

**Inner Voices, Inner Music:
The Phenomenology of Auditory Verbal and Musical Hallucinations
Holgate Conference Centre, Grey College, Durham University
17-18 September 2014**

“Voice-hearing”, or auditory verbal hallucinations (AVHs), refers to the experience of hearing a voice or voice-like sound in the absence of an external stimulus. AVHs are reported by individuals with a range of psychiatric disorders, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder; however, they are also routinely experienced by so-called nonpathological populations as well. Similarly, musical hallucinations are anomalous auditory experiences of hearing music in the absence of an external musical stimulus. Musical hallucinations (MHs) have been associated with old age, progressive deafness, tinnitus, dementia, depression, and various psychiatric disorders—although, as with AVHs, they are also routinely found to occur spontaneously in the general population. Although AVHs and MHs can occur independently of one another, their co-occurrence (e.g., in patients diagnosed with schizophrenia, or artists such as Robert Schumann and Brian Wilson) is not uncommon.

This workshop will be an interdisciplinary investigation into the phenomenology of AVHs and MHs. It will bring together individuals working in various disciplines, including musicology, literary studies, philosophy, psychology, psychiatry, and neuroscience. The objectives of the workshop will be to work toward a more refined understanding of the lived experience of AVHs and MHs, to discuss methodological issues involved in their investigation, and to indicate future lines of research.

The workshop is supported by a Wellcome Trust Strategic Award, “Hearing the Voice.”

Workshop Programme

Confirmed speakers include [Ben Alderson-Day](#) (Psychology, Durham University), [Chris Chafe](#) (Music, Stanford University), [Diana Deutsch](#) (Psychology, UC San Diego), [Tuomas Eerola](#) (Music, Durham University), [Martyn Evans](#) (Medical Humanities, Durham University), [Charles Fernyhough](#) (Psychology, Durham University), James Kennaway (Medical History, Newcastle University), [Sukhbinder Kumar](#) (Neuroscience, Newcastle University), [Edward Wickham](#) (The Clerks), [Victoria Williamson](#) (Medical Humanities, Sheffield University), and [Jonathan Berger](#) (Music, Stanford).

Questions to be considered include (but are not limited to):

- Do AVHs and MHs always, sometimes, or never have the same features of veridical auditory experience?
- Do these features remain constant in pathological vs. non-pathological contexts?
- In what ways might more careful and nuanced first-person descriptions of AVHs and MHs guide the discovery of data at the neurophysiological level?
- Conversely, how, if at all, might neurological findings inform the study of the first-person phenomenology of AVHs and MHs?

- How might the social and historical context shape the way that AVHs and MHs are experienced and interpreted?
- What are the therapeutic implications of a broader, contextually-sensitive perspective on AVHs and MHs?

The workshop will have a research-intensive format, structured to allow for maximum discussion and interaction. It will consist of invited presentations, commentaries, and musical performances—supplemented with ample coffee breaks and social time to facilitate further engagement.

The full conference programme is available [here](#).

Registration and accommodation

This event is aimed at academics with an interest in the latest research into hallucinations and other unusual experiences, musicians and musicologists, as well as clinicians, mental health professionals, and people who have or work with people who have personal experience of auditory verbal or musical hallucinations.

Places are limited and registration for the workshop is essential. In order to register, please complete our [online registration form](#) by **Friday 5 September 2014**.

Registration is free, and includes lunch on both days of the conference, but please note that delegates are responsible for their own travel and/or accommodation costs.

Accommodation for conference delegates is available in **single undergraduate en-suite rooms** at Collingwood College, Durham University at a price of **£49** per night. Unfortunately, there is no Wi-Fi access in the rooms, though it will be available in the conference venue.

If you would like to book accommodation in the undergraduate rooms at Collingwood College, please use the online registration form above. If you would prefer to stay in a hotel, you may find the following links helpful:

[Durham Marriott Hotel](#)

[Raddison Blu Hotel, Durham](#)

Conference Dinner

We would be delighted if you could join us for a workshop dinner in Grey College Dining Hall on Wednesday 17 September at 7.30 pm. If you would like to accept this invitation, please let us know by filling in the relevant section of the online form above by **Friday 5 September 2014**.

Hearing the Voice will gladly cover the cost of the meal, but please indicate on the form whether you have any allergies or dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian, vegan, gluten intolerance).

We hope that you will be able to join us for what promises to be an interesting and stimulating event. For more information about the workshop, please contact [Victoria Patton](#).