Speakers

Emeritus Professor Max Coltheart
Department of Cognitive Science
Macquarie University

Max Coltheart studied philosophy and psychology as an undergraduate at the University of Sydney. He has a PhD from the University of Sydney and a DSc and Hon DLitt from Macquarie University. He developed the internationally renowned Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science, an Australian Research Council Centre for Excellence. Professor Coltheart’s work involves the computational modelling of normal and impaired language processing, research on learning to read and developmental dyslexia, and cognitive neuropsychiatry, especially delusions and misidentification syndromes such as Capgras delusion (the belief you have been replaced by an imposter), Cotard delusion (the belief that you are dead) and others.

In recent years there has been much work using brain imaging to try to learn more about these topics in cognitive neuropsychology and cognitive neuropsychiatry. Such work raises various interesting issues about levels of explanation (the cognitive and the neural levels) that pose complicated problems for attempts to test cognitive theories using brain imaging experiments. Coltheart’s interests in the intersection of philosophy and psychology have led him to write recently about these problems and about ways in which they might possibly be solved to make the way clearer for work seeking to test cognitive theories with brain imaging.

Associate Professor Greig de Zubicaray
School of Psychology
University of Queensland

Greig de Zubicaray is a psychologist who uses brain-imaging methods to investigate language (production and comprehension) and memory (episodic and semantic) and their disorders. He is also interested in identifying genetic and environmental contributions to brain structure and function. He studied psychology and philosophy at the University of Queensland and completed his PhD experiments using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) at the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings’ College London. In addition to project funding, he has been awarded fellowships by both the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Research Council.

He is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Queensland where much of his research addresses how neuroimaging might be used to inform and constrain models of cognitive processes. In particular, he has advocated a ‘strong inference’ method for designing neuroimaging experiments to test hypotheses from rival psychological theories that entail a common cognitive architecture.