

# Rodney Trent Wilson, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology, Mississippi State University  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist/Neuropsychologist  
Mississippi Lic. # Psy54949 - Alabama Lic. #1972

## ***CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES***

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<b>Mississippi State University</b> <i>Associate Professor of Psychology, Tenured</i>	August 2013 - present
<b>Emory University School of Medicine</b> <i>Affiliate Researcher, Dept. of Neurology</i>	June 2015 - present
<b>Rush Foundation Hospital</b> <i>Licensed Clinical Psychologist</i>	February 2016 – present
<b>Weems Community Mental Health Center</b> <i>Licensed Clinical Psychologist</i>	August 2013 - present

### *Teaching Interests:*

Clinical Psychology; Clinical Neuropsychology; Philosophical Psychology; Psychology of Religion; Cognitive Science and Religion; Psychotherapy; Abnormal Psychology; Theories of Personality; Phenomenological Psychology; Ecological Psychology; Experimental Methods (Qualitative & Quantitative)

### *Clinical Interests:*

Clinical and Neuropsychological Assessment; Mental health needs of adults, teens, and children; Underserved populations; Group psychotherapy; Personality Assessment

### *Research Interests:*

Consciousness; Neuropsychology; Brain Plasticity; Psychology of Place; Religion and Constructive Communities; Ecological Psychology; Psychoanalytic Psychology; Community Psychology; Social Cognition; Social Neuroscience

*Dissertation Topic:* “Verbal and Nonverbal Memory in Hemispherectomy: Lateralization Effects”

## ***EDUCATION***

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<b>Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology</b> <i>Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, Pasadena, CA</i>	August 2013
<b>Master of Arts in Theology</b> <i>Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA</i>	June 2012
<b>Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology</b> <i>Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, Pasadena, CA</i>	June 2009
<b>Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies/Counseling</b> <i>Southeastern Bible College/UAB</i> <i>Magna cum Laude</i>	May 2007

## ***TEACHING EXPERIENCE***

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**Division of Arts & Science, Mississippi State University, Meridian, MS**

*Assistant Professor of Psychology*

*August 2013-present*

*Mind, Matter, & Consciousness* – A cross-discipline special topics course co-taught with Dr. Johnson (MSU, Dept. of Philosophy). the course examined consciousness from both a philosophical perspective and a scientific—mainly psychological and neuropsychological—perspective. Topics included, (a) the precise features of consciousness and whether or not it can, in principle, be explained scientifically, (b) empirical evidence from the study of consciousness, and (c) what a theory of consciousness might look like.

*Neuropsychology* – A senior level seminar (**new offering**) providing an introduction to neuropsychology, the study of brain-behavior relationships. The goal of this course is to provide a background for students interested in either clinical neuropsychology or research in the areas of clinical/cognitive neuropsychology, neurosciences, or medicine.

*Language & Thought* – A senior level seminar looking into the nature of language and thought, including neurocognitive aspects of language, the structure of language and grammar influences on day to day life, and the awareness of cultural, social, emotional, and economic factors influencing language behavior.

*Clinical Psychology* – Course included a survey of the historical development of clinical psychology, the introduction of the DSM, ICD, and PDM, and an overview of conceptual models of psychopathology and treatment.

*Human Sexuality* – Course content included overview of sexuality, gender, procreation, and psychopathology as it relates to sexuality. Current and historical trends were discussed, including the LGBT community, contraception, abortion, and sexuality across the lifespan.

*Forensic Psychology* - Course included an overview of the history of forensic studies, psychopathology, police psychology, witness psychology, victimology, psychological assessment as applied to forensic cases and past and current trends in psychological research concerning forensic psychology. The course also covered working as a psychologist within the legal, law, and protective service systems.

*Health Psychology* - Course included an overview of the history regarding concepts of health and wellness, from both an Eastern and Western ideological view. Discussed the interaction of psychology and health behaviors, awareness of cultural, social, emotional, and economic factors known to influence health and human behavior, health across the lifespan, and historical and current research in the area of health psychology.

*Experimental Psychology* - Course included encouraging curiosity and engagement with the world through the use of the scientific method. Applied research was carried out by the students, including observation, measurement, and statistical analysis. Ethics in research, contributing to the scientific community/literature, historical milestones, and examples of research by guest lecturers were included throughout the course.

*Social Psychology* - Course included introduction to the concepts of attitude change, social influence, conformity, compliance, self-esteem, perception and attribution, prejudice, bias, and

social cognition. Historical and current trends were discussed, along with current theoretical and empirical research in the area of social neuroscience, economics, politics, and education.

Biological Psychology/Neuroanatomy - Course included an overview of anatomy and neuroanatomy. Students were introduced to principles of human development, cognitive development, and pathology. Historical and current research in the area of cognitive processes/constructs (e.g. executive function and language), imaging techniques, and social neuroscience was also included.

Careers Seminar – Seminar included an overview of the many opportunities available to students of psychology in the areas of education, neuropsychology, sports psychology, I/O psychology, among other sub-fields of psychology. An overview of specialized degrees, diplomat status, and honors in the field were also provided.

Psychology of Religion - Course included historical and current theoretical, philosophical, and empirical contributions to religion, spirituality, and meaning. Overviews of psychology, religion, theology, anthropology, philosophy, neuroscience, and literature were discussed.

Advanced Research Methods – A senior level seminar designed to provide advanced research training to qualifying students currently involved in research. Included an overview of philosophy of science, study design methodology, statistical analysis, and qualitative data analysis.

Environmental Psychology – This course is designed to familiarize students to the principles of ecological psychology and to the fundamentals of the interrelationship between humans and the physical environment.

Personality Theory – Course designed to introduce students to personality theory and to distinguish personality characteristics from multiple theoretical approaches, including biological, cognitive, behavioral, humanistic, social, development, and psychoanalytic. This included an introduction to the scientific literature, peer reviewed journals, as well as the methods commonly used to attain these resources, as it relates to personality psychology.

Positive Psychology – Course included an introduction to a broad range of topics relating to positive psychology and human flourishing, including human happiness and subjective well-being, research methods in Positive Psychology, positive emotions, spirituality, meaning, and purpose in life, civic virtues (altruism, prosocial behavior), and ethics.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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**Yale University, Department of Neuropsychology/Neurology, New Haven, CT**

*Researcher*

June 2017 - Present

Collaborator: Franklin Brown, PhD – Chief, Div. of Neuropsychology, Department of Neurology, Yale University

**Mississippi State University/Rush Hospital, Meridian, MS**

*Clinical Researcher*

January 2016 - Present

**Emory University School of Medicine, Department of Neurology, Atlanta, GA**

*Affiliate/Visiting Professor*

June 2015 - Present

Collaborator: Daniel Drane, PhD – Emory University School of Medicine Dept. of Neurology

**UCLA Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Program/Travis Research Center Fuller SOP**

**Semel Institute (UCLA) & Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, Los Angeles, CA**

*Research Team Member*

March 2008 – June 2015

Collect and analyze data using SPSS from patients who underwent hemispherectomy to control for intractable epilepsy. Focus of the study is on functional and cognitive plasticity, Crowding Hypothesis, and functional outcome following pediatric hemispherectomy.

Supervisors/Collaborators: Robert Asarnow, PhD – UCLA Dept. of Psychiatry, Sarah Marion, PhD – Fuller Graduate School of Psychology

**Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research/Geffen School of Medicine UCLA**

**University California of Los Angeles (UCLA), Los Angeles, CA**

*Research Assistant*

June 2010 – August 2012

Longitudinal Study on aging, mild cognitive impairment, and dementia. Responsible for administering comprehensive neuropsychological test battery, scoring, and writing research reports.

Supervisors: Po H. Lu, PsyD, Ellen Woo, PhD

**Damasio Lab/Dornsife Cognitive Neuroscience Imaging Center**

**University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, CA**

*Research Assistant*

Jan. 2009 – Jan. 2010

Research project involving 3-D image extraction from T2 MRI scans for statistical analysis using BrainVox and BrainSuite software. Responsibilities included skull stripping for ROI and whole-brain comparison between individuals with a variety of neurological and neurodegenerative disorders.

Supervisors: Jessica Wisnowski, PhD, Corianne Rogalsky, PhD, Hanna Damasio, MD

**Constraint Induced Movement Therapy Lab for Stroke**

**UAB University Hospital & Birmingham VA, Taub Training Clinic, Birmingham, AL**

*Research Assistant*

March 2006 – June 2007

Focus of the study was on cortical reorganization and plasticity following shaping/repetitive movement task. Administered test battery including - Token test, MMSE, and Zung self-rating depression scale. Consulted with multi-disciplinary group including OT's, PT's, MD's, and Ph.D's

Supervisor: Edward Taub, PhD, Gitendra Uswatte, PhD

**Semel Institute (UCLA) & Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, Los Angeles, CA**

**Master's Project October 2007- June 2009**

Conducted quantitative, empirical research on lateralization effects of verbal/nonverbal abilities following the removal of a hemisphere to control intractable epilepsy.

Title: *Language and Visuospatial Function Following Hemispherectomy*

## ***CLINICAL EXPERIENCE***

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### **Rush Foundation Hospital, Meridian, MS**

*Licensed Clinical Psychologist*

Feb. 2016 – Present

Provide outpatient diagnostic services, psychological testing, neuropsychological testing, and outpatient psychotherapy services.

### **Weems Community Mental Health Center, Meridian, MS**

*Therapist, Children & Youth Division*

August 2013 – Present

Provide outpatient therapy, diagnostic services, psychological testing, and consultation based services for school- and community-based patients.

Supervisor: Lee Lee Marlow, PhD

### **Tuscaloosa Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Tuscaloosa, AL**

*Clinical Internship*

Aug. 2012 – Aug. 2013

Provide consult-based cognitive testing, capacity evaluations, and behavior management for older adults with complex medical and psychosocial problems in the context of a community living center (CLC) treatment team. Individual and group psychotherapy using evidence based therapies (EBT's), such as Prolonged Exposure, to aid in symptom reduction and psychological health. Research and training experience in the area of geropsychology, neuropsychology, addiction, PTSD, health psychology and dual diagnosis disorders. Organizing and teaching classes to nursing staff in the area of social neuroscience, behavioral interventions, and supportive therapy techniques. Provide training and supervision to 2-3<sup>rd</sup> year graduate students from the University of Alabama using a Competency-Based supervision model.

Supervisors: Charles Ward, PhD, Kim Dixon, PhD, Tony Cross, PhD

### **Huntington Hospital, Della Martin Center, Pasadena, CA**

*Clinical Pre-Internship*

Aug. 2011 – Aug. 2012

Co-Facilitated inpatient and outpatient process-oriented and psycho-educational group psychotherapy in a psychiatric and chemical dependency Level-II Trauma Hospital. Provided individual psychotherapy and crisis counseling for individuals with severe mental health diagnoses. Administered and scored projective (Rorschach/TAT) and psychodiagnostic test to aid in treatment planning on an interdisciplinary treatment team.

Supervisors: Barney Rosen, PhD, Cliff Feldman, MD

### **Semel Institute/Geffen School of Medicine UCLA, Los Angeles, CA**

*Clinical Clerkship*

June 2010 – Aug. 2012

Responsible for administering comprehensive neuropsychological test battery and writing integrative reports for patients with dementia, Parkinson's disease, motor neuron disorders and other neurological and neurodegenerative disorders. Provided training to graduate students and medical students from UCLA Medical School. Didactic training in neuropsychology, neuroanatomy, and neuroimaging.

Supervisors: Brian Becker, PhD, Kathleen D. Tingus, PhD

### **Persona Neurobehavioral Group, Inc., Los Angeles, CA**

*Psychological Assistant*

Aug. 2011 – May 2012

Registered Psychology Assistant/State of California. Clinical psychological and neuropsychological testing for med-legal purposes. Responsible for comprehensive medical and legal record reviews.

Supervisors: Tyson Chung, PhD, Marcel O. Ponton, PhD, QME

**Ranchos Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Hospital, Downy, CA**

*Clinical Practicum*

Aug. 2009-July 2010

Provided psychodiagnostic and neuropsychological assessment, diagnosis, and treatment planning for individual patients to aid in medical and psychological recovery. Provided inpatient and outpatient cognitive rehabilitation for open and closed head wounds. Provided CBT for patients with both acute and chronic pain, substance abuse, depression, and anxiety. Testing for dementia, seizure disorders, mood disorders, conversion disorders, and somatoform disorders.

Supervisors: Raj Sainath, PsyD, Jason Smith, PhD

**Fuller Psychological and Family Services, Pasadena, CA**

*Student Clinician*

Sept. 2007 – May 2009

Supervisor: Steve Simpson, PhD, Terry Liepman, MS LFMT

**Young Life, Birmingham, AL**

*Volunteer*

June 2003 – May 2005

*Area Director*

June 2005 – Dec. 2007

Responsible for engaging local community (including school systems, local government, and local churches) and raising awareness of adolescent issues. Responsibilities included raising annual budget and training volunteer leaders in issues pertaining to adolescent outreach, counseling, and theology.

**PUBLICATIONS**

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**Wilson, R. T.** (2018) A body in motion: Neurocognitive profiles and rural health. *Journal of the Mississippi Academy of Sciences*. 63(1).

**Wilson, R. T.**, Marion, S., Mathern, G., & Asarnow, R. Hemispherectomy: Lateralization Effects. (2017) *Journal of Pediatric Epilepsy*, 06(03): 141-148.

**Wilson, R. T.** Social isolation and neurocognitive status in aging. Data Collection Final. Writing In Progress.

**PEER REVIEWED RESEARCH/CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS**

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**Wilson, R. T.**, Vitellia, K., & Brown, F. (2018, Feb) Prevalence of Math Disorders and Relationship to Paced Auditory Serial Addition Test Performance Among MS Patients. Presented at Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ACTRIMS) Forum, San Diego, CA.

**Wilson, R. T.** (2017, Sept) Memory and Brain Lateralization. Presented at the Fall 2017 invited research colloquium with Mississippi State University - Meridian and the University of Central Missouri.

Ikanga, J., **Wilson, R. T.**, Berthiaume, C., Loring, D., & Drane, D. (2017, June). Verb Fluency in Temporal Lobe Epilepsy. Presented at the Annual Conference of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN), in Boston, MA.

**Wilson, R. T.** (2016, Sept). Dementia for clinicians and caregivers: Descriptions and

interventions. Presentation for continuing education to a variety of licensed providers (LCSW, MFT, LPC) through the Continuing Medical Education Seminar hosted by MSU – Meridian and Rush Hospital, in Meridian, MS.

Ikanga, J., Millis, S., **Wilson, R.**, Collins, K., Ivanisevic, M., Kim, M., Ojemann, J., Miller, J., & Drane, D.. (2016, August) The Left Anterior Temporal Pole Is Critical For Object Naming but Not Single Word Comprehension. Presented at the Annual Conference of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN), in Chicago, IL.

**Wilson, R. T.** (2015, October) Why Psychological Testing? Many misconceptions exist regarding psychological testing in the community. Presentation focuses on demystifying testing and demonstrating efficacy for community use. Paper presented at the Meridian Community College/Weems Community Mental Health Continuing Education Seminar for Educators, Parents, and Teachers. Meridian, MS.

**Wilson, R. T.** (2014, March) Getting a head start on smart. What brain plasticity tells us about early development and education and what you can do about it. Paper presented at the Meridian Community College/Weems Community Mental Health Continuing Education Seminar for Educators, Parents, and Teachers. Meridian, MS.

**Wilson, R. T.** (2013, March) The social self and end-of-life: Hospice care as social environment. Paper presented at the Social Work Hospice & Palliative Care Network 2013 General Assembly, New Orleans, LA.

**Wilson, R. T.**, Chin, E. Y. K., Lee, J., Marion, S., Yudovin, S, Mathern, G. W., & Asarnow, R. (2013, February) Verbal and nonverbal memory in hemispherectomy: Lateralization effects. Poster session presented at the 41st Annual Conference of the International Neuropsychological Society.

Chin, E. Y. K., Buckwalter, G., Marion, S., Mathern, G. W., Amano, S., Lee, J., **Wilson, R.T.** & Asarnow, R. (2013, February) Lateralization and plasticity of communication and socialization among hemispherectomy patients. Poster session presented at the 41st Annual Conference of the International Neuropsychological Society.

**Wilson, R. T.** (2011, May). Child and Adult ADHD. Presentation at the UCLA/Geffen School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA.

**Wilson, R. T.** (2011, May). Lateralization effects of language and visuospatial abilities: Group and case studies in hemispherectomy. Poster session presented at the meeting of Travis Research Center/Fuller Graduate School of Psychology Student/Faculty Colloquium, Pasadena, CA.

**Wilson, R. T.**, Chin, E. Y. K., Lee, J., Marion, S., Yudovin, S, Mathern, G. W., & Asarnow, R. (2011, February). Age of seizure onset and not side of resection predicts neurocognitive functioning: A case-comparison of pediatric hemispherectomy. Poster session presented at the 39th Annual Conference of the International Neuropsychological Society, Boston, MA.

Chin, E. Y. K., Marion, S. D., Lee. J. B., **Wilson, R. T.**, Mathern, G. W., & Asarnow, R. F. (2011, February). Lateralization and plasticity of emotional processing in individuals with a history of intractable epilepsy and hemispherectomy surgery. Poster session presented at the 39th Annual Conference of the International Neuropsychological Society, Boston, MA.

**Wilson, R. T.** (2010, October). Clinical case study examples: MCI, Lewy body dementia, and vascular dementia. Paper presented at the UCLA/Geffen School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA.

Chin, E. Y. K., Marion, S. D., **Wilson, R. T.**, Lee, J. B., Mathern, G. W., & Asarnow, R. F. (2010, August). Comparing long-term functional outcome between individuals with left and right hemispherectomies. Poster presented at the American Psychological Association's 118th Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.

**Wilson, R. T.**, Marion, S. D., Lee, J. B., Mathern, G. W., & Asarnow, R. F. (2010, February). Language and visuospatial function following hemispherectomy. Poster session presented at 38th Conference of the International Neuropsychological Society, Acapulco, Mex.

Lee, J. B., Marion, S. D., **Wilson, R. T.**, Mathern, G. W., & Asarnow, R. F. (2010, February). General cognitive functioning following hemispherectomy in children with intractable seizures. Poster session presented at the 38th Annual Conference of the International Neuropsychological Society, Acapulco, Mexico.

#### ***EDITORIAL WORK/ADVISORY BOARDS/COMMITTEES***

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Research Review & Approval Board – East Mississippi State Hospital  
Provost/Exec. Vice President of MSU Search Committee

#### ***PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS***

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**INS** – International Neuropsychological Society  
**NAN** – National Academy of Neuropsychology  
**AAN** – American Academy of Neurology  
**Division 36 of APA** – Division of Psychology of Religion and Spirituality  
**Division 40 of APA** – Division of Clinical Neuropsychology  
**MPA** – Mississippi Psychological Association  
**APA** – Alabama Psychological Association