University, Adelaide.

**Polito, V.**, Zopf, R., Williams, M., Barnier, A., Langdon, R., Moore, J., & Morgan, H. (2016, August). *Understanding multiple components of self: Agency and body representation in healthy and impaired cognition*. Paper presented at the ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders Annual Workshop, The Fairmont Resort, Leura.

- Barnes, L., McArthur, G., Biedermann, B., de Lissa, P., **Polito, V.**, & Badcock, N. (2016, August). *Does meditation affect attention in first-time meditators?* Poster presented at the ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders Annual Workshop, The Fairmont Resort, Leura.
- Biedermann, B., Croasdale, R., Whitworth, A., Sedlmeier, P., Chen, N., de Lissa, P., Polito, V., Mahajan, Y., Badcock, N., & McArthur, G. (2016, August). *Effects of meditation on attention and word finding in aphasia.* Poster presented at the ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders Annual Workshop, The Fairmont Resort, Leura.
- Polito, V.**, Zopf, R., & Pritchard, S. (2016, August). *Exploring the effect of sensory cues on embodiment, agency and presence in the Virtual Hand Illusion.* Poster presented at the ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders Annual Workshop, The Fairmont Resort, Leura.
- Latham, A., Nguyen, E., Goodbourn, P., **Polito, V.**, & Holcombe, A. (2015, April). *Video gamers show superior temporal precision when selecting letters from a stream.* Poster presented at the Australasian Experimental Psychology Conference 2015, University of Sydney.
- Biedermann, B., de Lissa, P., Mahajan, Y., **Polito, V.**, Badcock, N., Quinto, L., Connors, M., Larsen, L., Savage, G., & McArthur, G. (2015, April). *Pre-attentive auditory processes in adults with and without long-term meditation experience: An ERP study.* Paper presented at the 42nd Annual Australasian Experimental Psychology Conference (EPC), Sydney.
- Polito, V.** (2015, February). *Research tools for studying agency.* Poster presented at Research Bazaar 2015, The University of Melbourne.
- Polito, V.** (2014, December). *Actions, agency and individual differences.* Presentation given at the 10th Australasian Society for Cognitive Science Conference, Monash University, Australia.
- Polito, V.** (2013, December). *Altered experiences of control in hypnosis: a window into the underlying structure of sense of agency.* Presentation given at the Sense of Agency: Theory, Methods and Application Workshop, Macquarie University, Australia.
- Polito, V.** (2013, November). *Hypnosis, automaticity and sense of agency.* Invited presentation given at the 2013 ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders Annual Workshop, Macquarie University, Australia.
- Marsh, P. & Polito, V.** (2013, September). *Social cognition and early psychosis.* Westmead Hospital Early Psychosis Forum, Westmead Hospital, Australia.
- Polito, V.** & Barnier, A. (2012, March). *Distributed agency in hypnosis.* Presentation given at the Distributed Cognition and Distributed Agency Workshop, Macquarie University, Australia.
- Polito, V.** & Barnier, A. (2011, August). *Modelling agency disruptions with hypnosis.* Presentation given at the Cognitive Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuropsychiatry Research Forum, Macquarie University, Australia.
- Polito, V.**, & Barnier, A. J. (2010, September). Hypnosis and automatic responding. In A. J. Barnier (Chair), *Creating virtual patients in the laboratory: How hypnosis helps us to investigate and understand clinical disorders.* Symposium conducted at the 40th Annual Congress of the Australian Society of Hypnosis (Scientific Program), Sydney, Australia.

**Polito, V.**, & Barnier, A. (2009, October). *Measuring the sense of agency in hypnosis*. Presentation given at the 9th Australasian Society for Cognitive Science Conference, Macquarie University, Australia.

**Polito, V.**, Barnier, A., & Cox, R. (2009, July). *Whose hand is that? Investigating the sensory effects of changes in agency and self awareness in hypnosis*. Presentation given at the Cognitive Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuropsychiatry Research Forum, Macquarie University, Australia.

**Polito, V.**, Barnier, A.J., & Cox, R.E. (2008, October). *Using hypnosis as a model of agency change*. Presentation given at the Inaugural Sydney Psychology Postgraduate Conference, University of Sydney, Australia.

## TEACHING RECORD

### Teaching

- 2018 - Present     *Co-convenor*, Department of Cognitive Science, Macquarie University  
I co-convene this large (>1200 students) introductory unit COGS101: Delusions and Disorders of the Mind and Brain. I also designed and recorded online materials for a module on agency research in this unit.
- 2017             *Lecturer*, Department of Cognitive Science, Macquarie University.  
I taught a module (2 lectures) on agency research in the Masters course COGS702: Advanced Principles of Cognitive Science.
- 2017             *Lecturer*, Department of Cognitive Science, Macquarie University.  
I give a guest lecture on ‘Modelling Clinical Conditions’ in the Masters course COGS700: Foundations of Cognitive Science.
- 2016             *Co-convenor*, Department of Cognitive Science, Macquarie University  
I co-convened the Masters level unit COGS704: Advanced Principles of Cognitive Science: Memory, Self, and Cognitive Theory
- 2015 - 2017     *Unit convenor*, Department of Psychology, Macquarie University.  
I convene the fourth year unit, PSY438: Instrumental Hypnosis: Putting Hypnosis to Work.
- 2013 - 2017     *Lecturer*, Department of Psychology, Macquarie University.  
I give a guest lecture on ‘Cognitive Neuropsychiatry’ in the Masters course PSYN811: Cognitive Neuropsychology.
- 2012 - 2017     *Lecturer*, Department of Psychology, Macquarie University.  
I give guest lectures and associated practical classes on cognitive neuropsychiatry in PSY344: Neuropsychology.
- 2013             *Unit Development and Tutor*, Department of Cognitive Science, Macquarie University.  
I, along with Simon McCarthy-Jones developed online and face to face content for the ‘Auditory Hallucinations’ module of the course ‘COGS201: Disorders and Delusions of the Mind’ in 2013.

- 2013 *Tutor*, Department of Cognitive Science, Macquarie University.  
I tutored PhD and Masters students for the EEG module of the ‘Critical issues in neuroimaging of cognition’ course for HDR students in the Department of Cognitive Science in 2013.
- 2008 - *Tutor*, Department of Psychology, Macquarie University.  
2012 I tutored ‘PSY104: Introduction to psychology I’ and ‘PSY105: Introduction to Psychology II’.
- 2009 - *Co-convenor*, Department of Psychology, Macquarie University.  
2011 I co-taught ‘PSY438: Instrumental Hypnosis: Putting Hypnosis to Work’.
- 2008 - *Tutor*, Department of Psychology, Macquarie University.  
2010 I gave guest tutorials on hypnosis in ‘PSY234: Social & Personality Psychology’.
- 2008 - *Tutor*, School of Psychology, University of New South Wales.  
2010 I gave guest tutorials on hypnosis in ‘PSYC1001: Introductory Psychology 1A’.
- 2008 *Tutor*, Discipline of Behavioural and Social Sciences, Sydney University.  
I was a tutor for health science units ‘HSBH1009: Health care resources and systems’ and ‘BACH2128: Cognition and Cognitive Impairment’.
- 2008 *Training Assistant*, Australian Society of Hypnosis.  
I assisted with training for Continuing Education and Professional Development in the Australian Society of Hypnosis Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Hypnosis programme.

## **Supervision**

I am primary supervisor for one PhD project.

I am co-supervisor for two PhD projects.

I have supervised or co-supervised 6 Masters projects and 4 Honours projects.

## **CONFERENCE ORGANISING**

2017 I convened an international conference ‘Science of the Self: The agency and body representation research forum’, with three international keynotes and one national keynote, held at Coogee Beach, Sydney.

2013 I convened a workshop ‘Sense of agency: Theory, methods and application’ with two international keynotes and one national keynote, held at the ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and Disorders, Macquarie University.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **Media**

- Polito, V.** *A New Study Is Using Magic Mushrooms To Treat Terminally Ill Patients With Depression.* BuzzFeed News. 15 January 2019. <https://www.buzzfeed.com/elfyscott/australias-first-psychedelics-trial-is-about-to-use-magic>
- Polito, V.** *Hypnosis breakthrough in changing ingrained behaviour.* The Lighthouse. 23 October 2018. <https://lighthouse.mq.edu.au/article/september/hypnosis-breakthrough-in-changing-ingrained-behaviour>
- Polito, V.** *Hypnosis research for reducing anxiety and stress.* The Daily on 2SER Radio Sydney. 19 September 2018. <https://2ser.com/the-scientifically-researched-health-benefits-of-hypnosis>
- Polito, V.** *Tripping for depression.* ABC Radio National's All In The Mind. 16 September 2018. <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/allinthemind/tripping-for-depression/10223006>
- Polito, V.** *How virtual reality is being used in science as well as gaming.* Nine News. 9 September 2018. <https://pickle.nine.com.au/2018/09/09/12/57/virtual-reality-science-research>
- Polito, V.** *We're starting to learn some incredible things about hypnosis.* BuzzFeed News. 7 September 2018. <https://www.buzzfeed.com/elfyscott/were-starting-to-learn-some-incredible-things-about-hypnosis>
- Polito, V.,** & Stevenson, R. *People Say Microdosing Can Increase Cognitive Ability And Regulate Emotions. Here's What We Know About It.* BuzzFeed News. 3 September 2018. <https://www.buzzfeed.com/elfyscott/a-world-first-trial-on-the-effects-of-psychedelic>
- Klein, C., **Polito, V.,** & Clutton, P. *Why we're thinking about conspiracy theorists wrong.* Vice. 12 April 2018. [https://www.vice.com/en\\_ca/article/9kgzee/why-were-thinking-about-conspiracy-theorists-wrong](https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/9kgzee/why-were-thinking-about-conspiracy-theorists-wrong)
- Klein, C., **Polito, V.,** & Clutton, P. *Great, conspiracy theorists are ruining democracy now.* Gizmodo. 11 April 2018. <https://www.gizmodo.com.au/2018/04/great-conspiracy-theorists-are-ruining-democracy-now/>
- Polito, V.,** Klein, C., & Clutton, P. *Conspiracy theorists: Are they actually irrational?* Drive on 2SER Radio Sydney. 10 April 2018. <https://www.ccd.edu.au/people/profile.php?memberID=243>
- Klein, C., **Polito, V.,** & Clutton, P. *Study reveals who is spreading online conspiracies.* Phys.org. 3 April 2018. <https://phys.org/news/2018-04-reveals-online-conspiracies.html>
- Klein, C., **Polito, V.,** & Clutton, P. *Who is spreading online conspiracies?* MyScience. 3 April 2018. [https://www.myscience.org/wire/who\\_is\\_spreading\\_online\\_conspiracies-2018-ANU](https://www.myscience.org/wire/who_is_spreading_online_conspiracies-2018-ANU)
- Klein, C., **Polito, V.,** & Clutton, P. *Online conspiracy theorists are more diverse (and ordinary) than most assume.* Gizmodo. 2 April 2018. <https://www.gizmodo.com.au/2018/04/online-conspiracy-theorists-are-more-diverse-and-ordinary-than-most-assume/>
- Klein, C., **Polito, V.,** & Clutton, P. *Study finds conspiracy theories aren't all spread by tinfoil-hat-wearing crazies.* RT. 1 April 2018. <https://on.rt.com/92bt>

- Klein, C., **Polito, V.**, & Clutton, P. *Huge study shows who's really to Blame for spreading conspiracy theories online*. Science Alert. 31 March 2018.  
<https://www.sciencealert.com/large-reddit-study-reveals-to-blame-for-conspiracies-theories>
- Klein, C., **Polito, V.**, & Clutton, P. *Online conspiracy theorists are more diverse (and ordinary) than most assume*. The Conversation. 29 March 2018. <https://theconversation.com/online-conspiracy-theorists-are-more-diverse-and-ordinary-than-most-assume-92022>
- Klein, C., **Polito, V.**, & Clutton, P. *Online conspiracy theorists are more diverse (and ordinary) than most assume*. ABC News. 29 March 2018. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-29/online-conspiracy-theorists-are-more-diverse-28and-ordinary29/9600834>
- Biedermann, B., & **Polito, V.** *Meditation meets neuroscience*. ABC Radio National's All in the Mind. 24 April 2016.  
<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/allinthemind/meditation-meets-neuroscience/7339332>
- Polito, V.**, Barnier, A., & Cox, R. *Don't believe everything you see on TV: Hypnosis is less far fetched and far more important*. The Conversation. 6 April 2016.  
<https://theconversation.com/dont-believe-everything-you-see-on-tv-hypnosis-is-less-far-fetched-and-far-more-important-57212>
- Polito, V.** *Are we always in control of our actions?* ABC Radio National. 11 October 2014.  
<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/are-we-always-in-control-of-our-actions3f/5805658>

## Training

- Polito, V.** (2017, September). *R for reproducible scientific research*. Colloquium at the R Workshop, Macquarie University.
- Polito, V.** (2017, July). *R for reproducible scientific research*. Colloquium at Research Bazaar 2017, University of Technology Sydney.

## Outreach

- Polito, V.** (2018, January). *What really happens when people microdose?* A public workshop given at Rainbow Serpent Festival 2018, Lexton.
- Polito, V.** (2017, December). *Making Sense of microdosing*. Invited presentation at the Australian Psychedelic Society, Sydney.
- Polito, V.** (2016, November). *Science Says! [Panel member]*. Invited presentation given at the Science Says!, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney.
- Polito, V.** (2016, November). *Body illusions in Virtual Reality*. Presentation given at the Macquarie University Discovery Day, Sydney.

- Polito, V.**, Zeman, A., Wardle, S., Contini, E., & Pritchard, S. (2016, August). *Illusions demonstrations*. Presentation given at the 'A Night of Illusions', Sydney Science Festival, 107 Projects, Sydney.
- Pritchard, P. & **Polito, V.** (2015, September). *Virtual Reality Research Demonstration*. An interactive workshop and demonstration for cognitive science work experience students, Macquarie University.
- Polito, V.** (2015, July). Invited participant at *The Sydney Conference*. A participatory workshop on open science, Macquarie University.
- Polito, V.** (2015, July). *Out of Control: Intention and action in altered states of consciousness*. Invited presentation given at the Nerd Nite, Sydney.
- Polito, V.** & Pritchard, S. (2015, May). *Investigating Agency and Ownership with Virtual Reality*. Presentation given at ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders Stakeholders Workshop, Macquarie University.
- Biedermann, B., **Polito, V.**, & McArthur, G. (2015, May). *Effects of meditation*. A public presentation given at the Sydney Zen Centre, Sydney.
- Polito, V.** (2015, February). *Consciousness: What is it all about?* A public workshop given at Regrowth Festival 2015, Braidwood.
- Polito, V.** (2014, October). *Time, hallucinations and delusions in Donnie Darko*. A public presentation given at Movies at Macquarie, Macquarie University.
- Polito, V.**, & Marsh, P. (2014, September). *Overview and assessment of social cognition, and demonstration of SoCog*. Presentation given at the Full-day Training Workshop given at the Adult Community Mental Health Service - North, Launceston.
- Marsh, P., **Polito, V.**, & McGuire, J. (2014, April). *SoCog (a novel social cognitive training program for people with schizophrenia)*. Presentation given at the CCD Stakeholders' Workshop: Sharing Vision for Future Research Impacts, Macquarie University.
- Marsh, P., & **Polito, V.** (2014, March). *Social cognitive impairments in schizophrenia*. Presentation given at the Half-day Training Workshop on SoCog: Early Psychosis Intervention Team (EPI), Community Child and Youth Mental Health Services (CYMHS), Penrith.
- Polito, V.**, & Marsh, P. (2014, March). *How to improve social cognitive impairments in schizophrenia with a focus on SoCog*. Presentation given at the Half-day Training Workshop on SoCog: Early Psychosis Intervention Team (EPI), Community Child and Youth Mental Health Services (CYMHS), Penrith.
- Polito, V.** (2014, June). I supervised a work experience student visiting Macquarie University.
- Polito, V.** & Holcombe A. (2013, September). *What can first person reports of anomalous experiences tell us about consciousness?* Presentation at the Sydney Open Knowledge Foundation Meeting, Sydney, Australia.
- Polito, V.** (2013, September). *Delusional belief*. Lecture given at Macquarie University 'Uni in a Day' outreach program.

**Polito, V.** (2013, August). I supervised a work experience student visiting Macquarie University.

## **RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

### **Editorial Appointments**

- 2015      Review editor for Frontiers in Consciousness Research
- 2015      Consulting editor for the International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis
- 2014      Guest editor for a special issue of Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice, on Sense of Agency
- 2014      Consulting editor for Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice

### **Professional Memberships**

Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science

Member of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness

Associate Member of the Australian Psychology Society.

Member of the Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis.

### **Service**

2018-  
Present      I am a member of the Department of Cognitive Science Facilities Committee

2017-  
Present      I am a member of the Macquarie University Data Science and eResearch Advisory Group

2017-  
Present      I am the Faculty of Human Sciences eResearch representative

2017-  
2018      I was Deputy Chair of the Department of Cognitive Science Research Committee

2016-  
Present      I am manager of the Department of Cognitive Science Hypnosis Lab

2015-  
Present      I am a member of the Department of Cognitive Science Research Committee



- 2015- Present I coordinate the Cognitive Science Belief Formation Team meetings
- 2015-2017 I was the Department of Cognitive Science Library Liaison
- 2013 - 2014 I convened the Centre for Elite Performance, Expertise and Training Research Colloquium series. In 2014 I organised talks from international experts including Associate Professor Daniel Brown (Harvard Medical School, April) and Professor Daniel Wolpert (University of Cambridge, August).
- 2013 - 2014 I was a member of the Department of Psychology Research Committee.
- 2013 I was a co-convenor of the 7th Australian Cognitive Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuropsychiatry Research Forum, Macquarie University, Sydney.
- 2013 I chaired the Faculty of Human Sciences Three Minute Thesis Competition Final.
- 2013 I chaired of the Department of Psychology 'Brain Explosion', Three Minute Thesis Competition.
- 2012 I was on the organising committee for the 'Listening to voices: The past, present and future of the experience of hearing voices' conference, Macquarie University, Sydney.
- 2011 I was a co-convenor of the 6th Australian Cognitive Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuropsychiatry Research Forum, Macquarie University, Sydney.
- 2011 I was on the organising committee for the 'Agent tracking and it's disorders' conference, Macquarie University, Sydney.
- 2011 I coordinated the Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science Belief Formation Team lab meetings.
- 2009 I was a Macquarie University Postgraduate Representative Association board member.
- 2008 I coordinated the Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science Postgraduate Research Seminars.

### **Professional Development**

- 2017 I completed Software Carpentry Instructor Training
- 2015 Completed the 'Supervision Enhancement Program'.
- 2014 Completed 'The Role of Unit Convenors: Getting Started', a professional development workshop by The Learning and Teaching Centre, Macquarie University.

- 2013 Completed 'Distributed Leadership for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education', a professional development workshop by The Learning and Teaching Centre, Macquarie University.
- 2011 Completed Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science ERP Lab training.
- 2011 Completed the Macquarie University Postgraduate Global Leadership Program.
- 2010 Completed the Faculty of Human Sciences 'Foundations in Learning and Teaching' course.
- 2009 Completed 'MATLAB Fundamentals', a certified training course by MathWorks Australia.