

*Curriculum Vitae, Pascal Robert **BOYER***

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*Current position*

Henry Luce Professor of Individual and Collective Memory,  
College of Arts & Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis.

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*Previous positions*

Oct 99-Oct '00 Director of Research (Directeur de Recherche), Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Lyon, France

Oct '99-Oct '00 Visiting Fellow, Centre for Evolutionary Psychology, University of California, Santa Barbara. (Visit sponsored by UCSB-CNRS exchange programme).

Oct '93-Oct '99. Senior Researcher (Chargé de recherche), Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Lyon [France].

1995-'96 Fellow, Centre for Advanced Study, Stanford.

1990-'93 Senior Research Fellow, King's College Cambridge

1986-'90 Junior Research Fellow in Anthropology, King's College Cambridge

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*Education*

1983 Doctorat d'Ethnologie, Université de Paris-Nanterre

1979 Maitrise d'Ethnologie, Université de Paris-Nanterre

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***Main research projects***

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- 2000-present      Detection of animacy. Cues that distinguish agents from other objects:  
                          *Behavioral experiments*: low-level perceptual cues of animacy.  
                          *Developmental aspects*: neonate and early childhood perception.  
                          *Neural correlates*: neural structures engaged in agent-detection.
- 2000-present      Perception and cognition of number:  
                          *Behavioral experiments*: Incidental encoding, priming for number.  
                          *Developmental aspects*: Pre-verbal magnitude estimation in children
- 1995-present      Cross-cultural experimental research  
                          Recall for (and inferences from) novel and odd conceptual associations.  
                          Memory processes engaged in supernatural and religious concepts
- 1995-present      Experimental research on child development:  
                          Development of memory and cultural knowledge in urban and village contexts.
- 1993-2000        Cross-cultural aspects of religious concepts  
                          Cognitive processes engaged in acquisition / transmission  
                          Cross-cultural comparison of religious systems
- 1998 [April]      Libreville, Gabon. Experimental research on ontological categories and domain-specific inferences.
- 1997 [Dec.]      Kathmandu, Nepal. Experimental research on memory and cultural concepts with Buddhist monks.
- 1988                Convener of an international conference, “The Representation of Complex Cultural Categories and the Contribution of Cognitive Anthropology”, King's College Cambridge, 22-24 March 1988.
- 1980-'93          Anthropological research on memory and transmission of religious concepts through oral literature.
- 1985 [Jan-Mar]    Fieldwork in Cameroon, Fang oral literature.
- 1981 [Jan-Dec.]   Fieldwork in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, on Fang oral literature.
- 1978-79          Research internship, C.N.R.S. (ERA 246) research team on “Sahelian Languages and Literature”.

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*Main Grants and Research Awards*

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- 2000-2002      Research grant from Cognitique Programme, Ministry of Research, France :  
in collab. with Dr Jean Decety (PI), “The Perception of Causation: Behavioral and Functional Anatomy Investigations”.
- 2000-2002      Grant from “Emergence” Programme, Région Rhône-Alpes: in collab. with  
Dr Nathalie Bedoin (PI), “Entry-level and Domain-level Concepts in  
Cognitive Development and DAT (Alzheimer)”.
- Oct '99-Oct '00      CNRS (Sciences Humaines)-UC Santa Barbara Exchange programme, grant  
for six-month visit to Centre for Evolutionary Psychology.
- 1998-2000      Research Grant from the “Aide a Projets Nouveaux” Programme of the  
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, for the “Ontological  
Categories in Development, Language and Culture” project.
- 1997-'99      Research Grant from the “Programme Cognisciences”, Ministry of Tech-  
nology, France, for a two year experimental project on “Intuitive On-  
tology in Cultural Acquisition”.
- 1995-'96      Fellowship, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stan-  
ford, Grant # 8900078 from the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur  
Foundation.
- 1990-'94      Special grant from King's College Research Centre, King's College Cam-  
bridge: “Acquisition of Religious Knowledge” project.
- 1989-'91      Member of the *Dialogue and Discourse* international network, ESPRIT “Basic  
Research in Information Technology” programme of the European  
Community.
- 1984-'86      Two-year Research Award, Fyssen Foundation, Paris.  
Two-year Benefactors' scholarship, St John's College Cambridge.
- 1984      Research award, British Academy, London.  
Visitor's Grant, British Council, Cambridge.

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*Teaching*


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- 2000-present      College of Arts and Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis.  
                          Graduate course (Psychology): Topics in Cognitive Development.  
                          Undergraduate course (Psychology): Autobiographical Memory.  
                          Undergraduate course (Psychology): Intro to Study of the Mind-Brain  
                          Undergraduate course (Anthropology): Cognition and Culture.
- 1995-pres.        Universite Lumiere, Lyons, France: PhD supervision.
- 1995-1999        Universite Lumiere, Lyons, France: M.A. supervision.
- 1995-1999        Universite Lumiere, Lyon, Cognitive Science Programme: M.A. Seminar:  
                          “Domain Specificity in Conceptual Development”, PhD Seminar:  
                          “Categorization and Specificity in Development and Pathology”.
- 1998                Ecole Normale Supérieure de Libreville, Gabon. Graduate Course: Cogni-  
                          tion and Culture.
- 1986-1993        King's College Cambridge, Undergraduate supervision.
- 1992                Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris: Graduate seminar  
                          “Theories of Tradition”.
- 1991                University of California, San Diego: 1. Undergraduate course “Literacy and  
                          oral tradition in a cognitive perspective”; 2. Graduate course “Psychol-  
                          ogy of Religion”.
- 1990                University of Cambridge, Dept of Anthropology: Undergraduate lecture  
                          courses, “Cognitive Anthropology and Religious Symbolism”, “Symbol-  
                          ism and Cognition”, “Literacy and oral tradition”.

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*Publications*


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*Submitted for publication*

- [52] Blakemore, S.-J., Boyer, P., Pachot-Clouard, M., Meltzoff, A. N., & Decety, J. (2001). Detection of contingency and animacy in the human brain, submitted to *Nature Neuroscience*.  
*Journal article*

*Published*

- [49b] Boyer, P. (2002). *Godtdienst verklaart* [Dutch translation of [49]], Amsterdam: De bezijge Bij.
- [51] Blakemore, S.-J., Fonlupt, P., Pachot-Clouard, M., Darmon, C., Boyer, P., Meltzoff, A. N., Segebarth, C., & Decety, J. (2001). How the brain perceives causality: An event-related fMRI study. *Neuroreport: For Rapid Communication of Neuro-science Research*, **12**(17), 3741-3746.  
*Journal article*
- [50] Boyer, P., & Ramble, C. (2001). Cognitive Templates for Religious Concepts: Cross-cultural Evidence for Recall of Counter-Intuitive Representations. *Cognitive Science*, **25**, 535-564.  
*Journal article*
- [49a] Boyer, P. (2001). *Et l'homme créa les dieux* [Translation of [49] by C. Chouard], Paris: Editions Robert Laffont.
- [49] Boyer, P. (2001). *Religion Explained. The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Thought*, London: Random House, New York: Basic Books, 404pp.  
*Book*
- [48] Boyer, P., Bedoin, N. & Honoré, S., (2001). Relative contributions from kind- and domain-concepts to inferences concerning unfamiliar exemplars, *Cognitive Development* **15**: 457-479.  
*Journal article*
- [47] Boyer, P. (2001) Cultural Inheritance Tracks and Cognitive Predispositions: The Example of Religious Concepts, in H. Whitehouse (Ed.), *The Debated Mind: Evolutionary Psychology and Ethnography*, Oxford: Berg, pp. 57-89.  
*Book chapter*
- [47a] Boyer, P. (2000). Input culturale e predisposizioni nei concetti religiosi, *Etnosistemi. Processi e dinamiche culturali*, **7**: 15-27. (Italian translation of [47])  
*Journal article*
- [46] Boyer, P. (2000). Natural Epistemology or Evolved Metaphysics? Developmental Evidence for Early-Developed, Intuitive, Category-Specific, Incomplete, and Stubborn Metaphysical Presumptions, *Philosophical Psychology*, **13**: 277-297.  
*Journal article*

- [45] Boyer, P., (2000). Functional Origins of Religious Concepts: Conceptual and Strategic Selection in Evolved Minds [Malinowski Lecture 1999], *Journal article* *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, **6**: 195-214.
- [44] Boyer, P. (2000). Evolution of the modern mind and the origins of culture: religious concepts as a limiting case, in Carruthers, P. & Chamberlain, A. (Eds.), *Evolution and the Human Mind: Modularity, Language and Meta-Cognition*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp 93-112. *Book chapter*
- [43] Heckhausen, J., & Boyer, P. (2000). Evolutionary Psychology and the Behavioral Sciences: Introductory Notes. *Journal article* *American Behavioral Scientist* [Special Issue: Evolutionary Psychology], **43**: 917-924.
- [42] Boyer, P. (2000). Evolutionary Psychology and Cultural Transmission. *Journal article* *American Behavioral Scientist*, **43**: 987-1000.
- [41] Boyer, P. & Walker, S.J. (2000). Intuitive Ontology and Cultural Input in the Acquisition of Religious Concepts, in Rosengren, K., Johnson, C. & Harris, P. (Eds.), *Imagining the Impossible: Magical, Scientific and Religious Thinking in Children*, New York: C.U.P., pp. 130-156. *Book chapter*
- [40] Boyer, P. (1999). Human Cognition and Evolution, in Moore, H. (Ed.), *Anthropological Theory Today*, Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 206-233. *Book chapter*
- [39] Boyer, P. (1999). Cultural Evolution, in Keil, F. & Wilson, R. (Eds.), *The M.I.T. Encyclopedia of the Cognitive Sciences*, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, pp. 209-211. *Short article*
- [38] Boyer, P. (1999). Cultural Symbolism, in Keil, F. & Wilson, R. (Eds.), *The M.I.T. Encyclopedia of the Cognitive Sciences*, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, pp. 215-216. *Short article*
- [37] Boyer, P. (1999). Cognitive Aspects of Religious Ontologies: How Brain Processes Constrain Religious Concepts, in Alh ack, T. (Ed.), *Approaching Religion*, Åbo-Turku, Finland: Donner Institute. *Book chapter*
- [36] Boyer, P. (1998). If “tracking” is category-specific a “common structure” may be redundant, [commentary on R. Millikan’s article], *Short article* *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, **21**: 67-68.
- [35] Boyer, P. (1998). Cultural Transmission with an Evolved Intuitive Ontology: Domain-Specific Cognitive Tracks of Inheritance [commentary on S. Atran’s article], *Short article* *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, **21**: 570-571.
- [34] Boyer, P. (1998). Comments on Walter Burkert’s *Creation of the Sacred, Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*, *Short article* *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*, **10**: 88-92.

- [33] Boyer, P., (1998). Cognitive Tracks of Cultural Inheritance: How Evolved Intuitive Ontology Governs Cultural Transmission, *American Anthropologist*, **100**: 876-889, December 1998.  
*Journal article*
- [32] Boyer, P. (1997). Further Distinctions between Magic, Reality, Religion and Fiction, *Child Development* **68**: 1012-1014.  
*Short article*
- [31] Boyer, P. (1997). Recurrence without transmission: The Intuitive Background of Religious Ontologies, in M. Mauzé [Ed.], *Present is Past: Some Uses of Tradition in Native Societies*, Lanham, MD: University Press of America.  
*Book chapter*
- [30] Boyer, P. (1996). Cognitive limits to conceptual relativity: The limiting-case of religious categories, in J. Gumperz & S. Levinson (Eds.), *Rethinking Linguistic Relativity*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.  
*Book chapter*
- [29] Boyer, P. (1996). What makes anthropomorphism natural: Intuitive Ontology and Cultural Representations, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute N.S.*, **2**:1-15.  
*Journal article*
- [28] Boyer, P. (1996). Comments on Geoffrey White's *Identity Through History*, *Pacific Studies*, **19**: 156-159.  
*Short article*
- [27] Boyer, P. (1996). Religion as an impure subject. Cognitive order in religious representation, *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* **8**: 201-213.  
*Journal article*
- [26] Boyer, P. (1995). Causal Understandings in Cultural Representations: Cognitive Constraints on Inferences from Cultural Input, in Sperber, D., Premack, D. & James-Premack, A. (Eds.), *Causal Cognition: A Multidisciplinary Debate*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.  
*Book chapter*
- [25] Boyer, P. (1995). L'objet des croyances: Un catalogue bien limité, *Sciences Humaines* **53**: 40-44.  
*Journal article*
- [24] Boyer, P. (1995). Ceteris Paribus (All Else Being Equal...), in Brockman, J. & Matson, K. (Eds.), *How Things Are. A Science Tool-kit for the Mind*, New York, NY: William Morrow.  
*Book chapter*
- [23] Boyer, P. (1994). *The Naturalness of Religious Ideas. A Cognitive Theory of Religion*, Berkeley-Los Angeles: University of California Press. [French translation (1997) *La Religion Comme Phénomène Naturel*, translated by Christian Cler, Paris: Editions Bayard]  
*Book*

- [22] Boyer, P. (1994). Cognitive Constraints on Cultural Representations: Natural Ontologies and Religious Ideas, in L. Hirschfeld & S. Gelman (Eds.), *Mapping the Mind: Domain Specificity in Culture and Cognition*, New York: Cambridge University Press.  
*Book chapter*
- [21] Boyer, P. (1993). *Cognitive Aspects of Religious Symbolism*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.  
*Edited collection*
- [20] Boyer, P. (1993). Cognitive Aspects of Religious Symbolism, in Boyer, P. (Ed.), *Cognitive Aspects of Religious Symbolism*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [pp.1-48].  
*Book chapter*
- [19] Boyer, P. (1993). Symbolism, *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, London: Routledge, [pp. 861-862].  
*Short article*
- [18] Boyer, P. (1993). Pseudo-Natural Kinds, in Boyer, P. (Ed.), *Cognitive Aspects of Religious Symbolism*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 121-141.  
*Book chapter*
- [17] Boyer, P. (1992). Explaining Religious Representations: Outline of a Cognitive Approach to Religion, *Numen* **39**: 27-58.  
*Journal article*
- [16] Boyer, P. (1992). Causal Thinking and Its Anthropological Misrepresentation, *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, **22**: 187-213.  
*Journal article*
- [15] Boyer, P. (1990). Pourquoi les Pygmées n'ont pas de culture *Gradhiva* (Paris) **7**: 3-11.  
*Journal article*
- [14] Boyer, P. (1990). *Tradition as Truth and Communication. A Cognitive Description of Traditional Discourse*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.  
*Book*
- [13] Boyer, P. (1989). Tradition sans transmission. L'acquisition des concepts traditionnels, in R.G. Cardona (ed.), *La trasmissione del sapere. Aspetti linguistici e antropologici*, Rome: Bagatto Libri, pp. 45-72.  
*Book chapter*
- [12] Boyer, P. (1989). L'étoffe et la doublure des héros. Aspects des couples épiques, in R. Hamayon (ed.), *Singularités*, Paris: Librairie Plon, pp. 85-98.  
*Book chapter*
- [11] Boyer, P. (1988). *Barricades Mystérieuses et Pièges à Pensée. Analyse du mvet ekang*, Paris: Société d'Ethnologie.  
*Book*
- [10] Boyer, P. (1987). Aspects pragmatiques de l'épopée mvet ekang, in J. Fernandez-Vest (ed.), *Kalevala et traditions orales du monde*, Paris: C.N.R.S., pp. 441-449.  
*Book chapter*

- [9] Boyer, P. (1987). The Stuff Traditions Are Made Of, *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* **17**: 49-65.  
*Journal article*
- [8] Boyer, P. (1986). The “empty” concepts of traditional thinking, *Man, Journal of the Royal Anthr. Institute* **21**: 50-64.  
*Journal article*
- [7] Boyer, P. (1986). Tradition et Vérité, *L'Homme, Revue Française d'Anthropologie* **26**: 309-329.  
*Journal article*
- [6] Boyer, P. (1986). Tradition Orale, *Encyclopaedia Universalis*, **18**:335-337.  
*Short article*
- [5] Boyer, P. (1984). La tradition comme genre énonciatif, *Poétique* **58**: 55-72.  
*Journal article*
- [4] Boyer, P. (1982). Récit épique et tradition, *L'Homme, Revue Française d'Anthropologie* **22**: 5-34.  
*Journal article*
- [3] Boyer, P. (1982). Le Status des forgerons et ses justifications symboliques, *Africa* **53**: 44-63.  
*Journal article*
- [2] Boyer, P. (1982). *Nouvelles Recherches sur le Status des Forgerons d'Afrique Noire*, Paris, Institut d'Ethnologie, 96pp. [micro-edition of MA dissertation].  
*Dissertation*
- [1] Boyer, P. (1980) Les Figures du Savoir Initiatique, *Journal des Africanistes* **50**: 31-57.  
*Journal article*

#### *Some Communications & Invited Lectures*

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- 2001 [April] *Precis of “Religion Explained”*, Dartmouth College, Dept of Religion.
- 2001 [March] *Cultural concepts: Constraints on transmission*, Rutgers University Cognitive Science Seminar.
- 2000 [April] *Evolved dispositions and cultural transmission: morality, exchange and religious representations*, Dept of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- 1999 [Oct] *Concepts of supernatural agency*, Dept of Anthropology, Washington University, St Louis.
- 1999 [Aug] *Evolved imagination and supernatural concepts*. Conference on “Imagination and the Adapted Mind”, Santa Barbara, California.
- 1999 [June] *Does memory explain religious concepts?* University of Turku Workshop on Religion and Cognition, Seili, Finland.

- 1999 [March] *Functional Origins of Religious Concepts*, Bronislaw Malinowski Memorial Lecture, London School of Economics.
- 1999 [Jan] *Evolution and Dispositions for Cultural Transmission*, Center for Evolutionary Psychology, U. of California, Sta Barbara.
- 1999 [Jan] *Cognitive Dispositions and Dynamics of Religion*, Dept of Anthropology, U. of California, San Diego.
- 1999 [Jan] *Religious Concepts and Cognitive Development*, Emory Cognition Project, Emory University.
- 1997 [Dec] *Semiotic and Cognitive Accounts of Magic*, Workshop on Magic and Cognition, University of Aarhus, Denmark.
- 1997 [Nov] *Experimental Studies of Religious Ontology*, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- 1997 [Nov] *Religious and Non-religious Ontologies in Cross-Cultural Perspective*, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
- 1997 [Aug.] *Brain Processes and the Explanation of Religious Concepts: Experimental Results* [invited address], International Symposium on Theory in the Study of Religion, Donner Institute, Abo-Turku (Finland)
- 1997 [June]. *Language, Conceptual Structure and Cultural Evolution*, [invited lecture]. Hang Seng Centre for Cognitive Studies, Sheffield University, G.B.
- 1997 [March] *Cultural Evolution: The contribution of experimental studies of concept-acquisition*, [invited lecture]. Hang Seng Centre for Cognitive Studies, Sheffield University, G.B.
- 1996 [April] *Intuitive Ontologies and their Cultural Effects*, Dept of Anthropology, University of California, San Diego.
- 1996 [Feb.] *Conceptual Development and Cultural Representations*, Cognitive Science Program, University of California, Berkeley.
- 1996 [April] *Semantic Modularity and Domain-specificity*, Dept of Psychology, Stanford University.
- 1995 [July] *Adapted Mind, Evolved Ontology and Acquired Culture*, Plenary address, Human Behaviour and Evolution Society annual meeting, Santa Barbara, California.
- 1995 [Jun] *Evolved Ontology and Language Acquisition*, Workshop on Language Prehistory, University of California, Berkeley
- 1995 [Jun] *Intuitive Ontology in Cognition and Culture*, Invited Plenary Lecture, Society for Philosophy and Psychology annual meeting, Long Island, NY.
- 1995 [Mar] *A Cognitive Catalogue of Religious Categories*, PhD Seminar, Dept of Religion, Western Michigan University.
- 1994 [Dec] *Cognitive Limits to Religious Ontologies*, Faculty Seminar, Emory Cognition Project, Emory University.
- 1994 [Feb] *Culture as Mental Representations*, Culture Theory Seminar, University of Cambridge.

- 1993 [Nov] *Intuitive Ontologies and Religious Categories*, Dept of Anthropology, University of Manchester.
- 1993 [Mar] *Cognitive Constraints on the Transmission of Religion*, Dept of Anthropology, University of Cambridge.
- 1993 [Mar] *Religion and the Mind*, Mircea Eliade Annual Lectures, Dept of Religion, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.
- 1993 [Mar] *Epistemic states and causal understandings*, Fyssen Symposium, "Causal Understandings in Cognition and Culture", Fyssen Foundation, Paris.
- 1992 [Mar] *Causal Thinking and its Anthropological Misinterpretation*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 1991 [May] *Universal Features of Intuitive Knowledge and the Variability of Religious Ideas*, Wenner-Gren Foundation Conference on "Rethinking Linguistic Relativity", Jamaica.
- 1990 [June] *The identification of ritual actions: communicative and non-communicative aspects*, Conference on "Bateson and Naven revisited", Collège de France, Paris.
- 1990 [Oct.] *Conceptual Structures Outside Core Knowledge: Cognitive Salience in Religious Representations*, Workshop on "Cultural Knowledge and Domain Specificity", Dept of Psychology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 1989 [May] *Mystical categories and their cognitive underpinnings* Conference on "The non-representational background: psychological and anthropological perspectives", Dept of Psychology, University of Florence.
- 1989 [Nov.] *Reported Speech and Traditional Authority*, Annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C..