

Professor Adele Diamond

Professor of Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, Department of Psychiatry, University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver

Adele Diamond is the Canada Research Chair Professor of Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. She is a member of the Royal Society of Canada and was recently recognized as one of the 15 most influential neuroscientists in the world today. Prof. Diamond is at the forefront of research on 'executive functions' and on the brain's prefrontal cortex on which they depend. Executive functions include 'thinking outside the box' (cognitive flexibility), mentally relating ideas and facts (working memory), and giving considered responses rather than impulsive ones, resisting temptations and staying focused (inhibitory control, including selective attention).

Prof. Diamond has made discoveries that have improved treatment for two different medical disorders and



discoveries that have impacted education, improving the lives of millions of children. Her work has shown that executive functions can be improved at any age, even in the very young. In looking for practical ways to help children develop healthy executive functions, and thus help more children thrive, Prof. Diamond takes a markedly different perspective from mainstream education in hypothesizing that focusing exclusively on training cognitive skills is less efficient, and ultimately less successful, than also addressing students' social, emotional, and physical needs. She shows why besides training the skills of interest, it's important to support those skills by lessening things that impair them (like stress or loneliness) and enhancing things that support them (such as joy and good health).

Adele Diamond was educated at Swarthmore (B.A., Phi Beta Kappa), Harvard (Ph.D.), and Yale Medical School (postdoc). Her many awards include an honorary doctorate (Honoris Causa) from Ben-Gurion University, the Bronfenbrenner Award for Lifetime Contributions to Developmental Psychology in the Service of Science and Society, being named a "Woman of Distinction" by the YWCA, and being named one of the "2000 Outstanding Women of the 20th Century."

Professor Pat McGorry

Executive Director of Orygen, Professor of Youth Mental Health at The University of Melbourne, and a Director of the Board of the National Youth Mental Health Foundation (headspace). Australian of the Year 2010.

Professor Patrick McGorry is the Executive Director of Orygen, Professor of Youth Mental Health at The University of Melbourne, and a Director of the Board of the National Youth Mental Health Foundation (headspace). He is a world-leading researcher in the area of early psychosis and youth mental health, and has a strong interest in promoting the mental health of the homeless, refugees and asylum seekers.

His work has played a critical role in the development of safe, effective treatments and innovative research into the needs of young people with emerging mental disorders, notably psychotic and severe mood disorders. He has



also played a major part in the transformational reform of mental health services to better serve the needs of vulnerable young people.

Professor McGorry was a key architect of the headspace model and has been successful in advocating with colleagues for its national expansion. He has successfully advocated for the establishment of a national early psychosis programme based on the Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre model. He is frequently asked to advise on youth mental health policy both nationally and internationally.

Professor McGorry has published extensively in the specialist literature, and serves as Editor-in-Chief of Early Intervention in Psychiatry. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, the current President of the Society for Mental Health Research, and the President of the Schizophrenia International Research Society.

Dr Victoria Rawlings

Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney

Victoria Rawlings teaches in the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University of Sydney, lecturing and tutoring students on gender, sexuality, pedagogy and research methods. Her doctorate investigated the impact of gender and sexuality on school



violence, policy and social structures in high schools. Following her postgraduate study, she worked in the UK for two years on a national project investigating LGBTQ youth self-harm and suicide. She continues to write research the intersections between curriculum, schooling, gender and sexuality and has a new book that (according to her) is definitely worth purchasing or requesting for your library: Gender regulation, violence and social hierarchies in school: 'Sluts', 'Gays' and 'Scrubs'.

Dr Angela Dixon

Clinical Research Director and Senior Clinical Psychologist at the Department of Psychological Medicine, Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Dr. Angela Dixon is Clinical Research Director and Senior Clinical Psychologist at the Department of Psychological Medicine, Children's Hospital at Westmead. Angela has worked with emotionally troubled children and adolescents in a variety of positions, both in Australia and the USA, for the past 25 years. Angela began her career working with street kids in inner-city Melbourne, and has since worked with a variety of at-risk populations including juvenile offenders, teen parents, and youth with complex mental health needs. In her current

role she co-ordinates the Psychological Medicine Child Traumatic Stress Clinic, and continues to teach on child and adolescent mental health to both academic and professional audiences. Her special interests are anxiety disorders, self-harm, trauma and PTSD in adolescents.

Professor Fiona Brooks

Professor of Public Health, University of Technology Sydney

Dr Barbara Spears

Faculty of Education, University of South Australia

Jennifer Coen,

Clinical Mental Health Social Worker and Consultant, Sydney Catholic Schools