Hearing Voices
The Histories, Causes and Meanings of Auditory Verbal Hallucinations

The meanings and causes of hearing voices that others cannot hear (auditory verbal hallucinations, in psychiatric parlance) have been debated for thousands of years. Voice-hearing has been both revered and condemned, understood as a symptom of disease as well as a source of otherworldly communication. Those hearing voices have been viewed as mystics, potential psychiatric patients or simply just people with unusual experiences, and have been beatified, esteemed or accepted, as well as drugged, burnt or gassed. This book travels from voice-hearing in the ancient world through to contemporary experience, examining how power, politics, gender, medicine and religion have shaped the meaning of hearing voices. Who hears voices today, what these voices are like and their potential impact are comprehensively examined. Cutting-edge neuroscience is integrated with current psychological theories to consider what may cause voices and the future of research in voice-hearing is explored.

Simon McCarthy-Jones is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Macquarie University's Centre for Cognitive Science, in Sydney, Australia.
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Simon McCarthy-Jones
For those whose voices have not been heard (yet)
With gratitude to my wife, whose love creates me
Contents

List of figures  ix
List of tables  x
List of text boxes  xi

Part I  A history of hearing voices  9
1  From Ancient Mesopotamia to the pre-Reformation world  11
2  Political voices: religion, medicine and hearing voices  38
3  From the birth of psychiatry to the present day  58

Part II  The phenomenology and lived experience of hearing voices  97
4  The phenomenology of hearing voices in people with psychiatric diagnoses  101
5  The lived experience of hearing voices in individuals diagnosed with a psychotic disorder: or, the journey from patient to non-patient  134
6  Beyond disorder: religious and cross-cultural perspectives  149
7  The phenomenology of hearing voices in people without psychiatric diagnoses  170

Part III  The causes of hearing voices  189
8  Neuroscience and hearing voices: it's the brain, stupid?  191
9  Neuropsychological models I: inner speech  223
Contents

10  Neuropsychological models II: memory and hypervigilance 265
11  The wound is peopled: from world to brain and back again 284

Part IV   The meanings of hearing voices 313
12  The struggle for meanings 315

Conclusion Moving towards new models of hearing voices 355

Appendix A: AVHs and antipsychotic medication 375
References 384
Index 439
Figures

Figure 8.1 The cortex of the brain  page 192
Figure 8.2 Areas of direct brain stimulation resulting in auditory hallucinations 193
Tables

Table 6.1 Cross-cultural prevalence of AVHs in patients diagnosed with schizophrenia  

Table 7.1 Hearing voices in the general population (selected large-scale studies)  

Table 7.2 Hearing voices in children and adolescents in the general population  

Table 7.3 Estimated prevalence of voices by diagnosis  

Table 8.1 Structural studies comparing SZ:AVH+ to healthy controls  

Table 8.2 Grey matter volumes in participants with SZ:AVH+ compared to SZ:AVH−  

Table 8.3 Correlations of severity of AVHs with grey matter volumes  

Table 8.4 Diffusion tensor imaging studies of AVHs  

Table 8.5 Functional imaging studies of AVHs in SZ:AVH+  

Table 8.6 Summary of neurophysiological findings  

Table 11.1 AVHs and childhood sexual abuse in psychiatric patients  

Table 11.2 AVHs and childhood sexual abuse in non-psychiatric populations  

Table 11.3 AVHs in those with and without childhood sexual abuse  

Table C.1 Type 1 and Type 2 AVHs
## Text boxes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box I.1</th>
<th>Ten questions regarding hearing voices</th>
<th>page 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1.1</td>
<td>The root of the term ‘hallucination’</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1.2</td>
<td>The voices of Joan of Arc</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2.1</td>
<td>St Teresa's voice-hearing experiences</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2.2</td>
<td>Voice-hearing in the sixteenth century in a Jewish context</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2.3</td>
<td>A voice-hearer in the eighteenth century: William Cowper</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3.1</td>
<td>Voices at the birth of psychiatry in France</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3.2</td>
<td>Voices at the birth of psychiatry in Great Britain</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3.3</td>
<td>The indomitable Georgina Weldon</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3.4</td>
<td>Hearing voices in a First World War private</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3.5</td>
<td>Jung and hearing voices</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 12.1</td>
<td>The voices of Robert Schumann</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 12.2</td>
<td>Bad vibrations: the Beach Boys’ Brian Wilson</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 12.3</td>
<td>The Maastricht approach to hearing voices</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 12.4</td>
<td>An example of the Voice Dialogue technique</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>