Biographical Sketch
Michael McCullough

Michael McCullough (PhD 1995 Virginia Commonwealth University, Doctor Honoris Causa 2015 Université Catholique de Louvain) is a professor of psychology and the Director of the Evolution and Human Behavior Laboratory at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. He recently received the Cooper Fellowship from UM’s College of Arts and Sciences and the Provost’s Award for Scholarly Activity, two of UM’s highest recognitions for outstanding scholarship.

McCullough is an experimental psychologist who is concerned primarily with the evolutionary and cognitive underpinnings of human sociality. He was one of the first scientists to take an interest in interpersonal forgiveness and to develop tools for studying it experimentally. He has also innovated experimental approaches to studying gratitude, revenge, prosocial behavior, religious cognition, and intertemporal choice. Additionally, McCullough has worked hard in recent years to help clear up scientific puzzles about self-control and about the social effects of a mammalian hormone known as oxytocin.

McCullough has authored more than 150 scientific papers, many of which have appeared in the best journals within both Psychology (Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Journal of Experimental Psychology-General, Psychological Bulletin) and general science (Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Proceedings of the Royal Society—Biological Sciences). He has also written and edited several books. Professor McCullough’s books and articles have been cited more than 40,000 times, placing him among the most widely cited American psychologists. He is currently writing a book about the evolutionary and historical origins of humanity’s concern for the welfare of strangers.

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