

PROPOSITIONS

PhD thesis

Shaping the Brain

1. Genetic burden for late-life neurodegenerative disease is unlikely to play a role in early-life cognition and brain structure. [This thesis]
2. Blood pressure associates with cognition across the lifespan, and the shape and strength of the association change with age. [This thesis]
3. High levels of blood pressure during early adulthood associate with more extensive white matter lesions later in life. [This thesis]
4. Adverse childhood experiences accelerate brain maturation during school-age and adolescence. [This thesis]
5. Late-life cognitive and brain reserve play a substantially larger role in the incidence of dementia than early-life reserve. [This thesis]
6. The experience of consciousness itself – irrespective of external stimuli and memory – occurs in the past, and at any point in time the brain is processing multiple time points of consciousness.
7. The global quality of life and life expectancy in the year 2100 would both improve if all funding that supports research on late-life conditions was reinvested into climate change prevention and adaptation efforts.
8. Depression and burnout are prevalent among PhD candidates. Increasing access to mental health care is not sufficient; fundamental changes to the system are needed.
9. *“Everything is everywhere, but the environment selects.”* (Lourens Baas Becking, translated)
10. *“Whenever there is a simple error that most laymen fall for, there is always a slightly more sophisticated version of the same problem that experts fall for.”* (Amos Tversky)
11. *“As for many intellectually curious and spiritually active people, my years when business was no longer at the forefront were even more vibrant and fruitful.”* (France Pibernik, translated)

Sander Lamballais

January 25th 2022