Welcome to the 7.1 issue of the *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion*. This special issue consists of a book panel on *Hearing Voices and Other Matters of the Mind* by Robert N. McCauley and George Graham (2020).

As is well known in the history of the cognitive science of religion, Robert N. McCauley was one of the founding pioneers of that field together with co-author E. Thomas Lawson in their groundbreaking book *Rethinking Religion* (Lawson & McCauley, 1990). In that book, McCauley and Lawson showed the way out of the malaise of postmodern religious studies in the United States. Their solution was to break down the barriers between the humanities and the cognitive, psychological, and natural sciences. Their appeal, clearly demonstrated by theoretical arguments and empirical case studies, had a significant effect on a number of scholars not only in the humanities but also in the other sciences. Since then, a snow-balling increase in studies by cognitive scientists of religion and cognate disciplines has secured the legitimacy and creativity of this burgeoning field.

This does not mean, however, that the cognitive science of religion was now carved in stone, so to speak. On the contrary, numerous scholars from various fields have debated a number of contentious issues that are still being discussed and partially resolved. Many critics and scholars outside of the field have restricted themselves to the early years of the CSR. In the meantime, its practitioners have moved on and produced deeper insights, a sizeable amount of empirical data, and promising perspectives.

McCauley, together with philosopher George Graham, has also moved on, and is again pointing the way for future CSR research. This time, the appeal is not only to the continued interdisciplinarity that characterizes CSR research, but also to combine it with research and theories in psychopathology and related disciplines. The authors bring CSR theories of hazard precaution, agency detection, language processing, and theory of mind into contact.
with psychiatric research on mental disorders such as hallucinations, schizophrenia, Autism, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD), and other abnormalities. They examine the similarities and differences between the latter and religious experiences, not in an attempt to reduce religious experiences to mental disorders, but to meaningfully explore their similarities and differences in order to explain, at least partially, some religious experiences.

Such an ambitious project draws on a variety of scientific disciplines. We have therefore invited respondents from the cognitive science of religion, philosophy, psychology, psychiatry, neurology, theology, and religious studies to provide their critical appraisals of Hearing Voices and Other Matters of the Mind. The authors in this issue have creatively responded with both encouraging and provocative insights and criticisms. McCauley and Graham take up the challenge in their response and place the debate within the wider framework of the philosophy of science.

We hope that our readers will agree that the book and panel discussion will inspire CSR and other researchers to better understand and explain religious experiences.

References
