Kalina Christoff Hadjiilieva

Curriculum Vitae

Contact Info
University of British Columbia
Department of Psychology
2136 West Mall
Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z4, Canada
Web: https://www.christofflab.ca/

EDUCATION

Stanford University, PhD, Psychology, 1997-2001

New Bulgarian University, MSc, Cognitive Science, 1995-1997

New Bulgarian University, BSc, Psychology, 1994-1997

EMPLOYMENT

University of British Columbia, Professor, July 2016-present

University of British Columbia, Associate Professor, 2010-2016

University of British Columbia, Assistant Professor, 2004-2010

Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, University of British Columbia, Interim Director, June 2019-May 2021

Medical Research Council, UK, Postdoctoral Fellow, 2002-2004

Stanford University, Postdoctoral Fellow, 2001-2002

Stanford University, Functional Neuroimaging Consultant, 2001-2002

Stanford University, Teaching Assistant, 1997-2001

New Bulgarian University, Research Assistant, 1995-1996

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My work focuses on the cognitive neuroscience of human thought, from spontaneous thought phenomena such as mind-wandering, daydreaming, and creativity; to goal-directed thought, including deliberate reasoning and problem solving. I also study the neurocognitive mechanism of introspection, meta-cognition, meditation, psychedelics, and different forms of self-experience and self-regulation. My research seeks to understand these mental phenomena through the dynamic interplay between large-scale brain systems, including the default, salience, and frontoparietal control networks.

FUNDING

Granting Agency	Subject	Amount	Year
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)	Investigating the Dynamics of Thought using Precision fMRI	$ 245,000	2025-30

Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR)	Investigating the Dynamics of Thought using Brain Connectivity and Experience Sampling	$795,600	2020-27
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)	Dynamic brain network interactions underlying human thought and spontaneous cognition	$275,000	2018-25
Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies	International Roundtable on Spontaneous Thought	$38,200	2017-18
Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies	Building a new interdisciplinary field dedicated to the study of human imagination	$35,000	2016-17
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Investigating higher mental functions using real-time fMRI	$454,984	2011-17
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)	The role of the brain's executive and default networks in human thought and spontaneous cognition	$180,000	2011-17
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Investigating higher mental functions using real-time fMRI – Bridge Funding	$100,000	2011-17
Minerva Foundation / Carraresi Foundation	Strengthening Pathways in the Brain	$65,000	2009-11
Hampton Research Endowment Fund Research Grant in the Humanities and Social Sciences	Imaging mindfulness and the spontaneous production of thought	$45,000	2009-11
Michael Smith Foundation for Health	Career Investigator Fellowship	$480,000	2006-12
NSERC Discovery Grant	Functions and Organization of the Human Lateral Prefrontal Cortex	$111,375	2006-11
European Commission	Humans: The analogy making species	$2,670,885	2006-10
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Investigating prefrontal cortex modulation using real-time fMRI feedback training	$298,447	2006-09
Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research	Clinical Research Establishment Grant Rostrolateral prefrontal cortex modulation using real-time fMRI feedback training in healthy volunteers and depressed patients	$125,000	2006-08
Canadian Foundation for Innovation	BC Knowledge Development Fund Infrastructure Operating Funds	$100,000	2005-09
Canadian Institutes for Health Research	Frontotemporal dementia with ubiquinated inclusions: Clinical, genetic and pathological studies	$808,151	2005-08
BC Mental Health and Addictions Research Network	Using Real-time fMRI Feedback in Patients with Recurrent Unipolar Depression	$7,500	2006-07
Simon Fraser University	Cognitive Characterization of Individuals Genetically At-Risk for Frontotemporal Dementia	$3,500	2006-07
Peter Wall Institute	Exploratory Workshop Executive and Prefrontal Functions: Supervision and Volition in the Brain	$32,000	2006-06
Peter Wall Institute	Early Career Scholar Fellowship	$5,500	2005-06

Canadian Institutes for Health Research	Frontotemporal dementia with ubiquinated inclusions: Clinical, genetic and pathological studies	$808,151	2005-08
Brain Research Center	Tula Foundation, Startup grant	$150,000	2004-09
European Commission Marie curie Individual Postdoctoral Fellowships	Functional Organization of the lateral Prefrontal Cortex: Role Of The Anterior Prefrontal Region	$191,650	2002-04
James S. McDonnel Fellowship	Fellowship Grant	$500	1999-99
New Democracy Fellowship Award	Fellowship Grant	$46,500	1997-2001
Stanford New Democracy Fellowship	Fellowship Grant	$55,112	1997-01
Soros Foundation	Open Society Fellowship	$1000	1996-97
IHS Europe	Fellowship Grant	$3000	1995-95

PUBLICATIONS

(23551 total citations, h-index = 52, based on Google Scholar)
*Underline indicates student or trainee under my direct supervision

BOOKS

Zamani, A., **Christoff, K.** (In Preparation) The Cambridge Handbook of Thought. Cambridge University Press, United States.

Fox, KCR., **Christoff, K.** (2018) Oxford Handbook of Spontaneous Thought: Mind-Wandering, Creativity, and Dreaming. Oxford University Press, United States. ISBN: 9780190464745

JOURNALS

Zamani, A; **Christoff Hadjiilieva, K.** (2026). Default Heterogeneity: From a Singular Construct to Multiple Default Network(s). Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences. 67.

Burrell, J; Lawson, E; **Christoff Hadjiilieva, K.** (2025). A Dynamic Approach to Compulsive Fantasy: Constraints and Creativity in "Maladaptive Daydreaming". Behavioral Sciences. *15*(10), 1333.

Christoff Hadjiilieva, K. (2025). Mindfulness as a way of reducing automatic constraints on thought. Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging. DOI: 10.1016/j.bpsc.2024.11.001

IIT Concerned; Klincewicz M; Cheng T; Schmitz M; Sebastián MA; Snyder JS; **Christoff, K**; ...Yan, K. et al. (2025). What makes a theory of consciousness unscientific? Nature Neuroscience. Nature Neuroscience. 28: 689–693.

Mallett, R., Nahas, Y., **Christoff, K.,** Paller, K., & Mills, C. (2025). Cognitive control and semantic thought variability across sleep and wakefulness. Philosophy and the Mind Sciences. Nature Mental Health. (1): 827–840.

Kucyi, A., Kam, J.W.Y., Andrews-Hanna, J.R., **Christoff, K**., & Whitfield-Gabrieli, S. (2023). Recent advances in the neuroscience of spontaneous and off-task thought: implications for mental health. Nature Mental Health 1, 827–840. https://doi.org/10.1038/s44220-023-00133-w

Poulos, C., Zamani, A., Pillemer, D., Leichtman, M., **Christoff, K**., & Mills, C. (2023) Investigating the appraisal structure of spontaneous thoughts: evidence for differences among unexpected thought,

involuntary autobiographical memories, and ruminative thought. *Psychological Research 87, 2345–2364.* https://doi.org/10.1007/s00426-023-01814-y

Zamani, A., Carhart-Harris, R. L., & **Christoff, K.** (2022). Prefrontal contributions to the stability and variability of thought and conscious experience. Neuropsychopharmacology 47, 329-348.

Alperin, B.R**., Christoff, K.,** Mills, C., & Karalunas, S.L. (2021) More than off-task: Increased freely-moving thought in ADHD. *Consciousness and Cognition 93*: 103156. doi: 10.1016/j.concog.2021.103156. Epub 2021 Jun 10.

Raffaelli, Q., Mills, C., de Stefano, N., Mehl, M.R., Chambers, K., Fitzerald, S.A., Wilcox, R., **Christoff, K.,** Andrews, E.S., Grilli, M.D., O'Conner, M., & Andrews-Hanna, J.R. (2021) The think aloud paradigm reveals differences in the content, dynamics and conceptual scope of resting state thought in trait brooding. *Scientific Reports 11*, 19362 (2021).

Mills, C., Porter, A., Andrews-Hanna, J., **Christoff, K**., & Colby, A. (2021). How task-unrelated and freely-moving thought relate to affect: Evidence for dissociable patterns in everyday life. *Emotion.*

Mills, C., Zamani, A., White R., & **Christoff, K.** (2021). Out of the blue: Understanding abrupt and wayward transitions in the thought using probability and predictive processing. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 376*. doi:10.1098/rstb.2019.0692

Girn, M., Mills., C, Roseman, L., Carhart-Harris, R. L., & **Christoff, K.** (2020). Updating the dynamic framework of thought: *Creativity and psychedelics. NeuroImage,* 213. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2020.116726

Girn, M., Mills, C., & **Christoff, K.** (2019) Linking brain network reconfiguration and intelligence: Are we there yet? *Trends in Neuroscience and Education,* 15: 62-70. doi:10.1016/j.tine.2019.04.001

Girn, M., **Christoff, K.** (2018) Expanding the Scientific Study of Self-Experience with Psychedelics. *Journal of Consciousness Stud*ies 25 (11–12): 131-154.

Smith, G.K., Mills, C., Paxton, A., **Christoff, K.** (2018) Mind-wandering rates fluctuate across the day: Evidence from an experience-sampling study. *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications* 3 (54): 1-20. https://doi.org/10.1186/s41235-018-0141-4

Fox, K.C.R, Andrews-Hanna, J.R., Mills, C., Dixon, M.L., Markovic, J., Thompson, E., **Christoff, K.** (2018) Affective Neuroscience of Self-Generated Thought. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1426: 25–51. https://doi.org/10.1111/nyas.13740

Mills, C., & **Christoff, K.** (2018). Finding consistency in boredom by appreciating its instability. *Trends in Cogntiive Science*, 22 (9): 744-747. doi:10.1016/j.tics.2018.07.001

Parro, C., Dixon, M.L., & **Christoff, K.** (2018) The neural basis of motivational influences on cognitive control. *Human Brain Mapping*, 39: 5097-5111. https://doi.org/10.1002/hbm.24348

Dixon, M. L., De La Vega, A., Mills, C., Andrews-Hanna, J., Spreng, R. N., Cole, M. W., & **Christoff, K.** (2018). Heterogeneity within the frontoparietal control network and its relationship to the default and dorsal attention networks. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115 (7): E1598-E1607. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1715766115

Mills, C., Raffaelli, Q., Irving, Z. C., Stan, D., & **Christoff, K.** (2017). Is an off-task mind a freely-moving mind? Examining the relationship between different dimensions of thought. *Consciousness and Cognition*.

Raffaelli, Q., Mills, C., & **Christoff, K.** (2017). The knowns and unknowns of boredom: a review of the literature. *Experimental Brain Research*, 1-12

Dixon, M.L., Thiruchselvam, R., Todd, R.M., & **Christoff, K.** (2017). Emotion and the prefrontal cortex: An integrative review. *Psychological Bulletin.*

Dixon, M.L., Andrews-Hanna, J.R., Spreng, R.N., Irving, Z.C., Mills. C., Girn, M., & **Christoff, K.** (2017). Interactions between the default network and dorsal attention network may vary across default subsystems, time, and cognitive states. *Neuroimage.* 147, 632-649.

Fox, K.C.R., Andrews-Hanna, J.R., & **Christoff, K**. (2016). The neurobiology of self-generated thought from cells to systems: Integrating evidence from lesion studies, human intracranial electrophysiology, neurochemistry, and neuroendocrinology. *Neuroscience*, 335, 134-135.

Christoff, K., Irving, Z.C., Fox, K.C.R., Spreng, R.N., & Andrews-Hanna, J.R. (2016). Mind-wandering as spontaneous thought: A dynamic framework. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, 17, 718-731.

Ellamil, M., Fox, K.C.R., Dixon, M.L., Pritchard, S., Todd, R.M., Thompson, E., & **Christoff, K**. (2016). Dynamics of neural recruitment surrounding the spontaneous arising of thoughts in experienced mindfulness practitioners. *NeuroImage*, 136, 186-196.

Fox, K.C.R., Dixon, M.L., Nijeboer, S., Girn, M., Floman, J.L., Lifshitz, M., Ellamil, M., Sedlmeier, P., & **Christoff, K**. (2016). Functional neuroanatomy of meditation: A review and meta-analysis of 78 functional neuroimaging investigations. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, 65, 208-228.

Fox, K.C.R., Spreng, R.N., Ellamil, M., Andrews-Hanna, J.R., & **Christoff, K**. (2015). The wandering brain: Meta-analysis of functional neuroimaging studies of mind-wandering and related spontaneous thought processes. *NeuroImage*. 111, 611-621.

Fox, K.C.R., & **Christoff, K**. (2015). Transcranial direct current stimulation to lateral prefrontal cortex could increase meta-awareness of mind wandering. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences U.S.A., 112(19), E2414.

Fox, K.C.R., Thompson, E., Andrews-Hanna, J.R., & **Christoff, K**. (2014). Is thinking really aversive? Commentary on Wilson et al.'s "Just think: The challenges of the disengaged mind." *Frontiers in Psychology: Cognition*, 5(1427), 1-4.

Christoff, K. (2014). Dehumanization in organizational settings: Some scientific and ethical considerations. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 8(748), 1-5.

Dixon, M.L., Fox, K.C.R., & **Christoff, K.** (2014). A framework for understanding the relationship between externally and internally directed cognition. *Neuropsychologia*, 62, 321-330.

Dixon, M.L., & **Christoff, K.** (2014). The lateral prefrontal cortex and complex value-based learning and decision making. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, 45, 9-18.

Fox, K.C.R., Nijeboer, S., Dixon, M.L., Floman, J.L., Ellamil, M., Rumak, S.P., Sedlmeier, P., **Christoff, K.** (2014). Is meditation associated with altered brain structure? A systematic review and meta-analysis of morphometric neuroimaging in meditation practitioners. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, 43, 48-73.

Bazargani, N., Hillebrandt, H., **Christoff, K**., & Dumontheil, I. (2014). Developmental changes in effective connectivity associated with relational reasoning. *Human Brain Mapping*, 35(7), 3262-3276.

Dixon, M.L., Fox, K.C.R., & **Christoff, K.** (2014). Evidence for rostro-caudal functional organization in multiple brain areas related to goal-directed behavior. *Brain Research*, 1572, 26-39.

Fox, K.C.R., Nijeboer, S., Solomonova, E., Domhoff, G.W., **Christoff, K**. (2013). Dreaming as mind wandering: Evidence from functional neuroimaging and first-person content reports. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 7(412), 1-18.

Dixon, M.L. & **Christoff,** K. (2012). The decision to engage cognitive control is driven by expected reward-value: neural and behavioral evidence. PLoS ONE, 7(12), e51637.

Fox, K.C.R., Zakarauskas, P., Dixon, M. L., Ellamil, M., Thompson, E., & **Christoff, K.** (2012). Meditation experience predicts introspective accuracy. *PLoS ONE*, 7(9), e45370.

Ellamil, M., Dobson, C., Beeman, M., & **Christoff, K**. (2012). Evaluative and generative modes of thought during the creative process. *Neuroimage* 59(2): 1783-1794.

Christoff, K. (2012) Undirected thought: Neural determinants and correlates. *Brain Research* 1428: 51-59.

Doshi, R. & Christoff, K. (2012) Introduction: The cognitive neuroscience of thought. *Brain Research* 1428: 1-2.

Christoff, K., Cosmelli, D., Legrand, D., & Thompson, E. (2011). Clarifying the Self: Response to Northoff. *Trends in Cognitive Science* 15(5):187-188.

McCaig, RG, Dixon, M., Keramatian, K., Liu, I., **Christoff, K.** (2011) Improved modulation of rostrolateral prefrontal cortex using real-time fMRI training and meta-cognitive awareness. *Neuroimage* 55(3):1298-305.

Christoff, K., Cosmelli, D., Legrand, D., & Thompson, E. (2011) Specifying the self for cognitive neuroscience. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 15(3):104-12.

Schooler, J.W., Smallwood, J., **Christoff, K**., Handy, T.C., Reichle, E.D., & Sayette, M.A., (2011). Meta-awareness, perceptual decoupling and the wandering mind. *Trends in Cognitive Science* 15(7): 319-326.

Dumontheil, I., Houlton, R., **Christoff, K**., Blakemore, S.J. (2010) Non-linear development of relational reasoning during adolescence. *Developmental Science* 13(6):15-24.

Winters, J., **Christoff, K**., and Gorzalka, B. B. (2010). Dysregulated sexuality and high sexual desire: Distinct constructs? *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 39 (5), 1029-1043.

Christoff, K., Gordon, A. M., Smallwood, J., Smith, R., & Schooler, J. W. (2009). Experience sampling during fMRI reveals default network and executive system contributions to mind wandering. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 106 (21), 8719-8724.

Christoff, K., Keramatian, K., Smith, R., Maedler, B. (2009) Prefrontal organization of cognitive control according to levels of abstraction. *Brain Research* 1286, 94-105.

Crone, E.A., Wendelken, C., Van Leijenhorst, L., Honomichl, R., Christoff, K. & Bunge, S.A. (2009). Neurocognitive development of relational reasoning. *Developmental Science* 12(1), 55-66.

Winters, J., **Christoff, K**., & Gorzalka, B. B. (2009). Conscious regulation of sexual arousal in men. *Journal of Sex Research* 46(4), 330-343.

Christoff, K. (2008) Applying neuroscientific findings to education: The good, the tough, and the hopeful. *Brain, Mind, and Education* 2(2), 55-58.

Smith, R., Keramatian, K, & **Christoff, K.** (2007). Localizing the rostrolateral prefrontal cortex at the individual level. *Neuroimage* 36(4), 1387-96.

Christoff, K. and Owen, A.M. (2006) Improving reverse neuroimaging inferences: Cognitive domain versus cognitive complexity. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 10(8), 352 - 353.

Narayanan, N.S., Prabhakaran, V., Bunge, S.A., **Christoff, K.,** Fine, E.M. and Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2005) The role of the prefrontal cortex in the maintenance of verbal working memory: An event-related fMRI analysis. *Neuropsychology* 19(2), 223 - 232.

DeCharms, R.C., **Christoff, K.,** Glover, G.H., Pauly, J.M, Whitfield, S. and Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2004) Learned regulation of spatially localized brain activation using real-time fMRI. *Neuroimage* 21(1), 436 - 443.

Christoff, K., Ream, J.M. and Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2004) Neural basis of spontaneous thought processes. *Cortex* 40(4-5), 623 - 630.

Anderson, A.K., **Christoff, K**, Panitz, D., De Rosa, E. and Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2003) Neural correlates of the automatic processing of threat facial signals. *Journal of Neuroscience* 23(13), 5627 - 5633.

Christoff, K., Ream, J.M., Geddes, L.P.T. and Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2003) Evaluating self-generated information: Anterior prefrontal contributions to human cognition. *Behavioral Neuroscience* 117(6), 1161 - 1168.

Anderson, A.K., **Christoff, K**., Stappen, I., Panitz, D., Ghahremani, D.G., Glover, G.H., Gabrieli, J.D.E. and Sobel, N. (2003) Dissociated neural representations of intensity and valence in human olfaction. *Nature Neuroscience* 6(2), 196 - 202.

Christoff, K., Prabhakaran, V., Dorfman, J., Zhao, Z., Kroger, J.K., Holyoak, K.J. and Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2001) Rostrolateral prefrontal cortex involvement in relational integration during reasoning. *Neuroimage* 14(5), 1136 - 1149.

Brett, M., **Christoff, K.,** Cusack, R. (2001) Using the Talairach atlas with the MNI template. *Neuroimage* 13(6), S85.

Christoff, K. and Gabrieli, J.D.E. (2000) The frontopolar cortex and human cognition: Evidence for a rostrocaudal hierarchical organization within the human prefrontal cortex. *Psychobiology* 28(2), 168- 186.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Forrest, D., Burrell, J., **Christoff Hadjiilieva, K**. (Submitted). Meaning Creation in the Stream of Consciousness. In A. Cleary., C. Mills & J. Kam (Eds.), Routledge International Handbook of Memory and Cognition.

Burrell, J; Zamani, A, **Christoff Hadjiilieva, K.** (2025). Neurocognitive dynamics, mental flexibility, and constraints on thought. In A. K. Barbey (Ed.), The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Enhancement and Brain Plasticity. Oxford University Press., United Kingdom

Zamani, A., Mills, C., Girn, M., **Christoff, K**. (2024). A closer look at transitions between the generative and evaluative phases of creative thought. L. Ball & F. Vallee-Tourangeau. Routledge International Handbook of Creative Cognition.: 453-474. Routledge.

Andrews-Hanna, J; **Christoff, K**; O'Connor, M-F. (2020). Dynamic regulation of internal experience. Lane, R; Nadel, L. (editors). The Neuroscience of Enduring Change: The Neural Basis of Talk Therapies.: 89–131. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Dobson, C; **Christoff K**. (2020). Productive mind-wandering in design practice. Preiss, D.D; Cosmelli, D; Kaufman, J.C. (editors). Creativity and the Wandering Mind.: 271-281.Cambridge: Academic Press.

Stan D, **Christoff K**. (2018). The mind wanders with ease: Low motivational intensity is an essential quality of mind-wandering. Fox KCR, Christoff K. Oxford Handbook of Spontaneous Thought.: 47-53. Oxford University Press.

Fox KCR, **Christoff K**. (2018). Introduction: Toward an interdisciplinary science of spontaneous thought. Fox KCR, Christoff K. Oxford Handbook of Spontaneous Thought.: 3-8. Oxford University Press.

Andrews-Hanna, JR, Irving, ZC, Fox, KCR, Spreng, N, **Christoff K**. (2018). The Neuroscience of Spontaneous Thought: An Evolving, Interdisciplinary Field. Fox, KCR, Christoff K. Oxford Handbook of Spontaneous Thought.: 143-163. Oxford University Press.

Fox K.C.R., Girn M, Parro C, **Christoff K**. (2018). Functional neuroimaging of psychedelic experience: An overview of psychological and neural effects and their relevance to research on creativity, daydreaming, and dreaming. Jung RE, Vartanian O. The Cambridge Handbook of the Neuroscience of Creativity.: 92-103. Cambridge University Press, United Kingdom

Mills C, Herrera-Bennett A, Faber M, **Christoff K**. (2018). Why the mind wanders: How spontaneous thought's default variability may support episodic efficiency and semantic optimization. Fox KCR, Christoff K. Oxford Handbook of Spontaneous Thought.: 11-22. Published, Oxford University Press.

Stan D, **Christoff K**. (2018). Potential clinical benefits and risks of spontaneous thought: Unconstrained attention as a way into and a way out of psychological disharmony. Fox KCR, Christoff K. Oxford Handbook of Spontaneous Thought.: 479-491.Oxford University Press.

Mills, C., **Christoff, K**. (2018) Constructed futures. In: Memory. Tortell, P., Turin, M., Young, M. (editors), pp. 97-104, Vancouver: Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies.

Dixon, M.L., Girn, M., & **Christoff, K**. (2017). Hierarchical organization of frontoparietal control networks underlying goal-directed behavior. M., Watanabe. *Prefrontal Cortex as an Executive, Emotional, and Social Brain*.: 133-148. Springer, United States of America

Fox, K.C.R., Kang, Y., Lifshitz, M., & **Christoff, K**. (2016). Increasing cognitive-emotional flexibility with meditation and hypnosis: The cognitive neuroscience of de-automatization. To appear in: Hypnosis and Meditation, A. Raz and M. Lifshitz (editors), Ch. 11, 191-219. New York: Oxford University Press.

Fox, K.C.R., & **Christoff, K**. (2014). Metacognitive facilitation of spontaneous thought processes: When metacognition helps the wandering mind find its way. In: The Cognitive Neuroscience of Metacognition, S.M. Fleming and C.D. Frith (editors); Ch. 13, pp. 293-319. Berlin: Springer.

Christoff, K. (2013). Thinking. In: The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Neuroscience, Vol. 2: The Cutting Edges, K.N. Ochsner and S.M. Kosslyn (editors), Ch. 20, pp. 318-333. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Christoff, K., Gordon, A., & Smith, R. (2011). The role of spontaneous thought in human cognition. In: *Neuroscience of Decision Making* (Eds: O. Vartanian and D. R. Mandel) Psychology Press.

Christoff, K. (2008) Human thought and the lateral prefrontal cortex, In: *Neural Correlates of Thinking* (Eds: E. Kraft, B. Gulyas, and E Pöppel). The Paramenides Foundation Press.

Christoff, K. and Keramatian, K. (2007) "Abstraction of mental representations: Theoretical considerations and neuroscientific evidence." In: *The Neuroscience of Rule-Guided Behavior* (Eds. SA Bunge and J Wallis). Cambridge University Press, 107-126.

Christoff, K. (1999) Complexity and working memory resources: Task characteristics necessitating the executive control of attention. *Perspectives on Cognitive Science*. Vol. 5. New York: New Bulgarian University.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Forrest, D; Wood-Anderson, D; Zamani, A; Burrell, J; Mills, C; Andrews, E; Andrews-Hanna, J; **Christoff Hadjiilieva, K.** (2025) Does research reflect the diversity of mental experience? Poster. 32nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Boston, United States of America

Zamani, A; Forrest, D; Burrell, J; **Christoff Hadjiilieva, K.** (2025) Dynamics of neural recruitment surrounding thought reports during breath-focused meditation. Poster. 32nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive

Neuroscience Society, Boston, United States of America

Wood-Anderson, D; Zamani, A; Forrest, D; Zhu, N; **Christoff Hadjiilieva, K.** (2025) Assessing the dynamic framework of thought with precision fMRI. Poster. 32nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Boston, United States of America

Burrell, J; Machado, A; Baxstrome, K; Kakachery, S; **Christoff Hadjiilieva, K**. (2025) Higher thinking: The influence of cannabis on thought content and dynamics. 32nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Boston, United States of America

Poulos, M; Zamani, A; Pillemer, D; Leichtman, MD; **Christoff Hadjiilieva, K**; Mills, C. (2025) Investigating the Appraisal Structure of Spontaneous Thoughts: Evidence for Differences Among Unexpected Thought, Involuntary Autobiographical Memories, and Ruminative Thought. Poster. Psychonomic Society 63rd Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts, Boston, United States of America

Zamani, A; Forrest, D; Burrell, J; **Christoff, K**. (2023) Neural recruitment surrounding thought reports during meditation in non-expert meditators. Mindfulness Mechanisms & Methods Meeting (M4), Washington University, St. Louis, United States of America

Sheth, S; Ward, L; Dixon, M; Doswell, M; Todd., R; Thompson, E; **Christoff, K**. (2023) Mind in Motion: Tracing Dynamics in the Stream of Thought Through Experience Sampling. Poster. Mindfulness Mechanisms & Methods Meeting (M4), Washington University, St. Louis, United States of America

Zamani, A; Forrest, D; Burrel, J; **Christoff, K**. (2023) Investigating how the brain generates spontaneous thought during meditation. Poster. Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (PURC), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Sheth, S; Ward, L; Dixon, M; Todd., R; Thompson, E; **Christoff, K**. (2023) Experience sampling during fMRI reveals distinct dynamics in the stream of thought. Poster. 30th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, San Fransisco, United States of America

Poulos, MC; Zamani, A; Pillemer, DB; Leichtman, MD; **Christoff, K**; Mills, C. (2022) Utilizing Machine Learning Techniques to Investigate Forms of Spontaneous Thought: Evidence for Differences Among Unexpected Thoughts, Involuntary Autobiographical Memories, and Ruminative Thoughts. Poster. Society for Computation in Psychology, Boston, United States of America

Zamani, A; Reynolds, S; Rauscher, A; Hodges, D; **Christoff, K.** (2022) Burnout and resilience among medical professionals during COVID-19. Poster. 29th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, San Francisco, CA., San Francisco, United States of America

Zamani, A; Reynolds, S; Rauscher, A; Hodges, D; **Christoff, K**. (2022) Burnout and resilience among medical professionals during COVID-19. Poster. 23rd Annual Meeting of NOWCAM, Surrey, Canada

Girn, M., Mills, C., Laycock, E., Ellamil, M., Ward, L., & **Christoff, K**. (2017). Neural dynamics of spontaneous thought: An EEG Study. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (HCI 2017)*. Springer: Berl. International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction 2017

Smith, R., Keramatian, K., Smallwood, J., Schooler, J., Luus, B., & **Christoff, K.** (2006) "Mind-wandering with and without awareness: An fMRI study of spontaneous thought processes". *Cognitive Science Conference Proceedings,* 804 - 809. 28th Annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society.

Kokinov, B.N., **Hadjiilieva, K.**, & Yoveva, M. (1997) "Is a hint always useful in problem solving?". *Cognitive Science Conference Proceedings*. 19th Annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society.

Kokinov, B., **Hadjiilieva**, K., Yoveva, M. (1997). "Explicit vs. implicit hint: Which one is more useful". *Perspectives on cognitive science*. Vol. 3.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS (last 3 years)

(2026) Information-Seeking: Neurons and Networks, Curiosity and Boredom. Winter Conference on Brain Research, Big Sky, Montana, United States of America

(2026) Mind-Wandering, Imagination, Hypnosis, & Creativity. Imaginarium Conference, UC San Diego Centre for Psychedelic Research, San Diego, CA, United States of America

(2025) Spontaneity and Automaticity in Thought in relation to Precision-Defined Default Network Subsystems. Psychonomics Society 66th Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, United States of America

(2025) Spontaneous Thought: Brain, Mind, Society, Law, and Resilience. UBC Allard School of Law, Vancouver, BC, Canada

(2025) What can spontaneous thought teach us about consciousness? Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness (ASSC), Greece

(2025) Distinguishing Between Spontaneity and Automaticity Using the Dynamic Framework of Thought. Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS) 2025 Annual Meeting, United States of America

(2024) The Wandering Brain and Mind. Speaker Cafe, Carnegie Community Centre, Vancouver, BC, Canada

(2024) What is Mind Wandering? UBC Psychology Cognitive Area Workshop, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

(2024) Agency through uterine smooth muscle contractions. UBC Neurophenomenology workshop, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

(2024) How to think about thinking: Lessons from the neuroscience of spontaneous thought. Summer School in Cognitive Science, New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria [Online].

(2024) Spontaneous cognition and the Dynamic framework of thought. Workshop: Music-Evoked Imagining Workshop, Princeton NJ, United States of America

(2024) Creative thinking from the perspective of the Dynamic Framework of Thought. Bridging Fields in Creativity Research, Workshop, Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies, Oppenheim, Germany

(2024) Spontaneous Thought: Theoretical and Clinical Implications. New Center for Psychoanalysis, (via Zoom), Los Angeles, United States of America

(2023) Mind-wandering as spontaneous thought: The dynamic framework of thought. Mindfulness Mechanisms & Methods Meeting, Washington University, St. Louis, United States of America

(2023) Mind-wandering, spontaneous thought, and the moral dilemma in our field. Current Issues in Mind-Wandering Research: Theoretical Advances and New Empirical Findings, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany

(2023) What can spontaneous thought teach us about the mind and its consciousness? New Frontiers in Consciousness, Bethesda, Maryland, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

(2023) Spontaneous thought as an act of self-exploration: A view from the Dynamic Framework of Thought. Curiosity, Creativity and Complexity Conference Columbia University & Zuckerman Institute, New York, United States of America

(2023) Hippocampally-derived sources of conscious experience. UBC Neurophenomenology workshop, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

(2023) Tapping into daydreaming. UBC Alumni Webinar, University of British Columbia, Vancouver,

Canada

(2023) Decolonizing the mind through spontaneous thought. The New Daydream Imaginary Symposium: On the Ethico-Aesthetics of Spontaneous Thought, Simon Fraser University, School of the Contemporary Arts, Vancouver, Canada

(2023) The Dynamic Framework of Thought: Large-scale brain network interactions underlying resilience and mental health. Brain Resilience Workshop, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada [Online].

(2023) Sampling the dynamic aspects of mental experience. UBC Neurophenomenology workshop, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada