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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2025 – present	Associate Research Professor in the Social Science Research Institute and in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Duke University, USA
2021 – 2024	Assistant Research Professor in the Social Science Research Institute and in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Duke University, USA
2017 – Present	Director of the Interdisciplinary Behavioral Research Center, Duke University, USA.
2016 – 2017	Associate Director of the Interdisciplinary Behavioral Research Center, Duke University, USA.
2015 – 2016	Assistant Research Professor in Psychology and Neuroscience, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA.
2012 – 2015	Postdoctoral fellow at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA, with Prof. B. Fredrickson.

EDUCATION

2008 – 2012	**Ph.D.** in Psychology, Area of Social Psychology, UCLouvain, Belgium. Suma cum laude (highest honors).
2012 – 2014	**Master** in Biblical Studies, UCLouvain, Belgium. Magna cum Laude (high honors).
2006 – 2008	**Master** in Psychology, Area of Clinical Psychology, UCLouvain, Belgium. Magna cum Laude (high honors).
2007	**Certificate** in Biblical Studies, UCLouvain, Belgium.
2003 – 2006	**Bachelor** in Psychology, UCLouvain, Belgium. Magna cum Laude (high honors)

AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS

2026	Virginia Sexton Mentoring Award from the American Psychological Association, Division 36 Religion and Spirituality (awarded once a year to one individual for their contribution to the psychology of religion by mentoring people who themselves have become active in the field).
2019	Margaret Gorman Early Career Award from the American Psychological Association, Division 36 Religion and Spirituality (awarded once a year to one individual whose innovative research in the psychology of religion is marked by scholarly excellence and has implications for theory, practice or further research).
2017	Early Career Award from the International Association for the Psychology of Religion (awarded once every two years to one individual for outstanding quality of research; $1,000).
2017	Outstanding Researcher status, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

May 2014 – 2016	Positive Psychology Science Fund Award to support research entitled: "Pride, seventh sin or religion booster?"; $1,130.
Feb – July 2012	FSR travel award for postdoctoral research, UCLouvain, Belgium; 4,050 Euros.
May – July 2012	Travel award from the National Fund for Scientific Research, Belgium; 2,500 Euros.
Feb – April 2012	Excellence travel award from Wallonie-Bruxelles-International (Belgium); 1,300 Euros / month (3 months).
Oct 2008 – 2012	Doctoral Fellowship from the National Fund for Scientific Research, Belgium. Duration: 4 years.

EXTERNAL RESEARCH SUPPORT (* indicates currently active)

*Sept 2024-2027	Principal Investigator on "Worship 2.0: Testing the benefits and challenges of virtual worship participation for flourishing" funded by Templeton World Charity (with Ward Davis, Co-PI, $499,489)
*Sept 2024-2027	Principal Investigator on "What is Hope? Bridging the Gap Between Lived Experience, Practice, and Research" funded by the John Templeton Foundation ($259,543). Led to subproject to collect stories of hope in Tanzania in collaboration with Duke Global Mental Health Center. See https://sites.duke.edu/whatishope/
*Nov 2024-2026	Principal Investigator on "The science of empathy: A scoping review" funded by Templeton Religion Trust ($259,986)
*Sept 2023-2026	Co-Principal Investigator on: "Spiritual yearning as a psychological construct: Associations with spiritual struggles and existential growth" funded by the John Templeton Foundation (with Daryl Van Tongeren, Julie Exline, and Joshua Wilt, Co-PIs, $509,623).
Aug 2022 - 2025	Principal Investigator on "Building the psychology of compassion: Insights from religion" funded by the Templeton Religion Trust ($260,551).
Oct 2021 – 2023	Principal Investigator on "A psychological exploration into factors reducing bias in helping behaviors among religious people" funded by the Issachar Fund ($50,000).
Sept 2020 – Dec 2022	Principal Investigator on "On thanksgiving: How gratitude to god is demonstrated, with consequences for the grateful person and witnesses" funded by the John Templeton Foundation (with Sara Algoe, Co-I, $249,999).
2018 – 2020	Co-Principal Investigator on "Embodiment in worship across religious contexts" (with Dimitris Xygalatas and Eva Kundtová Klocová; $14,505).
2018 – 2020	Co-Principal Investigator on "Subjective reasons for belief and non-belief" ($14,675).
2017 – 2021	Principal Investigator on "The embodiment of worship: Relations among postural, psychological, and physiological aspects of religious practice" funded by the John Templeton Foundation ($554,790).

INTERNAL RESEARCH SUPPORT (* indicates currently active)

2024-2025	Bass Connections Project Lead (with Erin Johnston), "What is Hope? Bridging the Gap between Lived Experience and Research." Duke University ($22,000)
2022-2023	Principal Investigator on: "A minimal intervention to improve religious people's well-being" Social Science Research Institute Seed Grant ($7,500)

PUBLICATIONS

Google Scholar Information as of December 2025: 25 first-author publications; H index = 26; i-10 Index = 38; Citations = 3725

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals
(*joint first authorship; undergraduate/graduate student mentee)

2025 and in press

48. Wilt, J. A., Van Tongeren D. R., **Van Cappellen, P.**, & Exline, J. J. (in press). Spirituality beyond religion: Development of 9-item and 27-item multidimensional measures of spiritual yearning. *Journal of Personality Assessment.*

47. Bessa Kury, M. M., Fredrickson, B. L., **Van Cappellen, P.** and Don, B. P. (in press). Understanding the affective and mental health outcomes of meditation interventions: The role of individual differences in self-compassion. *Mindfulness.*

46. Van Tongeren, D. R. & **Van Cappellen, P.** (in press). The future of religious deidentification: Introduction to the special issue on leaving religion. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion.*

45. **Van Cappellen, P.**, Bernal, A., & Algoe, S. B. (in press). Using everyday prayer to test functions of gratitude in the context of religion. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin.*

44. **Van Cappellen, P.**, Nelson, C., & McClear, J. F. (in press). The power of presence: Exploring the impact of virtual and in-person religious services on emotional, social, and well-being experience. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality.* https://doi.org/10.1037/rel0000575 Pre-print.

43. Wilt, J. A., Exline, J. J., Van Tongeren, D. R., **Van Cappellen, P.**, Swartz, S., Lindquist, M., Blanco, L., Pope, J., Martinez, S., & Liu, E. (in press). Yearning for something more: Inductive thematic analysis of spiritual yearning. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion.* https://doi.org/10.1080/10508619.2025.2505355.

42. Leonhardt, N. D., Stellar, J. E., Ford, B. Q., **Van Cappellen, P.**, & Impett, E. A. (in press). It's hard to shake God's hand: Paying gratitude to god back versus forward. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin.* https://doi.org/10.1177/01461672251333161

2024

41. **Van Cappellen, P.** & Drummond, T. (2024). Bodily awareness: Religious culture's associations with interoceptive sensibility. *PlosOne, 19*: e0309216. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0309216

40. **Van Cappellen, P.,** Edwards, E., Ladd, K., Kamble, S., & Yildiz, M. (2024). Kneel, stand, prostrate: The psychology of prayer postures in three world religions. *PlosOne, 19*: e0306924. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0306924

2023

39. Wormley, A.S., Vornlocher, C., Aglozo, E.Y., Jayawickreme, E., Johnson, K.A., Moon, J.W., **Van Cappellen, P.**, Verma, A., & Cohen, A.B. Religion and human flourishing. *Journal of Positive Psychology, 20,* 43-58. https://doi.org/10.1080/17439760.2023.2297208

38. **Van Cappellen, P.,** Clapp, A., & Algoe, S. God of the good gaps: Prevalence, eliciting situations, and demonstrations of gratitude to god as compared to interpersonal gratitude. *Journal of Positive Psychology, 19,* 66-82. https://doi.org/10.1080/17439760.2023.2190928

37. Reece, G., Van Tongeren, D., & **Van Cappellen, P.**. Eternal outgroups: Afterlife beliefs predict prejudice. *Personality and Individual Differences, 214,* 1-12. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2023.112352

36. The MARP Team. A many analysts approach to the relation between religiosity and well-being. *Religion, Brain, and Behavior, 13,* 237-283. https://doi.org/10.1080/2153599X.2022.2070255

35. Freeburg, P., **Van Cappellen, P.**, Ratchford, J., & Schnitker, S.. Meaning behind the movement: Attributing sacred meaning to fluid and non-fluid arm movements increases self-transcendent positive emotions and buffers the effects of non-fluidity on positive emotions. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, 15,* 425-436. https://doi.org/10.1037/rel0000463

34. **Van Cappellen, P.,** Edwards, M. E., Shiota, M. N.. Shades of expansiveness: Postural expression of dominance, high-arousal positive affect, and warmth. *Emotion, 23,* 973-985. https://doi.org/10.1037/emo0001146

33. Van Tongeren, D. R., DeWall, C. N., & **Van Cappellen, P.**. A sheep in wolf's clothing?: Toward an understanding of religious dones. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, 152,* 98-1119. https://doi.org/10.1037/xge0001269

32. Prinzing, M., **Van Cappellen, P.,** & Fredrickson B.L.. More than a momentary blip in the universe? Investigating the link between religiousness and perceived meaning in life. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 49,* 180-196. https://doi.org/10.1177/01461672211060136

31. **Van Cappellen, P.,** Cassidy, S., & Zhang, R.. Religion as an embodied practice: Documenting the various forms, meanings, and associated experience of Christian prayer postures. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, 15,* 251-261. https://doi.org/10.1037/rel0000412

2022

30. **Van Cappellen, P.,** Ladd, K. L., Cassidy, S., Edwards, M., & Fredrickson, B. L.. Bodily feedback: Expansive and upward posture facilitates the experience of positive affect. *Cognition and Emotion, 36,* 1327-1342. https://doi.org/10.1080/02699931.2022.2106945

29. Don, B., P., **Van Cappellen, P.**, & Fredrickson, B. L.. Training in mindfulness or loving-kindness meditation is associated with lower variability in social connectedness across time. *Mindfulness, 13*, 1173-1184. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12671-022-01856-0

28. Naclerio, M., & **Van Cappellen, P.**. Awe, group cohesion, and religious self-sacrifice. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, 32*, 256-271. https://doi.org/10.1080/10508619.2021.1975423

27. **Van Cappellen, P.,** & LaBouff, J. Prejudice toward Christians and Atheists among members of nonreligious groups: Attitudes, behaviors, and mechanisms. *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations, 25*, 3-25. https://doi.org/10.1177/1368430220906860

2021

26. Barczak-Scarboro, N. E., **Van Cappellen, P.,** & Fredrickson B.L. For whom do meditation interventions improve mental health symptoms? Looking at the roles of psychological and biological resources over time. *Mindfulness, 12*, 2781–2793. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12671-021-01742-1

25. **Van Cappellen, P.,** & Edwards, M. Emotion expression in context: Full body postures of Christian prayer orientations compared to specific emotions. *Journal of Nonverbal Behavior, 45,* 545-565. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10919-021-00370-6

24. Don, B., P., **Van Cappellen, P.,** & Fredrickson, B. L. Understanding engagement in and affective experiences during physical activity: The role of

meditation interventions. *Psychosomatic Medicine, 83*(6), 592–601. https://doi.org/10.1097/PSY.0000000000000909

23. **Van Cappellen, P.,** Edwards, M., & Fredrickson, B. L. Upward spirals of positive emotions and religious behaviors. *Current Opinion in Psychology, 40*, 92–98. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2020.09.004

22. Fredrickson, B. L., Arizmendi, C., & **Van Cappellen, P.** Same-day, cross-day, and upward spiral relations between positive affect and positive health behaviours. *Psychology and Health, 36*(4), 444–460. https://doi.org/10.1080/08870446.2020.1778696

21. **Van Cappellen, P.,** & Edwards, M. E. The embodiment of worship: Relations among postural, psychological, and physiological aspects of religious practice. *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion, 6*(1-2), 56–79. https://doi.org/10.1558/jcsr.38683

2020

20. Galdiolo, S., Gaugue, J., Mikolajczak, M., & **Van Cappellen, P.** Development of trait emotional intelligence in response to childbirth: A longitudinal couple perspective. *Frontiers in Psychiatry, 11*, 1–9. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2020.560127

19. **Van Cappellen*, P.,** Catalino*, L., & Fredrickson, B. L. A new micro-intervention to increase the enjoyment and continued practice of meditation. *Emotion, 20*(8), 1332–1343. https://doi.org/10.1037/emo0000684

18. Łowicki, P., Zajenkowski, M., & **Van Cappellen, P.** It's the heart that matters: The relationships among cognitive mentalizing ability, emotional empathy, and religiosity. *Personality and Individual Differences, 161,* 1–9. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2020.109976

17. **Van Cappellen, P.** The emotion of joy: A commentary on Johnson. *Journal of Positive Psychology, 15*(1), 40–43. https://doi.org/10.1080/17439760.2019.1685571

2019

16. Fredrickson, B. L., Arizmendi, C., **Van Cappellen, P.,** Firestine, A. M., Brantley, M. M., Kim, S. L., Brantley, J., & Salzberg, S. Do contemplative moments matter? Effects of informal meditation on emotions and perceived social integration. *Mindfulness, 10,* 1915–1925. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12671-019-01154-2

2018

15. **Van Cappellen, P.,** Rice, E., Catalino, L., & Fredrickson, B. L. Positive affective processes underlie positive health behavior change. *Psychology and Health*, *33*(1), 77–97. https://doi.org/10.1080/08870446.2017.1320798 (Special Issue on "Emotion, Health Decision-making, and Health Behaviour")

2017

14. Fredrickson, B. L., Boulton, A. J. , Firestine, A. M., **Van Cappellen, P.,** Algoe, S. B., Brantley, M. M., Loundon Kim, S., Brantley, J., & Salzberg, S. Positive emotion correlates of meditation practice: A comparison of mindfulness meditation and loving-kindness meditation. *Mindfulness, 8*(6), 1623–1633. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12671-017-0735-9

13. **Van Cappellen, P.** Rethinking self-transcendent positive emotions and religion: Perspectives from psychological and biblical research. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, 9*(3), 254–263. https://doi.org/10.1037/rel0000101 (Special Issue on "The Psychology of Virtue: Integrating Positive Psychology and the Psychology of Religion")

12. **Van Cappellen, P.,** Fredrickson, B. L., Saroglou, V., & Corneille, O. Religiosity and the motivation for social affiliation. *Personality and Individual Differences, 113,* 24–31. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2017.02.065

2016

11. **Van Cappellen, P.,** Way, B., Isgett, S. F., & Fredrickson, B. L. Effects of oxytocin administration on spirituality and emotional responses to meditation. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, 11*(10), 1579–1587. https://doi.org/10.1093/scan/nsw078

10. Clobert, M., **Van Cappellen, P.,** Bourdon, M., & Cohen, A. Good day for Leos: Horoscope's influence on perception, cognitive performances, and creativity. *Personality and Individual Differences, 101,* 348–355. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2016.06.032

9. **Van Cappellen, P.,** Toth-Gauthier, M., Saroglou, V., & Fredrickson, B. Religion and well-being: The mediating role of positive emotions. *Journal of Happiness Studies, 17,* 485–505. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10902-014-9605-5

8. **Van Cappellen, P.,** Saroglou, V., & Toth-Gauthier, M. Religiosity and prosocial behavior among churchgoers: Exploring underlying mechanisms. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, 26*(1), 19–30. https://doi.org/10.1080/10508619.2014.958004

2015

7. Van Oyen, G., & **Van Cappellen, P.** Mark 15,34 and the *Sitz im Leben* of the real reader: Results of an empirical survey. *Ephemerides Theologica Lovanienses, 91*(4), 569–599. https://doi.org/10.2143/ETL.91.4.3129669

2013

6. **Van Cappellen, P.,** Saroglou, V., Iweins, C., Piovesana, M., & Fredrickson, B., L. Self-transcendent positive emotions increase spirituality through basic world assumptions. *Cognition and Emotion, 27*(8), 1378–1394. https://doi.org/10.1080/02699931.2013.787395

2012

5. **Van Cappellen, P.,** & Saroglou, V. Awe activates religious and spiritual feelings and behavioral intentions. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, 4*(3), 223–236. https://doi.org/10.1037/a0025986

4. **Van Cappellen, P.** La fierté dans les Psaumes, ou le paradoxe de la glorification de soi en Dieu. [Pride in the Psalms, or the paradox of self-glorification in God]. *Revue Théologique de Louvain, 43*(3), 341–362. https://doi.org/10.2143/RTL.43.3.2172325

2011

3. **Van Cappellen, P.** Un rituel collectif: Analyse de 1 Ch 15-16 selon le modèle de E. Durkheim [A collective ritual : analyze of 1 Chr 15-16 from E. Durkheim's perspective]. *Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament, 25*(2), 289–302. https://doi.org/10.1080/09018328.2011.608546

2. **Van Cappellen, P.,** Corneille, O., Cols, S., & Saroglou, V. Beyond mere compliance to authoritative figures: Religious priming increases conformity to informational influence among submissive people. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, *21*(2), 97–105. https://doi.org/10.1080/10508619.2011.556995

2009

1. Saroglou, V., Corneille, O., & **Van Cappellen, P.** "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening": Religious priming activates submissive thoughts and behaviors. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, 19*(3), 143–154. https://doi.org/10.1080/10508610902880063

Invited chapters

Van Cappellen, P. (forthcoming 2026). Emotions. In C. Park, R. Paloutzian, & D. Van Tongeren (Eds.), *Handbook of the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality (3rd edition)*. Guilford Press.

Manokara, K., Van Cappellen, P., & Sauter, D. (in press). Emotional expressions on the face and body: Cross-culturally relevant tools and techniques. In U. Hess, S. Hareli & K. Kafetsios (Eds.), *Research Handbook on Culture and Emotion*. Edward Elgar Publishing (Cheltenham, UK).

Edwards, M. E., & Van Cappellen, P. (in press). Awe. In K. Vail, D. Van Tongeren, B. Schlegel, J. Greenberg, L. King, & R. Ryan (Eds.), *Handbook of the Science of Existential Psychology.* Guilford Press.

Van Cappellen, P. & Fredrickson, B.L. (2024). Authentic embodied positive emotions: An experiential introduction to the Broaden-and-Build Theory. In S.D. Pressman & A.C. Parks (Eds.) *Activities for Teaching Positive Psychology: A Guide for Instructors (Volume 2).* American Psychological Association.

Van Cappellen, P., Zhang, R. & Fredrickson, B. L. (2023). The scientific study of positive emotions and religion/spirituality. In W. Davis, E. Worthington, & S. Schnitker (Eds.), *Handbook of positive psychology, religion, and spirituality*. Springer.

Van Cappellen, P. & Zhang, R. (2021). Emotions positives: rôles et importance pour la spiritualité, in N. Roussiau (Ed.), *La spiritualité en psychologie.* France: Dunod.

Van Cappellen, P. & Rimé, B. (2014). Positive emotions and self-transcendence. In V. Saroglou (Ed.), *Religion, personality, and social behavior* (pp. 123-145). New York, NY: Psychology Press.

> French translation: Van Cappellen, P., & Rimé, B. (2015). Émotions positives et transcendance de soi. Dans V. Saroglou (dir.), *Psychologie de la religion: de la théorie au laboratoire* (R. Kaelen, trad., pp. 111-129). Louvain-la-Neuve: De Boeck Supérieur.

Martin-Krumm, C., Tamminen, K, Oger, M, Trousselard, M. , Ferrer, M-H, **Van Cappellen, P.,** & Fredrickson, B. (2016). Les émotions, frein ou levier pour les apprentissages en EPS? In M. Campo & B. Louvet (Eds.), *Les émotions en sport – Education physique, performance et santé* (pp. 129-164). Bruxelles: Editions De Boeck.

Additional articles in non-peer reviewed journals

Society for Personality and Social Psychology "Character and Context" blog: The psychological and social importance of postures during worship (December 2019).

Van Cappellen, P. (2015). Emotions positives et spiritualité. Cerveau et Psycho.

Van Cappellen, P. (2010). Positive emotions and their impact on spirituality and basic beliefs. *Emotion Researcher, 26,* 5-7.

Selected articles (revision or submitted)

Van Cappellen, P., Bernal, A., & Liu C. (revise and resubmit). Religious factors reducing intergroup discrimination.

Van Cappellen, P., Łowicki, P., Tan, C., Balkaya-Ince, M., Schnitker, S., Cameron, C. D., Bernal, A., & Manokara, K.. (revise and resubmit). Who Cares? Religiosity's Role in Compassionate Responses to Human Suffering. Pre-print.

Van Tongeren D. R., Wilt, J. A., Exline, J. J., **Van Cappellen, P.**, Brady, I., & Van Duinen, C. (under review). Nonreligious spiritual yearning: The spiritual pursuit of existential fulfillment.

Van Cappellen, P., & Edwards, M. (in preparation). What is hope? An affective science approach to hope. Target article for Special Issue "What is Hope," which will be followed by invited commentaries. *The Journal of Positive Psychology.*

Edwards, M.E., **Van Cappellen, P.**, & King, L.A. (in preparation). Disentangling the complex effect of awe on meaning: Momentary and longitudinal effects of self-transcendence.

Edwards, M. E., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (in preparation). The affective experience of hope: Emotions, valence, and arousal.

Van Cappellen, P., Edwards, M. E., & Athimuthu, P. (in preparation). Beyond rainbows: Religious and existential dimensions of hope.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Conference Presentations

Van Cappellen, P. (2023, March). Jumping for joy: Embodiment of positive emotions. Presented at the Society for Affective Science conference, Long Beach, CA.

Van Cappellen, P. (2023, January). The embodiment of worship: Relations among postural, psychological, and physiological aspects of religious practice. Presented at the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality preconference (Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference), Atlanta, GA, USA.

Van Cappellen, P. (2019, August). Religion/spirituality: From the mind to the body. Early Career Award address at the Convention of the American Psychological Association, Chicago, IL., USA.

Van Cappellen, P. (2018, January). Toward a dual motivation for religion and spirituality. Keynote speaker for the annual meeting of the Institute for Research in Psychology and Spirituality, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

Van Cappellen, P. (2017, August). Toward a dual motivation for religion and spirituality. Recipient of the Early Career Award from the International Association for the Psychology of Religion, Hamar, Norway.

Van Cappellen, P. (2017, July). Spirituality as a path from and toward positivity. Invitation for the Presidential symposium at the World Congress of the International Positive Psychology Association, Montreal, Canada.

Van Cappellen, P. (2016, January). Religion and the fundamental motivation for social affiliation: Empirical evidence and boundary conditions. Presented at the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality preconference (Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference), San Diego, CA, USA.

Van Cappellen, P. (2012, January). Positive emotions and their effects on spirituality and related cognitions, feelings, and behaviors. Presented at the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality preconference (Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference), San Diego, CA, USA.

Chaired Symposia

Van Cappellen, P. (chair) (2023, August). Recent advances on the role of (non)religious identity and beliefs on intergroup relations. Presented at the International Association for Psychology of Religion Conference, Groningen, The Netherlands.

Van Cappellen, P. & Ladd, K. (chairs) (2019, August). Recent advances in the science of what makes (ir)religion. Presented at the Convention of the American Psychological Association, Chicago, IL., USA.

Van Cappellen, P. & Xygalatas, D. (chairs) (2018, August). Beyond the mind: Embodiment of religious experience. Presented at the Conference of The International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion, Boston, MA.

Van Cappellen, P. (chair) (2016, January). Beyond the sniff: Implications of the oxytocin system for inter and intra-individual processes. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, San Diego, CA.

Van Cappellen, P. (chair) (2014, January). The dark side of religion: Intolerance, prejudice and antisocial behavior. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Austin, Texas.

Van Cappellen, P. (chair) (2013, August). Human flourishing and religion. Paper presented: Positivity as a path toward religion and spirituality: Reversing the traditional causal direction. Presented at the International Association for Psychology of Religion Conference, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Talks

Van Cappellen, P., & Edwards, M. (2026, February). Beyond Rainbows: Religious and Existential Dimensions of Hope. Talk to be presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, Chicago, IL, USA.

Van Cappellen, P., Łowicki, P., Tan, C., Balkaya-Ince, M., Schnitker, S., Cameron, C. D., Bernal, A., Manokara, K. (2025, August). Religion Fosters Compassion: Evidence from Multiple Religious Affiliations. International Association for the Psychology of Religion, Birmingham, England.

McClear, J. F., Nelson, C., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2025, August). The power of presence: Well-being and biopsychosocial effects of virtual versus in-person religious services. International Association for the Psychology of Religion, Birmingham, UK.

Ward, D., Edwards., M.E., McClear, J., Li, A., Hu, J., Pantzer, A., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2025, August). Understanding the Experiences, Benefits, and Challenges of Virtual and In-Person Communal Worship: A Qualitative Study. International Association for the Psychology of Religion, Birmingham, UK

Van Tongeren, D. R., **Van Cappellen, P.,** Wilt, J., & Exline, J. J., (2025, August). The nonreligious quest for existential meaning: Spiritual yearning beyond religion. Annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Denver, CO.

Edwards, M.E., **Van Cappellen, P.**, King, L.A. (2025, May). Disentangling the complex effect of awe on meaning: Momentary and Longitudinal Effects of Self-transcendence. Association for Psychological Science, Washington D.C..

Wilt, J. A., Exline, J. J., Van Tongeren D. R., **Van Cappellen, P.** (2025, May). Beyond Religion: Unraveling the dimensions of spiritual yearning in the nonreligious mind. Association for Psychological Science, Washington D.C..

Van Cappellen, P., Łowicki, P., Tan, C., Balkaya-Ince, M., Schnitker, S., Cameron, C. D., Bernal, A., Manokara, K. (2025, May). Religiosity's role in promoting compassionate responses to human suffering. Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention, Washington DC.

Van Cappellen, P., Łowicki, P., Tan, C., Balkaya-Ince, M., Schnitker, S., Cameron, C. D., Bernal, A., Manokara, K.*(*presenting) (2025, March). Who cares? Religiosity predicts compassionate responses to human suffering. Society for Affective Science Annual Convention, Portland, OR.

Edwards, M.E., **Van Cappellen, P.**, King, L.A. (2025, February). Awe's Longitudinal Effects on Meaning: Momentary Threats versus Lasting Enhancements. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, Existential PreConference, Denver, CO.

Van Tongeren, D. R., Wilt, J., Exline, J. J., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2025, February). Spiritual Yearning among the Nonreligious: Seeking Spirituality Outside Religion. Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Denver, CO.

Van Tongeren, D. R., Wilt, J., Exline, J. J., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2024, August). Finding new meaning after leaving religion: Spiritual yearning among religious dones. American Psychological Association, Seattle, WA.

Van Tongeren, D. R., **Van Cappellen, P.,** Wilt, J., & Exline, J. J. (2024, April). Spiritual yearning among the nonreligious. Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL, USA.

Van Cappellen, P. (2024, February). Religious Culture and the Promotion of Compassionate Responses to Suffering. Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA, USA.

Van Cappellen, P. (2023, November). Religious Culture and the Promotion of Compassionate Responses to Suffering. Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists, Charlotte, NC, USA.

Van Cappellen, P. , Reece, G., & Van Tongeren, D. (2023, August). Religious factors predicting reduced outgroup derogation. International Association for Psychology of Religion Conference, Groningen, The Netherlands.

Leonhardt, N. D., Stellar, J. E., Ford, B. Q., **Van Cappellen, P.**, & Impett, E. A. (2023, February). "It's hard to shake God's hand": Paying gratitude back versus forward. Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA, USA.

Van Tongeren, D., DeWall, N., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2023, February). Ingroup Perceptions of and among Religious Minorities: Examining Religious Dones. Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA, USA.

Van Cappellen, P., & Algoe, S. (2022, July). Thanksgiving: How does gratitude to a god differ from gratitude toward other people? European Conference for Positive Psychology, Reykjavik, Iceland.

Van Cappellen, P., Edwards, M., & Shiota, M. (2021, April). Shades of expansiveness: Full-body expressions of joy, awe, hope, and dominance. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for Affective Science, virtual.

Van Cappellen, P. (2019, August). Embodiment of worship: How the body expresses and creates religious experiences. Paper presented Convention of the American Psychological Association, Chicago, IL., USA.

Van Cappellen, P. (2019, March). In the mind and in the body: The role of religion in fostering closeness to others. Paper presented at the International Convention for Psychological Science, Paris, France.

Edwards, M. & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2019, February). Embodying the religious experience: Full body representation of religious related feelings and prayer orientations. Data blitz presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Portland, OR.

Van Cappellen, P. (2018, October). The body as a symbol for religion: Documenting the relationships between body postures and religious experience. Paper presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists, Raleigh, NC.

Edwards, M., **Van Cappellen, P.**, Cassidy, S. (2018, August). The physicality of religious experiences: Relationships between body postures and feelings. Paper presented at the Conference of The International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion, Boston, MA.

Cassidy, S., **Van Cappellen, P.**, Ladd, K., & Edwards, M. (2018, August). Influence of "religious" postures on emotions, humility, and image of God: Preliminary findings. Paper presented at the Conference of The International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion, Boston, MA.

Van Cappellen, P. (2017, August). Religion, pride, and self-attribution in success. Paper presented at the International Association for the Psychology of Religion, Hamar, Norway.

Van Cappellen, P., Way, B., Isgett, S., & Fredrickson, B. L. (2016, January). The biology of spirituality: Effects of oxytocin administration and genotype. Paper presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, San Diego, CA, USA.

Van Cappellen, P. (2015, August). Transcending the self: The relation between spirituality/religion, social affiliation, and oxytocin. Paper presented at the International Association for Psychology of Religion Conference, Istanbul, Turkey.

Van Cappellen, P. & Fredrickson, B. (2015, July). Transcending the self: The relation between spirituality, social affiliation, and oxytocin. Paper presented at the World Congress of the International Positive Psychology Association, Orlando, FL, USA.

Van Cappellen, P. & Fredrickson, B. (2015, April). Spiritual and religious practices elicit positive emotions that build well-being, prosociality, and continued practice. Paper presented at the Positive Emotions Pre-conference of the Society for Affective Science Meeting, Oakland, CA, USA.

Saroglou, V., Prade, C., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2014, July). Humor vs. awe and consequences for religion and spirituality. Paper presented at the International Society for Humor Studies Conference, Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Van Cappellen, P., Saroglou, V., & Fredrickson, B. (2014, January). Self-transcendent positive emotions increase spirituality. Paper presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Austin, TX, USA.

Saroglou, V., **Van Cappellen, P.**, Corneille, O., & Blogowska J. (2014, January). Religion, submission, and conformity: A single process with diverging outcomes. Paper presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Austin, TX, USA.

Van Cappellen, P. (2013, August). Self-transcendent positive emotions increase spirituality through basic world assumptions. Paper presented at ISRE 2013, Berkeley, CA, USA.

Van Cappellen, P. & Fredrickson, B. (2013, March). The place of positive emotions in the possible pathways from religion and spirituality to well-being. Paper presented at Mid-Year APA Division 36 Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Conference, Columbia, MD, USA.

Van Cappellen, P. & Saroglou, V. (2012, August). Religious attendance and prosociality: what underlying mechanisms? Paper presented at APA annual convention, Orlando, FL, USA.

Van Cappellen, P., Saroglou, V., & Toth, M. (2011, August). The place of positive emotions in the possible pathways from religion to well-being. Paper presented at the International Association for Psychology of Religion Conference, Bari, Italy.

Van Cappellen, P. (2011, May). La fierté dans les Psaumes : paradoxe de la glorification de soi en Dieu. Communication présentée au colloque international du RRENAB (Réseau de recherche en analyse narrative des textes bibliques), Ottawa, Canada.

Van Cappellen, P. & Saroglou, V. (2010, June). Induction of positive emotions lead to spirituality through changes in basic beliefs: An experimental study. Paper presented at the 5th European Conference on Positive Psychology, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Van Cappellen, P. & Wénin, A. (2010, June). Un rituel collectif: Analyse de 1 Ch 16 selon le modèle de Durkheim. Communication présentée à "Ecritures et réécritures", colloque international du RRENAB (Réseau de recherche en analyse narrative des textes bibliques), Lausanne, Suisse.

Van Cappellen, P. & Saroglou, V. (2009, August). Positive emotions as influencing spirituality-related feelings and behavioral intentions: The specific role of awe. Paper presented at the International Association for Psychology of Religion Conference, Vienna, Austria.

Van Cappellen, P. & Saroglou, V. (2009, April). Feeling close to others and/or God as a function of spirituality: The moderating role of positive emotions. Paper presented at the Mid-Year APA Division 36 Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Conference, Columbia, MD.

Posters

Edwards, M.E., **Van Cappellen, P.**, King, L.A. (2025, March). Disentangling the complex effect of awe on meaning: Momentary and Longitudinal Effects of Self-transcendence. Poster presented at the Society for Affective Science Conference, Portland, OR.

Tan, C. S., Manokara, K., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2025, February). How the fear of compassion shapes compassionate behavior in two religious groups. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Emotion Preconference, Denver, CO.

Gupta, R., Tan, C. S., Manokara, K., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2025, February). On the experience and emotional cost of compassion: Comparing Buddhists and Christians. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Emotion Preconference, Denver, CO.

McClear, J. F., Nelson, C. & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2025, February). The power of presence: Exploring the impact of virtual and in-person religious services on emotional, social, and embodied experience. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference, Denver, CO.

DeLaRosa, J. & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2024, February). The company we keep: A study of religiosity, social circles, and negative attitudes. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, San Diego, CA.

Bernal, A. M., Algoe, S., Fetterman, A., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2024, February). Hear my prayer: Examining the language used in Christian daily prayers and its relation to daily emotions. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, San Diego, CA.

Drummond, T. & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2024, February). Embodying Beliefs: Interoceptive Sensibility and Body Perceptions Among Religious and Non-Religious Groups. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, San Diego, CA.

Drummond, T. & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2023, February). In my body I trust: Religion and interoceptive sensibility associations across three world religions. Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference.

Bernal, A. M., Algoe, S., Fetterman, A., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2023, February). A Bottom-Up Investigation into Daily Christian Prayer Content. Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference.

Freeburg, P., **Van Cappellen, P.**, Ratchford, J., & Schnitker, S. (2022, February). Meaning behind the movement: Attributing sacred meaning to fluid and non-fluid arm movements increases self-transcendent positive emotions and buffers the effects of non-fluidity on positive emotions. Poster presented at the Emotion Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology virtual conference.

Clapp, A.R., Algoe, S., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2022, February). Characterizing demonstrations of gratitude toward god and gratitude toward other people among various religious groups. Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology virtual conference.

Reece, G., Van Tongeren, D., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2022, February). Beliefs about life after death predict prejudice in this life. Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology virtual conference.

Bernal, A. M., Algoe, S., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2022, February). Content of Christian everyday prayers and its relationship with affective, spiritual, and embodied aspects. Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology virtual conference.

Athimuthu, P. & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2021, February). Examining the strength and robustness of the relationship between hope and religiosity using data from the 2016 General Social Survey. Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference of the 2021 Society for Personality and Social Psychology virtual conference.

Reece, G., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2021, February). Confess while raising my hands? Comfort in various prayer postures across prayer themes and emotions. Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology virtual conference.

O'Brien, K. A., **Van Cappellen, P.,** & Algoe, S. (2021, February). To God all the glory: Prevalence of and ways to express gratitude to God. Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology virtual conference.

Freeburg, P., Ratchford, J., **Van Cappellen, P.,** & Schnitker, S. (2021, February). Can fluid body movement lead to less prejudice and more prosociality? The effect of movement fluidity and movement meaning on the embodiment of parochial/outgroup cognitions and behaviors. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology virtual conference.

Naclerio, M. & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2020, February). Examining the religious functions of awe through group cohesion and self-sacrifice. Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Van Cappellen, P., Edwards, M., & Shiota, M. (2020, February). Shades of expansiveness: Full-body expressions of joy, awe, hope, and dominance. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, New Orleans, LA.

Edwards, M. E., Perlin J. D., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2020, February). Shaken to the core: A naturalistic study of awe's effects on values, meaning, and religiosity. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, New Orleans, LA.

Edwards, M. E., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2020, February). Prayer postures associations with religious experience among Muslims, Christians, and Hindus. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, Psychology of Religion and Spirituality preconference, New Orleans, LA.

Zhang, R., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2020, February). The interdependence between prayer posture and religious mindset. Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Cassidy, S. & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2019, February). Are postures adopted during church service related to worship experience? Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Portland, OR.

Van Cappellen, P. (2018, March). Evil pride: How do religious people react to experiences of success? Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Qu, Y., Park, B., Tsai, J., Choi, I., **Van Cappellen, P.,** Knutson, B., Wu, G., Chen, Y-C. (2018, March). Ideal affect match promotes interpersonal trust. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Cassidy, S., **Van Cappellen, P.,** Ladd, K., Edwards, M. (March, 2018). Influence of "religious" postures on emotions, humility, and image of God: preliminary findings. Poster presented at the Religion and Spirituality Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Isgett, S.F., Way, B.M., **Van Cappellen, P.,** & Fredrickson, B.L. (2016, January). Oxytocin's delicate dance with age and gender: effects on emotional attention. Poster presented at the Emotion Preconference of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology Conference, San Diego, CA.

Clobert, M., Bourdon, M., **Van Cappellen, P.,** & Cohen, A. (2016, January). Good day for Leos: Horoscope's influence on perception, cognitive performances, and creativity. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, San Diego, CA, USA.

Van Cappellen, P. (2015, February). Social exclusion of an outgroup member: religion's influence. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Long Beach, CA.

Van Cappellen, P., & Saroglou, V. (2013, January). The power of emotions in shaping beliefs: Self-transcending positive emotions and openness to spirituality and religion. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, New Orleans, LO.

Van Cappellen, P. & Saroglou, V. (2012, January). Induction of elevation, but not amusement, enhances spirituality through the increase of meaning in life. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, San Diego, CA.

Van Cappellen, P., & Saroglou, V. (2011, January). Positive emotions can make you more religious and more spiritual. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Van Cappellen, P., & Saroglou, V. (2011, January). Yes, positive emotions do mediate the religion-well-being relation. Poster presented at SPSP Emotion Pre-Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Van Cappellen, P., Corneille, O., Cols, S., Saroglou, V. (January, 2010). Religious priming increases conformity among submissive people. Poster presented at the SPSP Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference, Las Vegas, NV.

Student-led Presentations at Duke (past year selection only)

Archer, K., Bame, Y., Bao, G., Bennett, C., Chang, Y., Li, D., Matous, M., Mays, C., Medveckus, J., Molaoli, M., Sweitzer, P., Tan, C., Urberg, K., Daniely, D., Fuchs, L., Reyna, E., Yohannes, A., Edwards., M.E., Johnston, E., **Van Cappellen, P.** (2025, April). *What is hope?* A poster presented at the Bass Connection Research Symposium, Duke University, Durham, NC.

Li, A., Edwards, M.E., McClear, J.F., Davis, W., Van Cappellen, P. (2025, April). *The benefits and challenges of virtual worship for flourishing.* Duke Undergraduate Research Symposium, Durham NC.

Gupta, R., Tan, C. S., Manokara, K., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2025, April 10). *On the experience and emotional cost of compassion: Comparing Buddhists and Christians.* Duke Undergraduate Research Symposium, Durham NC.

Tang, R., Kimble, A., Tan, C. S., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2024, July 26). *The psychology of compassion for suffering: A cross-religious study of Buddhist and Christian perspectives*. Duke Summer Research Showcase, Durham NC.

Fan, J., Kimble, A., Tan, C. S., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2024, July 26). *Exploring the relationship of religiosity and compassion amongst Buddhist and Christian populations in the U.S.*. Duke Summer Research Showcase, Durham NC.

Li, A., Kimble, A., Tan, C. S., & **Van Cappellen, P.** (2024, April 15). *Behavioral compassion and religiosity*. Duke Undergraduate Research Symposium, Durham NC.

ADDITIONAL INVITED TALKS

- The Love Consortium virtual event on empathy: guest moderator.
- Edwards, M.E., & Van Cappellen, P. (October, 2025). Examining Stories of Hope and Meaning in Life. A talk given at the Duke Center for Global Mental Health annual conference, Durham, NC.
- Edwards, M.E. Matous, M., & Van Cappellen, P. (September, 2025). Enacting Hope: A Workshop on Hope and the Art of Hoping Well. A workshop presented at the Practice & Presence Event at Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC.
- Wake Forest University (March 2025)
- Virginia Commonwealth University, brown bag meeting (March, 2025)
- The Power of Presence: Exploring the Impact of Virtual and In-person Religious Services on Emotional, Social, and Well-being Experiences. Guest presentation at Christian Flourishing Summer School (Dr. Victor Counted organizer), Virginia Beach, VA (June 2024).

- Invited speaker for annual meeting of the Templeton philanthropies and coached by TED to deliver TED-style talk, Dublin, Ireland (June, 2024) View here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0VmaDRmfeM
- Catholic University of American, Washington D.C. (April, 2024)
- Guest speaker for "State of the scientific research on spirituality" at Sorbonne, Paris, France (March 2024)
- Selected faculty speaker for Half Century Club reunion by the Duke Alumni association Duke University (October, 2023)
- Gratitude to God conference for the lay public, Marriott hotel, Los Angeles, CA (December, 2022)
- Duke Alumni Lifelong Learning, Duke University (March, 2021)
- UMons, Belgium (invited by Prof. Sarah Galdiolo, December 2020)
- University of Geneva, Switzerland (invited by Prof. Florian Cova, December 2019)
- University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands (invited by Prof. Disa Sauter, December 2019)
- University of Lausanne, Switzerland (invited by Prof. Pierre-Yves Brandt, December 2019)
- Wake Forest University, NC (April 2019)
- Radio WCOM 103.5 FM, Carrboro NC. Radio In Vivo, your link to the Triangle Science Community (Feb 2017)
- Social Psychology Brown Bag meeting, Duke University (October 2016, February 2020)
- UCLouvain, Belgium (August 2016, December 2018)
- Positive Emotions as Learning Opportunities: A Psychological Approach" presented as part of a full day seminar on "Emotions: A Pathway to Truth?" – The E. Maynard Adams seminar." Organized by The Program in the Humanities and Human Values, UNC Chapel Hill (April 2016)
- Indiana University South Bend, IN (March 2015)
- Center for Spirituality, Theology, and Health, Duke University, NC (November, 2013; February 2016; September 2021)
- UNC Chapel Hill, NC (January, 2012, February 2014, March 2015, October 2022)

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

- Guest on How God works podcast by David DeSteno on religion and mattering: https://open.spotify.com/episode/4Jmns1Y4UFdd6c2ghrNY66?si=8AdBHSF0TeivprUQHcBC8A
- Interview with Religion News Service: Study suggests online religious services may be less effective than in person (August 2025).
- Psychology Today: How spiritual practices can affect well-being: The root of human connection is driven by gratitude and compassion.
- Interviewed by Jill Sutie from the Greater Good Science Center Magazine: "How your body posture communicates feelings to others" (April 2023). Part of the list of the best Greater Good Articles of 2023.
- Interviewed by the Guardian on my work on religion and well-being: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/03/beyond-beliefs-religious-faith-happier-healthier-life (December 2022)
- The British Psychological Society on our research on expansive body postures: Expansive body poses don't always signal dominance (September 2022); see also reporting on Disembodied Worship? How Posture Impacts Spiritual Experience (October 2022)
- Research on the psychological effects of reading horoscope with Magali Clobert and Adam Cohen featured in Netflix show "Explained" on "Astrology" (2020).
- Pew's podcast After the Fact, Episode 23: Rising Spirituality. Why are Americans more spiritual than ever? Listen here (March 2018)

- Religion and Positive Psychology: Interview by Live Happy magazine: Listen here (October 2017).
- Self-transcendence, awe, and spirituality: interviews with Wholebeing Institute (February 2018), see one example here.
- Huffington Post: 10 Steps to Lasting Success in 2016 and Beyond by Suna Senman, Dec 28, 2015.
- Research on oxytocin and spirituality covered by more than 55 international media outlets, see list here.
  For example: The Huffington Post, Times Live, Psychology Today, Science News, Live Science.
- Research on awe and self-transcendent positive emotion: All about awe by Anna Mikulak, Observer, Vol.28, No.4 April, 2015; Interview with Sarah Mahoney for Life Reimagined: Why you need more awe and wonder. What new findings about religion and spirituality mean for all of us. February 20, 2015. Psychology Today: Holiday Awe: Understanding and Cultivating Awe. December 23, 2011 and The Science of How Avatar is Awesome. January 19, 2010; National Affairs: Awe Activates Religious and Spiritual Feelings and Behavioral Intentions. November 02, 2011; The Atlantic: Awesomeness is Everything. January/February, 2017.

SERVICE

Field development

- Invited expert to discuss the virtues enabling positive intergroup relations organized by the Templeton Religion Trust, Marrakesh, Morocco, April 2025. This group was reconvened in September 2025 at Wake Forest University, NC, USA.
- Invited expert to discuss empathy research and interfaith dialogue at a meeting organized by the Templeton Religion Trust, Oxford, England, January 2024.
- Invited Psychology expert Mentor for program "Psychological Cross-Training for Theologians" at the University of Birmingham (PI: Carissa Sharp), Summer 2024 and 2025.
- Invited Cognitive Scientist Speaker for workshop based on project "Awe-some spirituality: A theological and psychological cross-disciplinary exploration of awe as an approach to spiritual yearning of the nonreligious" funded by the John Templeton Foundation (PI: Valerie van Mulukom, Coventry University), 2024-2025.
- Advisory panel member and evaluator of grant proposals submitted for a call for research on Divine Forgiveness funded by the John Templeton Foundation (PI: Frank Fincham, Florida State University), 2022-2025.
- Invited scientist expert to share latest research on the science of Flourishing and Religion/Spirituality (one of 11 experts). Convened by Adam Cohen and Kathryn Johnson at Arizona State University for the Templeton World Charity global event on Flourishing, December 2022.
- Invited scientist expert to guide future funding priorities on "God-worship" (one of eight experts). Convened by Program Director Alexander Arnold at the John Templeton Foundation, November 2022.
- Invited scientist expert to guide future funding priorities on "Theology for Nones: Meaning-Making Spirituality Among Nonbelievers" (one of seven experts). Convened by Program officer Sarah Lane Ritchie at the John Templeton Foundation, April 2022.
- Invited scientist expert to guide future funding priorities on the science of spiritual and religious practices (one of six experts). Convened by Templeton World Charity advisor Bonnie Zahl, August 2021.

- Expert researcher (one of two psychologists) invited to speak for interdisciplinary event for grant-funded project: Worship: A Jewish Philosophical Investigation; Workshop 2: Worship and the Human. Convened by grantees Sam Lebens and Aaron Segal, July 2021.
- Invited scientist expert to share latest research on the science and theory of religious change (deidentification, disaffiliation, deconversion, etc.) to lay the groundwork for a larger project proposal (one of 12 experts, PI: Steve Porter), May 2021.
- Invited expert to shape large project on Divine Forgiveness (one of seven experts), that lead to a call for proposals (PI: Frank Fincham), 2018-2019.
- Steering Committee member: Gratitude to God: Psychological, Philosophical, and Theological Investigations. (PIs: Robert Emmons and Phil Watkins), January, 2018.
- Invited to be part of the Psychology of Religion early career workshop, October 2016, Oceanside, CA (http://sharifflab.com/workshop/)
- Selected for The Happiness and Well-Being Project's Interdisciplinary Development Workshop, June 2016, Costa Rica (http://www.happinessandwellbeing.org/cr-development-workshop) and was a discussant at their Capstone Conference in May 2018.
- Member of the Joy consortium directed by Mark Berner and the John Templeton Foundation to guide future funding priorities on this topic, 2015-2017.

Conference Organization

- Van Cappellen, P., Van Tongeren, D. R., Johnson, K. A., & LaBouff, J. (2023, February). Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference (Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual convention). Speakers: Shigehiro Oishi, Jordan LaBouff, Kevin Ladd, David Newman, Merve Balkaya-Ince, Salman Ahmad, Merranda McLaughlin, Nausheen Pasha-Zaidi, Patty Van Cappellen.
- Van Cappellen, P., Van Tongeren, D. R., Johnson, K. A., & LaBouff, J. (2022, February). Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference (Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual convention). Speakers: Joshua Jackson, Kirsten Lesage, Cindel White, Julia Smith, Marah Al-Kire, Jordan Moon, Tanya Luhrmann.
- Van Cappellen, P., Van Tongeren, D. R., Johnson, K. A., & LaBouff, J. (2021, February). Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference (Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual convention). Speakers: Jazmin Brown, Julie Exline, Melanie Nyhof, Kimberly Rios, Rebekah Richert, Carissa Sharp.
- Van Cappellen, P., Van Tongeren, D. R., & Johnson, K. A. (2020, February). Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference (Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual convention). Speakers: Adam Cohen, Michael Barlev, Sarah Schnitker, Daryl Van Tongeren, Kurt Gray.
- Van Cappellen, P., Van Tongeren, D. R., & Johnson, K. A. (2019, February). Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference (Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual convention). Speakers: Keisha Cutright, Paul Djupe, Adam Green, Elizabeth Minton, Clay Routledge.
- Van Cappellen, P., Van Tongeren, D. R., & Wesselmann, E. (2018, March). Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference (Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual convention). Speakers: Dave Rand, Andrew Lewis, Michael McCullough, Michiel van Elk, Annette Mahoney.
- Van Cappellen, P., Van Tongeren, D. R., & Wesselmann, E. (2017, January). Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference (Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual convention). Speakers: Anneke Buffone, Jim Everett, Jonathan Morgan, Crystal Park, Michael Spezio, Connie Svob, Wesley Wildman, David Yaden.
- Van Cappellen, P., Van Tongeren, D. R., Wesselmann, E. (2016, January). Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference (Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual

convention). Speakers: Chris Bader, Zhen Cheng, Amber DeBono, Peter Hill, David Myers, Kimberly Rios, Joni Sasaki, Patty Van Cappellen, Aiyana Willard.

Editorial activities

Associate Editor	*Archive for the Psychology of Religion* (2017-2021)
Editorial Board	*APA Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Journal* (2018-present)
Guest Editor	Special Issue "Leaving Religion" in *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion* (2025-2026); Special Issue 'What is Hope?" in *The Journal for Positive Psychology* (2025-2026)
Newsletter Editor	Bi-monthly newsletter for the International Association for Psychology of Religion (2012-June 2016)
Conference abstract reviewer	International Positive Psychology Association World Congress, 2017 SPSP Pre-conference Psychology of Religion and Spirituality: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2022. Association for Psychological Science, preconference on empathy, 2026
Grant reviewer	National Science Foundation, John Templeton Foundation, Templeton Religion Trust, call for research on Divine Forgiveness funded by the John Templeton Foundation (PI: Frank Ficham)
Journal reviewer (selection)	*Psychological Science, Current Directions in Psychological Science, Journal for Personality and Social Psychology, Emotion, American Psychologist, Journal for Experimental Psychology: General, Journal for Experimental Social Psychology, Emotion, Cognition and Emotion, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, Personality and Individual Differences, Journal of Positive Psychology, Journal of Happiness Studies, European Journal of Social Psychology, Consciousness and Cognition, Acta Neuropsychiatrica, International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Archive for the Psychology of Religion, Mental Health, Religion, and Culture, Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, Stress and Health, Religions, Leisure Sciences, Neotestamentica, Psychologie française, L'année psychologique*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE & MENTORSHIP

Teaching

Rate my Professor 5/5 as of December 2025: https://www.ratemyprofessors.com/professor/3055979

Fall 2024-Spring 2025	SOCIOL 280T and SOCIOL780T "Stories of Hope" Bass Connections project leader, Duke University *Mean instructor rating: 4.50/5 (Fall); 4.29/5 (Spring)*
Fall 2024, 2025	PSY216S/ETHICS217S Science of Happiness, lead instructor, Duke University *Mean instructor rating: 4.88/5* (2024), 4.75 (2025) 2024 class led to teaching award nomination 2025 class featured in Duke Magazine: https://dukemag.duke.edu/stories/science-happiness
Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021	Research Independent Study, Duke University
Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023,	Research Practicum, Duke University

Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020	
Summer 2022	Affect and well-being: guest lecturer, Swiss Center for Affective Science Summer School, Geneva, Switzerland
Summer 2020	PSY318S Positive Psychology, lead instructor, Duke University *Mean instructor rating: 4.7/5*
Fall 2019	Introduction to Social Psychology: guest lecturer, Duke University
Fall 2018	Health Psychology: guest lecturer, Scripps College, CA
Spring 2017	Emotions and Positive Psychology: guest lecturer, Scripps College, CA
5-15 students/semester since Fall 2016	Mentorship of undergraduate Research Assistants, Duke University Independent research, UNC-Chapel Hill
Spring 2011 Spring 2010 Spring 2009	Bachelor and Master level course on Psychology of Religion; guest lecturer, UCLouvain, Belgium

Advising
Postdoctoral Scholars: Dr. Kunalan Manokara (2024 -); Dr. Megan Edwards (2024 -).

Doctoral dissertation committee
Callan McKinley, est. 2025, Wheaton College
Samantha Abrams, 2024, UNC Chapel Hill
Eliane Bicchieri, 2022, Université de Nantes, France
Nathan Leonhardt, 2022, University of Toronto
Allon Vishkin, 2019, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israël
Claire Prade, 2016, UCLouvain, Belgium

Master dissertations mentorship
Co-advisor of 7 master's theses between Spring 2009 and 2012, UCLouvain, Belgium

Honors' thesis and graduation with distinction
Chair:
Camden Nelson, 2021-2022, Duke Psychology. Research funded by internal grant for undergraduate research.
Gwyneth Reece, 2021-2022, Duke Psychology. Research funded by internal grant for undergraduate research.
Maria Naclerio, 2019-2020, Duke Psychology. Research funded by internal grant for undergraduate research. Maria also received the 2019-2020 Jerome S. Bruner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research.
Gregory S. Crocker, 2015, UNC Social Psychology. Research funded by APA Div. 36 Student Award.

Served on:
Cai Liu, 2024, Duke Psychology
Danielle Kapustin, 2021, Duke Philosophy
Carolina Caldera, 2013, UNC

Supervision of research internship

Summer 2024: Supervision of two full-time undergraduate students for Summer program at Duke
Spring 2019: Supervision of Pawel Lowicki, fourth year graduate student from the University of Warsaw, Poland
Spring-Summer 2014: Supervision of High School student Anli Zhang. Mentorship Program of the NC School of Science and Mathematics
Spring 2011: Supervision of a three-month full time research internship, UCLouvain, Belgium

Each term I train and mentor a group of about 5-15 **undergraduates** in research. Depending on their experience level, they are involved in the study design, data collection, data coding, data analyses and writing

CONTINUED EDUCATION

- Data management, analysis, and visualization in R, Duke University, September 2021
- Advanced statistics: Structural Equation Modeling Curran-Bauer workshop, June 2018
- Advanced statistics: Longitudinal Structural Equation Modeling Curran-Bauer workshop, July 2018

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Fellow of the International Society for Science and Religion (ISSR, since 2021)
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
- International Association for the Psychology of Religion (IAPR)
- International Positive Psychology Association (IPPA)
- International Society for Research on Emotion (ISRE)
- Society for Affective Science (SAS)

LANGUAGES

Modern languages

- French (mother tongue)
- English: fluent
- Dutch: passive knowledge
- Spanish: passive knowledge

Ancient languages

- Biblical Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic; Latin