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. In recent years, he has received the Cooper Fellowship from UM’s College of Arts and Sciences and the Provost’s Award for Scholarly Activity, two of the University of Miami’s highest honors in recognition of outstanding faculty scholarship.

In his research, Professor McCullough is concerned primarily with the evolutionary and cognitive underpinnings of human sociality and decision-making. He was one of the first scientists to develop scientific theories about forgiveness and to develop tools for studying it experimentally. He has also innovated experimental methods for studying gratitude, revenge, prosocial behavior, religious cognition, and intertemporal choice. In recent years, McCullough has also examined the social effects of oxytocin and the psychological foundations of self-control. 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 34,000 times, placing him among the most widely cited academic psychologists in the country. He is currently writing a book about the evolutionary and historical origins of humanity’s concern for the welfare of strangers. McCullough’s research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and Several nonprofit foundations. At UM, he teaches courses in Social Psychology, Evolutionary Psychology, and the Cognitive Science of Religion.