

Dr Peter L Nelson, PhD
Psychologist—Social Scientist—Coach
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PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE

- Individual counselling and coaching
- Group counselling and training
- Individual psychological assessment
- Practitioner supervision
- Organizational development
- Forensic assessment
- Family Court (Australia) expert witness
- Criminal Court (Australia) expert witness

PSYCHOLOGY TEACHING

- Introductory Psychology
- Personality Theory
- Group Process
- Emotional Intelligence
- Consciousness Studies
- Mediation
- Psychological Assessment
- Psychophysiology
- Statistics
- Research Methods
- MA and Ph.D. supervision

PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

- Psycho-phenomenological research: qualitative and quantitative designs
- Statistical surveys
- Assessment instrument development
- Experimental and quasi-experimental research: univariate and multivariate designs
- Data analysis
- Psychological interviewing and assessment
- Qualitative research designs
- Ethnography (video)
- Focus groups
- End-user research
- Usability research and testing

EDUCATION

- 1961-63 *Columbia University, NY, USA (Mathematics and Physics)*
1966-68 *San Francisco State University, USA. (BA cum laude, Psychophysiology—1968)*
1985-88 *University of Queensland, Australia (Ph.D., Psychology of Religion—1988)*

PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

Psychology Board of Australia Registration (PSY0001302802) (Registration retired)

BIO



Dr Nelson is an Australian registered psychologist and social scientist who specializes in Transpersonal Counselling, personal and business coaching, and human experience and behavioural research. His work with individuals focuses primarily on developing fluidity of attention, which facilitates the expansion of awareness. This kind of re-orientation of perception allows clients to experience the world in a refreshed manner, facilitating problem solving as well as deepening awareness. More information about Dr Nelson's coaching work can be viewed on this website: <http://www.socsci.biz>

During his first career in neuroscience he conducted research into the psychophysiology of attention, perception, consciousness and language processing. As well as his experimental work, he produced a mathematical model based on 'n-like' sensory neurons that was able to simulate a more accurate version of the Weber-Fechner law. Along the way in the late 1960s he co-designed and built an original biofeedback device for EEG training for therapeutic purposes, which he sold to a major US electronics manufacturer (Dewey Electronics).

Later, Dr Nelson became a social scientist and focused his research on how people experience and understand reality—whether seen through the visions of mystics or the daily perceptions of ordinary people. As part of this research work he developed an original statistical psycho-phenomenological methodology for studying and modelling the factors underlying how individuals assemble perceptions into the narratives they construe as the real world.

Psychological Counselling, Coaching, Group Work and Assessment Experience

- 2004-2020 PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTANT Australia & USA
Consultant Psychologist (registered: NSW, Australia)
- *Coaching for business and personal development*
 - *Individual psychological assessment*
 - *Expert witness court reports—criminal and family*
 - *Organizational assessment & Development*
 - *Mediation*
 - *Counselling*
 - *Supervision*
- 2003-04 LIFECONNECT: A Private Psychotherapy Practice North Sydney, NSW, Australia
Psychological Counsellor; Corporate Coach
- *Individual counselling & Coaching*
 - *Client evaluations*
- 1986-87 MEDIATOR Brisbane, QLD, Australia
Psychological Consultant
- *Organizational mediation: Departments of Sociology and Anthropology*
- 1980-87 PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLOR Sydney & Brisbane, Australia
Private Practice Psychologist
- *Individuals and groups*
- 1980-81 FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA, SYDNEY REGISTRY Sydney, NSW, Australia
Family Court Counsellor
- *Individual and couples counselling*
 - *Client assessment and report writing*
- 1978-79 MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Adelaide, SA, Australia
Counsellor and Group Trainer
- *Individual and couples counselling*
 - *Group training and facilitation*
 - *Client assessment and report writing*
- 1974-79 PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLOR Melbourne & Adelaide, Australia
Private Practice Psychologist
- *Individuals and groups*
- 1966-69 TRAINEE COUNSELLOR AND GROUP WORKER San Francisco, USA
Supervised Counselling and Group Work

Research Experience

- 2009-2011 IMPULSE DEVICES, INC. Grass Valley, CA, USA
Vice President of Corporate Development
- *Developed new directions for applications of high-pressure acoustic cavitation technology.*
 - *Advised CEO on employee management and provided HR support.*
- 1996-2008 SOCIAL SCIENCE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH CONSULTANT
- 5Dynamics, Inc. — Santa Cruz, California, USA (2004-08)
- *Psychological assessment development, product development research and end-user testing*
- TUNRA — University of Newcastle, Newcastle, NSW (2003-04)
- *VitaMedics: Advertising usability study*
 - *Soccer NSW: Stakeholders' evaluation study*
- MAROC Market Research, Wyong, NSW (2003)
- *Statistical analysis and questionnaire design*
- State University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA, USA (2003-04; in conjunction with *The Child Spirit Foundation*)
- *Design, implementation and analysis of an empirical study of recalled childhood spiritual experiences*
- American Business Visions, Tustin, CA, USA (2001-02)
- *Developed software concept and development plan for the Retirement Visualizer, an interactive, psychological and needs assessment package for future financial planning*
- Fund For Global Awakening (non-profit foundation), Point Reyes, CA, USA (1999)
- *Conducted focus groups and US national statistical survey on religion, values and community (with Clearwater Research).*
- Motorola Corporation, Chicago, IL, USA (1999)
- *Developed and conducted a seminar on end-user ethnographic research aimed at the identification of future markets for developers of innovative technologies.*
- The Wesley Central Mission, Melbourne, VIC (1998-99)
- *Evaluated research needs, set up and staffed Wesley's Research and Advocacy Unit.*
 - *'Beach House Devolution Study,' a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the needs and outcome of devolved institutional living for the severely disabled (statistical summary report and multi-media presentation)*
- The Methodist Mission, Christchurch, New Zealand (1996-98)
- *Conducted a feasibility study for the implementation of a social science research unit at the Christchurch Methodist Mission (1996) and established research unit (1998).*
 - *'Eastling House' Evaluation Study, a statistical, comparative examination of client's and care-givers' perceptions of child protection program outcomes.*
 - *Care-givers of the Elderly: A Self-Perception Study—a series of interviews conducted to ascertain the perspectives of the front-line primary care-givers of the elderly at a Methodist sponsored home for the aged.*
 - *Church Attendance: Intrinsic and Extrinsic Factors—a statistical survey carried out to understand the underlying factors influencing increased church attendance at the Durham Street Parish, Christchurch, NZ.*

- 2000-01 MEMESTREAMS.COM, INC. San Francisco, CA, USA
Director of Assessment R&D
- *Developed an on-line attitude, work and personality assessments and portal to act as a gateway for this company's on-line management consultancy software.*
 - *Designed and conducted product usability research and testing.*
 - *Developed new applications for Impulse Devices' patented high-pressure cavitation technology*
- 1997-98 TEXAS INSTRUMENTS CORPORATION Dallas, TX, USA
Senior Social Scientist—End-User Research
- *Selected (after TI instigated a US-wide search for a social scientist) to conduct future markets social research studies on behalf of the Strategic Planning Group of the Digital Imaging Division.*
 - *Developed a model and wrote a position paper outlining the role of social science in a proposed Future Markets Group to be developed for TI corporate-wide.*
 - *Conducted a user-centered ethnographic study of two small northern California towns examining end-user confrontation with new technologies as well as the role of TV in the home (The Nevada City/Grass Valley Study: Looking at TV and New Technologies [multi-media]).*
- 1995-96 STATE UNIVERSITY AT WEST GEORGIA Carrollton, GA, USA
Assistant Professor
- *Continued the development of an on-going study on the sociology and psycho-phenomenology of anomalous experiencing.*
- 1993-95 SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY Lismore, NSW
Lecturer
- *Using a quasi-experimental multivariate statistical design, examined the relationship of cannabis use to personality Trait Absorption and to self-perceived depression and anxiety.*
- 1992-94 CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION OF QUEENSLAND Brisbane, QLD
Social Science Consultant (external); Senior Research Officer (internal)
- *Analyzed the survey data and co-authored the report for the Commission on police attitudes towards Aboriginal and Islander peoples.*
 - *Analyzed the survey data and produced a detailed internal report on the victims of crime in the state of Queensland.*
 - *Analyzed the 1991-93 National Campaign Against Drug Abuse survey data (with particular emphasis on cannabis use in Queensland) for the CJC government report on cannabis.*
 - *Co-authored the Cannabis 'white' paper report presented to the Queensland Government (with Phil Dickie).*
 - *Wrote a critical review of the cannabis research literature for the CJC report on cannabis.*
- 1990-93 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY Brisbane, QLD
Social Science Consultant; Australian Research Council Research Fellow
- *Acted as qualitative and quantitative research consultant for Dr. Julia Howell of the Division of Asian and International Studies on her research project: Hyperarousal and Deautomatization in Sufi Mystical Practice: Indonesian Cases (on-going).*
 - *Awarded a two-year Australian Research Council grant (large grant scheme) together with Dr. Julia Howell to conduct a two-year ethnographic and psycho-phenomenological study on religious experiencing and worldview conversion of Australians joining an Asian religion.*

- 1988-90 PACIFICA GRADUATE INSTITUTE Santa Barbara, CA, USA
Associate Prof and Director of Research, Ph.D. Program in Clinical Psychology
- *Developed combined qualitative/quantitative methodological perspective and direction for the Ph.D. program in clinical psychology.*
 - *Was awarded two grants (1988 & 1989) by the Nathan Cummings Foundation to continue research into non-ordinary experiencing.*
- 1985-88 UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND St. Lucia, QLD
Doctoral student: Department of Studies in Religion
- *Developed statistical, psycho-phenomenological methodology for studying anomalous experiences in a non-reductive way.*
 - *Conducted study of intrinsic and extrinsic religiosity in church attendees.*
- 1973-74 UNIVERSITY OF SURREY Guildford, UK
Research Associate: Department of Linguistics
- *Psychophysiological research associate—study of syntax processing in the human brain.*
- 1970-71 UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN Copenhagen, Denmark
Postgraduate Research: The Psychological Institute
- *Electrophysiological correlates of arousal states and operant control of covert electroencephalographic events in humans.*
 - *The Weber-Fechner Law Revisited: A mathematical model extending Mundie's Neural Calculus.*
- 1969-70 ROCKLAND STATE HOSPITAL RESEARCH CENTER Orangeburg, NY, USA
Research Associate
- *Computer monitoring of chronic schizophrenic patients in an open ward situation.*
 - *EEG biofeedback development project.*
- 1966-68 SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY San Francisco, CA, USA
Undergraduate Honours Research: Department of Psychology
- *Interpersonal perception: An exploratory empirical study of R.D. Laing's model of interpersonal knowing.*
 - *Electrophysiological correlates of hypnotic states.*

Teaching Experience

- 2017 CLAYTON UTZ, LAWYERS Brisbane, QLD
Conducted workshop on attention and mindfulness for lawyers
- 2013 HYPNOTHERAPY TRAINING AUSTRALIA Terrigal, NSW
Guest Lecturer on consciousness and transpersonal psychology
- 2008 BAINBRIDGE GRADUATE INSTITUTE Seattle, WA, USA
Scholar in residence (October 17-19)
 - *Lectured faculty and students on the nature of 'attention'*
 - *Provided individual coaching for faculty and students*
- 2004-09 NORTHERN RIVERS GESTALT INSTITUTE Lismore, NSW
Adjunct faculty
 - *Psychodynamics of interpersonal perception*
 - *Methods in psychotherapy*
 - *Supervision*
- 2003 UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES Sydney, NSW
Guest Lecturer: School of Industrial Relations and Organizational Behaviour
 - *Strategic Planning and Future Markets Research (MA in Management Program)*
- 2003 UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE Ourimbah, NSW
Casual Lecturer and Tutor: Faculty of Business and Law
 - *Honours and Ph.D. research supervision*
 - *P/T Lecturer: Research Methodology (Honours and Ph.D.)*
 - *P/T Tutor: Business Statistics*
- 1995-2013 GRADUATE TEACHING AND SUPERVISION Australia and USA
 - *External Ph.D. and Honours Degree supervision for students at:*
 - *Charles Sturt University, NSW, Australia*
 - *California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA*
 - *Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia*
 - *Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, Menlo Park, CA*
 - *Guest lecturer California Institute of Integral Studies: 'Research methodology'*
- 1995-96 STATE UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA Carrollton, GA, USA
Assistant Professor of Psychology
 - *Undergraduate: Introductory Psychology; Assessment*
 - *Graduate: Group Processes; Consciousness and Self; The Technology of Experience; Depth Psychology and Buddhism*
 - *Supervision: MA students*
- 1993-95 SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY Lismore, NSW
Lecturer in Social Science at the Centre for Humanities and Human Sciences
 - *Undergraduate: Introductory Psychology; Theories of Personality; The Construction of 'Self' - A Postmodern Perspective.*
 - *Graduate Supervision: Honours and MA students*
- 1991-92 QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY Brisbane, QLD
Part-time lecturer in M.Sc. program in Applied Medical Physics
 - *Introduction to Medical Statistics/Computing*

- 1988-89 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA EXTENSIONS S. B., CA, USA
Part-time lecturer
- *Psychology of Mysticism and Anomalous Experience*
- 1988-89 SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE: ADULT ED DIVISION Santa Barbara, CA, USA
Part-time lecturer
- *Science, Philosophy and Religion*
- 1987-90 PACIFICA GRADUATE INSTITUTE Santa Barbara, CA, USA
Associate Prof and Director of Research, Ph.D. Program in Clinical Psychology
- *Developed combined qualitative/quantitative methodological perspective and direction for the Ph.D. program in clinical psychology.*
 - *Taught graduate-level (Ph.D.) courses in biological foundations of psychology, research methodology and statistics.*
 - *Supervision: MA and Ph.D.*
- 1986-87 UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND: SCHOOL OF MEDICINE Brisbane, QLD
Part-time Tutor
- *Medical Faculty: Medical Sociology, Statistics and Research Methods*
- 1986 ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHILD CARE AGENCY Brisbane, QLD
Consultant
- *Organized and conducted three weekend retreats and communications workshops for indigenous childcare workers as part of staff development training.*
- 1985-86 UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND: STUDIES IN RELIGION Brisbane, QLD
Part-time Tutor
- *Religion and the Psychotherapies*
- 1969-2011 INDEPENDENT WORKSHOP TEACHING & COUNSELLING USA, UK, Australia & NZ
- *Many workshops on attention, perception and interpersonal perception*
 - *35+ years of private individual and couples counselling*
 - *20+ years life coaching*
 - *35+ years of group therapy*
- 1967-68 SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY: PSYCHOLOGY DEPT. San Francisco, CA, USA
Part-time teaching assistant and part-time lecturer
- *Introductory Physiological Psychology (teaching asst)*
 - *Psychology and psychophysiology of Hypnosis (lecturer)*

Scholarships, Grants and Awards

- 1993-95 *Recruitment Award, Southern Cross University.* - Personality Trait Absorption and Cannabis.
- 1991-92 *Australian Research Council: Large Grant Scheme (with Dr Julia Howell, 2 yrs.)* - Religious Experience in Australian New Religions: Australians Entering Asian Religions.
- 1988-89 *The Nathan Cummings Foundation, New York, USA.* Grants to individuals (Two consecutive years—through the Esalen Institute) - Continuing research on the Technology of Altered State Experiencing.
- 1986-87 *Australian Commonwealth Postgraduate Research Award, University of Queensland, Brisbane.*

Publications

REFEREED ARTICLES (single author)

- Nelson, P.L. (2020). Activating the paranoid brain: A speculative interpretation of brain evolution. In press.
- Nelson, P.L. (2017). Attention, experience and self: Reflecting on Spinelli's notion of 'worlding' (2016). *Existential Analysis*, 28(2), 263-271.
- Nelson, P. L. (1997-98). Consciousness as reflexive shadow: An operational psycho-phenomenological model. *Imagination, Cognition and Personality*, 17(3), 215-228.
- Nelson, P. L. (1995-96). Personality trait absorption: An exploratory study of opportunity and capacity in relation to cannabis use. *Imagination, Cognition and Personality*, 15(1), 75-101.
- Nelson, P. L. (1994-95). Cannabis amotivational syndrome and personality trait absorption: A review and reconceptualization. *Imagination, Cognition and Personality*, 14(1), 43-58.
- Nelson, P. L. (1991-92). Personality attributes as discriminating factors in distinguishing religio-mystical from paranormal experients. *Imagination, Cognition and Personality*, 11(4), 389-405.
- Nelson, P. L. (1991). Transcending limitations: Spontaneous paranormal and spiritual experiences in Australian daily life. *Australian Parapsychological Review*, 2 & 3(18), 8-12.
- Nelson, P. L. (1990). The technology of the praternatural: An empirically based model of transpersonal experiences. *The Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*, 22, 35-50.
- Nelson, P. L. (1989). Personality factors in the frequency of reported spontaneous praternatural experiences. *The Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*, 21, 193-209.

REFEREED ARTICLES (multiple authors)

- Howell, J. D. & Nelson, P. L. (1998). The Brahma Kumaris in the Western World, Part II: Demographic Change and Secularization in an Asian New Religious Movement. *Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion*, 11, 225-239.
- Howell, J. D. & Nelson, P. L. (1997). Structural adaptation and "success" in the transplantation of an Asian new religious movement: The Brahma Kumaris in the western world, Part I. *Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion*, 8, 1-33.
- Howell, J. D., Subandi, & Nelson, P. L. (1997). Indonesian Sufism: Signs of resurgence. In (P. B. Clarke, Ed.), *New Trends and Developments in the World of Islam*. London: Luzac Oriental.
- Nelson, P. L. & Howell, J. D. (1993-4). A psycho-social phenomenological methodology for conducting operational, ontologically neutral research into religious and altered state experiences. *Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 2-3, 1-48.
- Prutting, C. A., Mentis, M., & Nelson, P. (1988). Critique of Siegel: The limit of "The limits of science in communication disorders." *Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders*, 54, 299-300.

BOOK CHAPTERS, MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

- Nelson, P. L. (2010). Altered states of consciousness. In J. G. Melton & M. Baumann (Eds.), *Religions of the World: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Beliefs and Practices* (2nd ed., pp. 81-85). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

- Nelson, P. L. (2000). Mystical experience and radical deconstruction: Through the ontological looking glass. In T. Hart, P. L. Nelson, & K. Puhakka (Eds.). In *Transpersonal knowing: Exploring the horizons of consciousness*. New York: SUNY
- Nelson, P. L. (1999). *Research and advocacy at the Wesley Mission: An overview and proposal*. (internal proposal). Melbourne: The Wesley Central Mission.
- Nelson, P. L. (1999). *WASS: A post-devolution guardian survey*. (internal publication of a statistical survey of residents' guardians for the Wesley Accommodation & Support Services). Melbourne: The Wesley Central Mission.
- Nelson, P. L. (1999). *WASS: Reflections on the devolution of Beach House*. (internal multi-media publication of interviews with selected staff members for the Wesley Accommodation & Support Services). Melbourne: The Wesley Central Mission.
- Nelson, P. L. (1998). *The Eastling House Residential Program: An Empirical Study of Perceived Effectiveness* (internal research report). Christchurch, N.Z.: The Methodist Mission.
- Nelson, P. L. (1997). *The Future Markets Group (FMG)—Establishing User-Centered Research at Texas Instruments. The Discovery of New Customers, New Products and New Markets* (internal publication). Dallas: Texas Instruments Corporation.
- Nelson, P. L. (1997). *The Nevada City/Grass Valley study: Confronting new technologies* (internal multi-media publication of an ethnographic study of two small California towns). Dallas: Texas Instruments Corporation.
- Nelson, P. L. (1993). *Who are the victims of crime? A statistical survey*. Brisbane: Criminal Justice Commission of Queensland (internal publication).
- Nelson, P. L. (1993). A critical review of the research literature concerning some biological and psychological effects of cannabis. In Advisory Committee on Illicit Drugs (Eds.), *Cannabis and the law in Queensland: A discussion paper* (pp. 113-152). Brisbane: Criminal Justice Commission of Queensland.
- Nelson, P. L. (1989). A survey of mystical, visionary and remote perception experiences. In G. K. Zollschan, J. F. Schumaker, & G. F. Walsh (Eds.), *Exploring the paranormal: Perspectives on belief and experience* (pp. 184-214). Dorset, U.K.: Prism.
- Nelson, P. L. & Bennett, D. (1992). *Police attitudes towards Aboriginal and Islander peoples*. Brisbane: Criminal Justice Commission of Queensland (government publication).

BOOKS

- Hart, T., Nelson, P. L., & Puhakka, K. (eds.) (2000). *Transpersonal knowing: Exploring the horizons of consciousness*. New York: SUNY Press.
- Nelson, P. L. (2014). *The way of a seer: Reflections from a non-ordinary life*. Nevada City, CA: Empiricus Press.