

The Medical Anthropology Group at Department of Anthropology presents:

“AUDITORY VERBAL HALLUCINATIONS ACROSS THE WELLNESS SPECTRUM: LEVERAGING HUMAN NEUROSCIENCE TO FATHOM THE UNFATHOMABLE.”



Judith Ford

UCSF

February 8, 2017, 5:30-7:00

Building 50, Room 51A

I will define auditory verbal hallucinations (AVH), discuss who has them, and describe our efforts to study them using human neuroscience methods. More specifically, I will describe their phenomenological similarities across various groups that are both help seeking (psychiatric and neurological patients) and not help seeking (people without a psychiatric and neurological diagnosis) and explore several conceptual models of AVH and our efforts to use EEG methods to study one of the dominant models. I will then link this conceptual model to a well-described neural mechanism that allows all animals to distinguish between self-generated internal thoughts and external auditory voices.

Judy Ford graduated with a BA in psychology from Stanford in 1969, and in 1975, she earned her PhD from Stanford's Neurosciences program. Since then she has been on the faculty of medical school psychiatry departments at Stanford, Yale, and now UCSF, using her human neuroscience methods to understand how the brain works, and doesn't work, first in normal aging and Alzheimer's disease and now in schizophrenia and psychosis more generally. For the last 15 years, her focus has been on using human neuroscience tools to understand how people can hear voices when no one is talking.

Cultures, Minds and Medicines

Cultures, Minds and Medicines aims to bring together scholars from the social sciences, humanities, medicine and bioscience and technology to explore the ways that health and illness are made through complex social forces. We aim for informal, interactive sessions, full of debate and good will. We will meet every other week on Wednesday evening 5:30-7:00, for dinner and conversation. Talks will take place in Anthropology, Building 50, 51A (Conference room).

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Winter 2017 Seminars:

Feb. 22: Joanna Cook (University College London)

Mar. 1: Clare Fanger (Rice University)

Mar. 15: Jeffrey Kripal (Rice University)