

COGRIC PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Cole, Dr Jonathan

Honorary Senior Lecturer in Clinical
Neurosciences, University of Southampton
Professor - University of Bournemouth
Consultant in Clinical Neurophysiology -
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Area of specialization:

My academic research has focused on the effects of sensory deafferentation and motor control, largely with a subject, IW, who has a large fibre sensory neuropathy, leaving him without touch or movement/position sense below the neck, but without a motor neuropathy. In addition to a number of papers in neurophysiology and cognitive science, this work is the subject of a number of collaborations, including ones at The National Hospital/ UCL, Aston University, the Max Planck Institute in Munich and Professor David McNeill's group in Chicago. I have recently been involved in a project investigating virtual agency and its role in reducing phantom limb pain.

In addition to these neurophysiological and cognitive neuroscientific experiments, I also believe that to understand what it is like to live with neurological impairment an empathetic, neurophenomenological approach to the lived experience of others is required. This resulted in my writing a biography of IW (Pride and a Daily Marathon, MIT Press, 1995). I have also written on the relation between self and face revealed by facial difference (About Face, MIT Press, 1998) which led to my becoming a member of the advisory council of Changing Faces, the UK charity involved in support for those with facial disfigurement. My most recent book, on the experience of living without movement or sensation below the neck, 'Still Lives,' with an enthusiastic endorsement from Christopher Reeve, was published in 2004 by MIT Press.

This narrative, biographical approach has also led to collaborations with philosophers interested in embodiment, and how neurological impairment affects one's perception of self. My latest book project, 'Inside Moebius,' is on the effects of living with facial immobility and is being written with Henrietta Spalding who lives with Moebius Syndrome.

I am also President of the British Society for Clinical Neurophysiology and Chair and Convener of the International Congress in Clinical Neurophysiology, Edinburgh, September, 2006.

Background and interests:

Jonathan Cole was educated at Brasenose College Oxford, where he read physiological sciences and then did research in neurophysiology, and The Middlesex Hospital, London, qualifying in medicine in 1977. As a medical student he spent several weeks with Oliver Sacks in New York City. He then worked at The Brompton and The Whittington Hospitals in London, passing MRCP in 1981, (FRCP 1988). He returned to the University Laboratory of Physiology, Oxford where he received his doctorate in 1984 before moving to Southampton, initially as a research fellow in pain, before training as a clinical neurophysiologist. He is a consultant at Poole and Salisbury Hospitals.

He has remained active in research and has collaborated with a number of labs in the UK, Europe and the US, leading to over 90 invited lectures at home and abroad, 60 peer reviewed papers and over 200 publications in all. His main research at present is in Bournemouth University investigating the use of virtual re-embodiment as a treatment for phantom limb pain.

Contact information

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