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To everyone
who makes the
world a more
magical place





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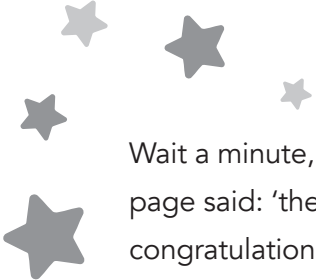
WELCOME TO THE SHOW

Welcome! My name is Richard Wiseman, and I'm a psychologist, which means that I like to explore how minds work. I'm also a real-life magician, which means that I love to perform magic tricks.

Let me start by saying:

**THANK YOU FOR
READING THIS
AND LET'S GET
ON WITH THE
THE SHOW**





Wait a minute, did you notice that the sentence on the previous page said: ‘the the show’? If you did spot the two ‘the’s then congratulations! And if, like most readers, you missed them, then I hope that this little illusion made you **smile**. This book is going to be full of **surprising tricks** that you can use to amuse yourself, and to amaze your friends and family.

However, unlike other books on magic tricks, I hope that this one will bring some REAL MAGIC into your life. But more about that later.

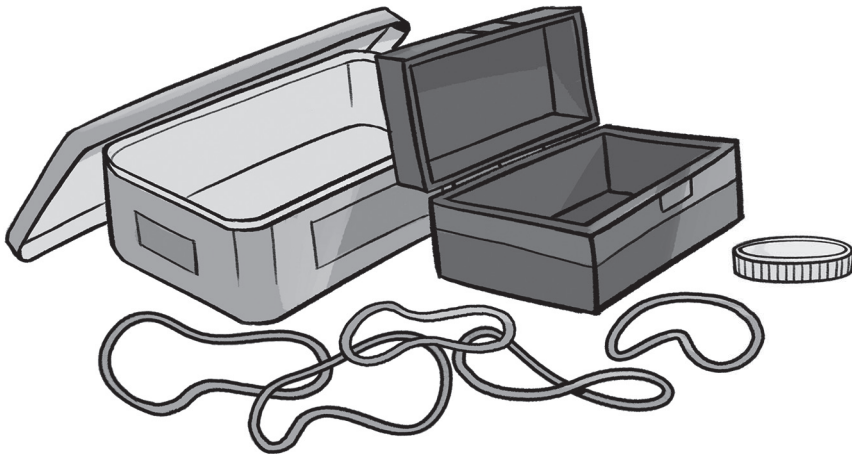


Let me tell you something about myself. I am fascinated by magic and saw my first magic trick when I was seven years old, while visiting my grandfather. He was slow on his feet, forgot stuff and couldn't hear very well. However, like everyone, there were many things about him that were wonderful. He was kind, thoughtful and loving. Best of all, he could perform an **AMAZING** magic trick!

It began with him handing me a marker pen and a coin, and asking me to write my initials on the coin. Then, he carefully placed the coin in the palm of his hand and gently closed his fingers around it. When he opened his hand, **the coin had disappeared**. My mouth dropped open in amazement!

WHAT!?!? HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?

But there was more to come. My grandfather reached under his chair and took out a small metal tin that was sealed with several elastic bands. He asked me to remove the bands and to open the tin. Inside, I discovered a small wooden box that was sealed with more elastic bands. When I opened the wooden box . . . I found my initialled coin inside.



IMPOSSIBLE!!!! ARRGGHHHHHH!!!!!!

I could never work out how my grandfather performed his illusion. Then, one day, he told me that the secret was written in a mysterious book, hidden in the local library. I went along to the library and read *all* the magic books. Eventually, I came across the secret to my grandfather's remarkable trick.

Those books introduced me to the fascinating, strange and secretive world of magic. I discovered how magicians **pluck coins from behind people's ears, saw people in half** (and, on a good night, put them back together again!) and **levitate high into the air**. I spent lots of time rehearsing my favourite tricks, and I eventually performed at parties and in theatres. When I was twenty-two, I even travelled to the USA to perform my magic act in Hollywood (although the trip turned out to be a disaster – more about that later!).

I quickly discovered that good magicians understand how their audiences see the world. For instance, an illusionist needs to make you look in one place while they do something somewhere else. They also must know how to make you miss the two 'the's in the previous sentence (again, well done if you spotted them).

Because of the close relationship between **magic and the mind**, I became a **psychologist** and spent lots of time studying how we think, feel and behave. A few years ago, I discovered something remarkable.

Most people want to know how magicians perform their amazing illusions. However, master illusionists have carefully guarded these secrets for thousands of years (except when one of them accidentally left a safe door open, and the entire



world discovered how to change a tea towel into a chicken!).
But here's their **biggest and best-kept secret:**

**LEARNING MAGIC GIVES YOU
AMAZING POWERS! IT CAN
HELP YOU TO BECOME EVEN MORE
CONFIDENT, POPULAR, SMART
AND CREATIVE.**

And that's what this book is all about.

I AM GOING TO TEACH YOU HOW TO PERFORM JAW-DROPPING, MIND-BLOWING MAGIC TRICKS!



You will discover how to **defy gravity, read minds, produce coins from behind your friend's ear, predict the future** and much more. I will even show you my all-time favourite trick – **how to change a tea towel into a chicken!** But most important of all, during our time together you will also gain **eight superpowers – important life skills that will make you even more wonderful.**



GADGETS BE GONE!

Before we begin, let's make your smartphones, tablets and computers disappear by putting them out of reach. Rather than staring at a screen, this book encourages you to use your hands to create magical apparatus and make ordinary objects do extraordinary things.

And once you have learned a few tricks, you can use them to have fun, connect with people face to face (or IRL!) and make your friends and family say . . .

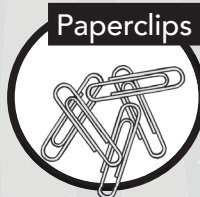
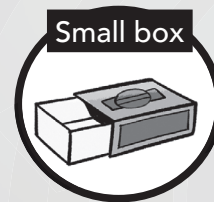
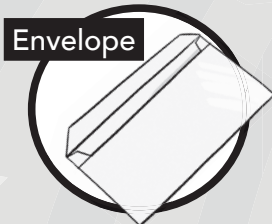
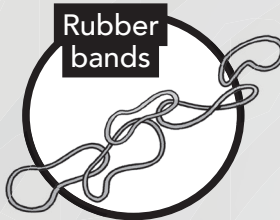
HA!!! WOW!!! NO WAY!!!!



You can probably find all the objects that you will need around your home. Together they will form:

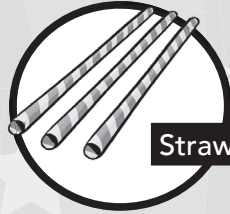
YOUR MAGIC TOOLKIT

Here's a selection of things to gather up so they're ready for when you start trying out the magic tricks.

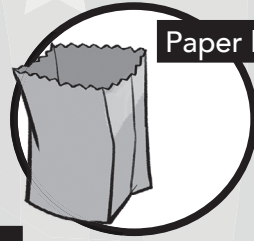




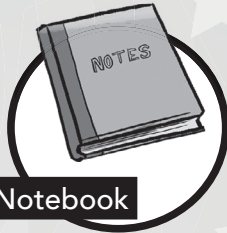
Handkerchief



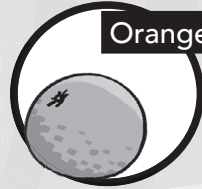
Straws



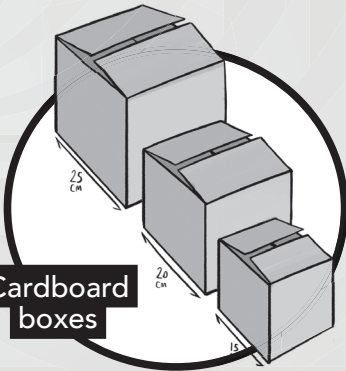
Paper bag



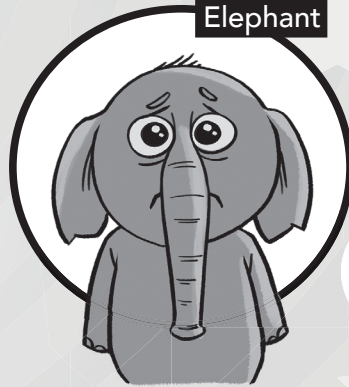
Notebook



Orange



Cardboard boxes



Elephant

Actually, you won't need an elephant.

It's time to introduce the star of the show. They are astonishing, amazing and brilliant . . .

DRUM ROLL

. . . It's . . .





you!

SUPERPOWER 1

**INCREASE YOUR
CONFIDENCE
BY MAGIC**





I love performing magic tricks in front of large groups of people, but I haven't always been like that. When I was a child, I wasn't very confident, but magic helped me because it involved learning difficult tricks and doing things that other people couldn't do. Magic gave me a boost and that made me want to get even better at it, because the more I did it, the more confident I became!

Are you ready to try a few magic tricks?

Right now, you might be thinking something like . . .



I WON'T BE VERY GOOD AT THIS!

. . . or maybe . . .



**BUT WHAT IF I
MESS UP?**

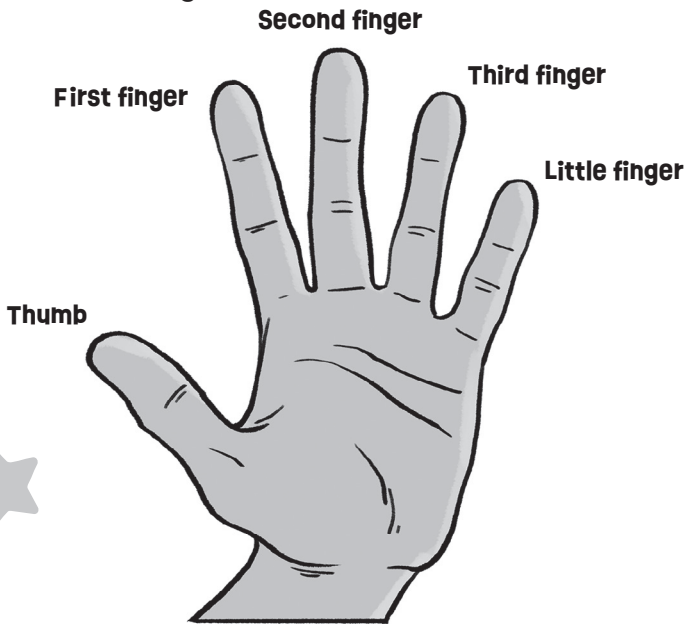
These types of thoughts can pop up in your mind when you don't feel very confident. Let's make them **disappear** with the help of some quick and easy illusions, starting with . . .





THE FLOATING SAUSAGE!

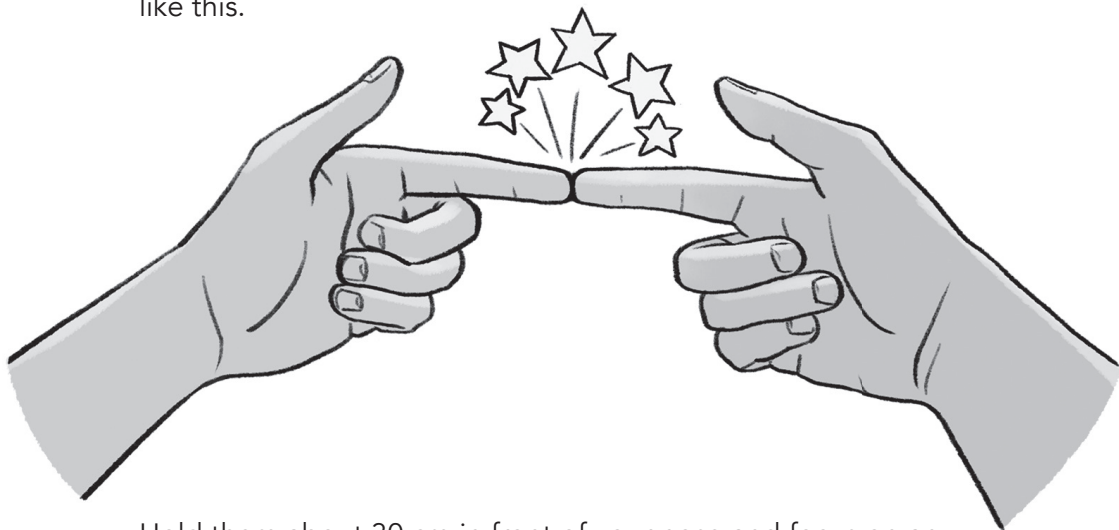
Let me introduce you to your hands. (Hello, hands!) On each hand you have a thumb, a first finger, a second finger, a third finger and a little finger.



We are going to use your hands to make a sausage float in front of your eyes!

This fun illusion was discovered in 1928 by a psychologist called Winford Lee Sharp.

Extend both first (pointing) fingers and place the tips together like this.



Hold them about 30 cm in front of your nose and focus on an object on the other side of the room.

Relax your eyes. All being well, **a tiny sausage will appear between your fingertips!**

When that happens, move your hands a few millimetres apart and you will see **a floating sausage!**





Now you know how it feels to see something surprising, delightful and magical. Not only that, but you have performed your first illusion. Congratulations!

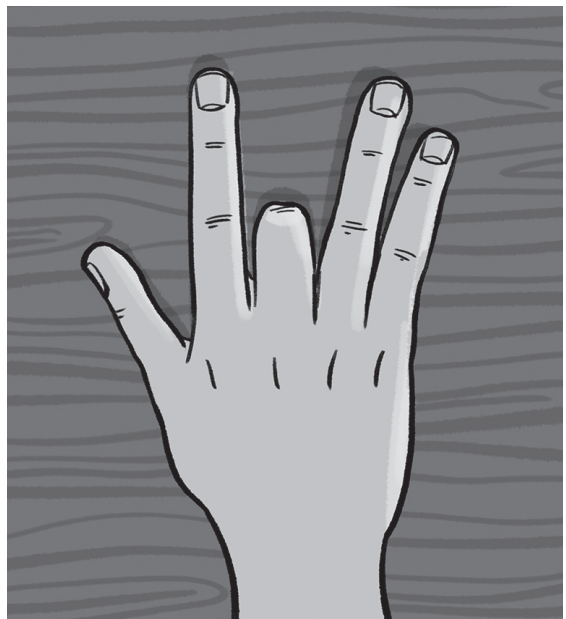


Let's try another quick trick.



MIND CONTROL!

Place one hand, palm down, on a table and then carefully bend your second finger underneath so that the middle joint rests on the table. Like this:



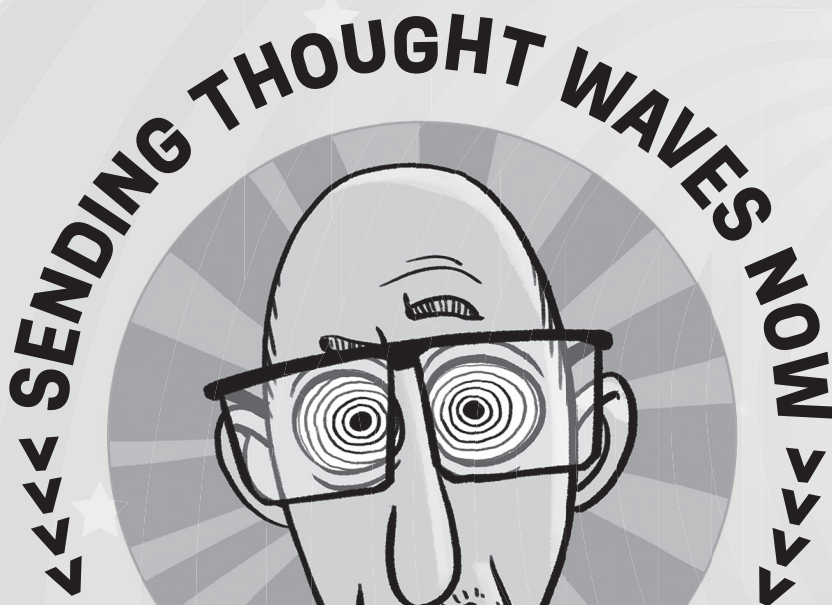
The tip of your second finger should be close to your palm.

Next, move your first finger up and down, so that you are tapping it on the table.

Do the same thing with your little finger.

SO FAR, SO WHAT?

Now I am going to use my mind power to stop you moving your third finger!



Try to move your third finger up and down. You will probably find it very difficult, and most people can't move their finger at all. Some people are very flexible and can move their third finger – if that's you, congratulations!

As you might have guessed, this illusion has **nothing to do with mind power**. Moving your fingers involves thick bands of tissue called tendons. Your first finger and little finger each have their own tendon. However, your third finger shares a tendon with your second finger. When you bend your second finger under your hand, you put that tendon out of action and so you will probably struggle to move your third finger.

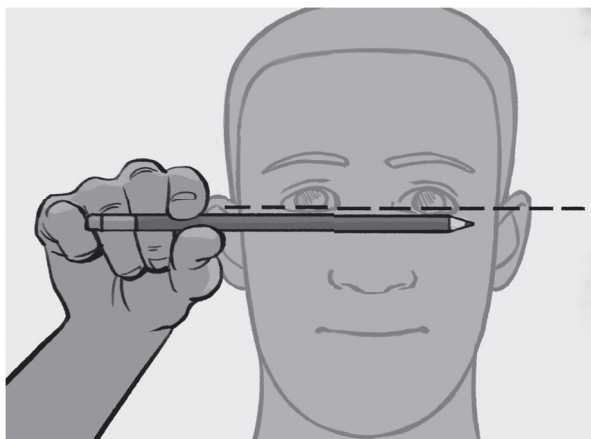
Now you can perform two illusions and, hopefully, you will be feeling **more confident** about learning **magic tricks**.

Let's move to the next level and try a trick with **an object!**

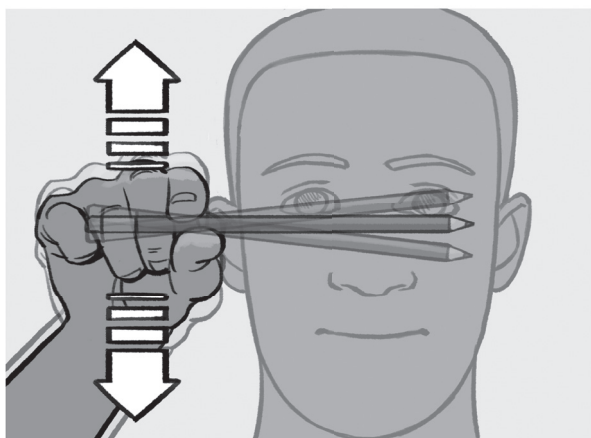


THE BENDY PENCIL

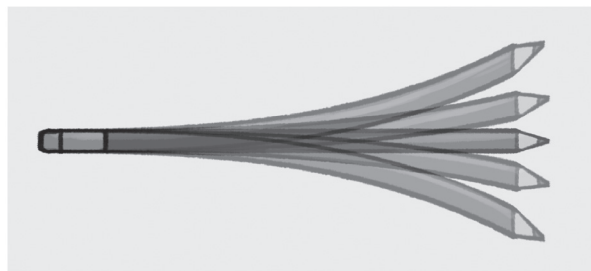
This fun illusion can be performed with any long, straight object, like a pencil, a pen or a straw. Let's try it with a pencil.



Hold the pencil between your thumb and first finger, about a quarter of the way from one end. Make sure that the pencil is horizontal and at eye level.



Now jiggle the pencil up and down several times. Each time, move your hand about 2 cm up and then about 2 cm down.



Now keep moving the pencil up and down but loosen your grip on it, so that it wiggles between your thumb and finger.

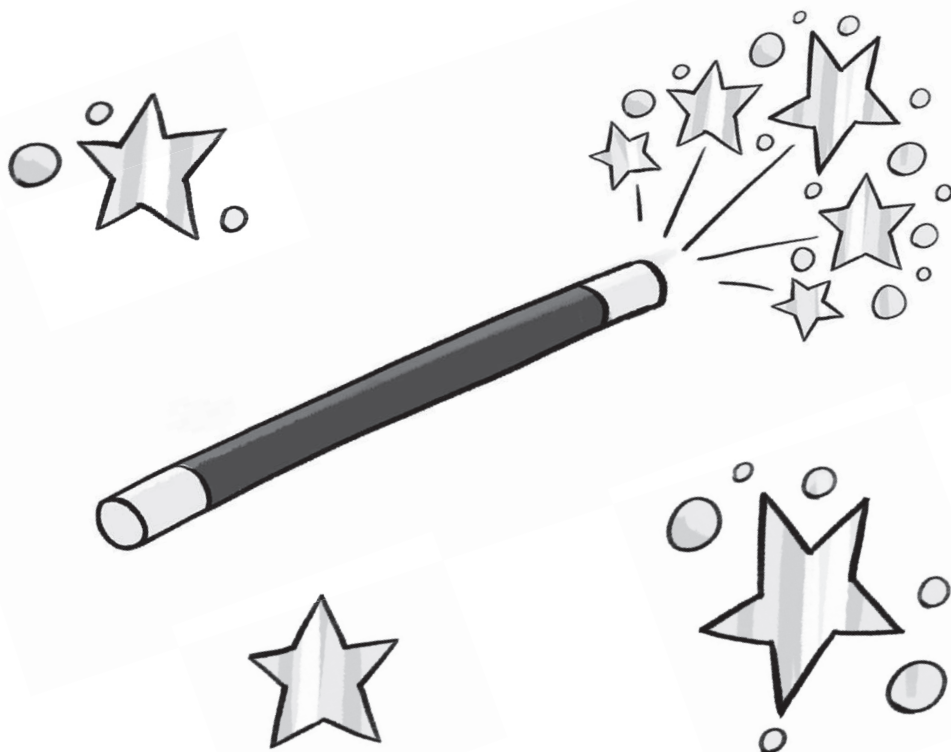




It's important to make the movements nice and smooth. If you get it right, the pencil will appear to be bendy and soft. After a few seconds, stop wiggling the pencil and it will look solid again.

There is a knack to it, so keep trying until you can make the pencil look like it was made from rubber!

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU CAN NOW PERFORM THREE ILLUSIONS!



Your Magical Journey

When I started out in magic I kept a notebook. Maybe you can do the same!

Here is a list of all the tricks and superpowers in the book. You could copy the list into your notebook and tick off each trick as you learn the secret and master the illusion!

You could also use the notebook to record your progress by writing down the first few times that you showed someone a certain trick, how everything went and how you can improve your performance in the future.

In another section you could make a note of the magicians that you see live or on video. What did you like and dislike about their performance? What did you learn from them?

Finally, it's also a great place to jot down any ideas that you have for new tricks or interesting ways of presenting your magic, along with information that you discover about magic clubs, magazines and books.



Over time, your notebook will become a fascinating record of your magical journey.



Superpower 1: Increase Your Confidence

- THE FLOATING SAUSAGE!
- MIND CONTROL!
- THE BENDY PENCIL
- THE AMAZING JUMPING BAND

Superpower 2: Achieve the Impossible

- THE TIE-A-KNOT PUZZLE
- HOW TO PUT YOUR HEAD THROUGH A POSTCARD
- THE PREDICTION

Superpower 3: Make Friendships Appear

- THE MYSTERIOUS NAPKIN
- THE ZOMBIE'S FINGER
- WHAT'S THAT BEHIND YOUR EAR?
- THE FLOATING CUP
- YOU ARE ACE!

Superpower 4: Master Teamwork

- FIVE IN A ROW
- THE VANISHING COIN
- THE MIND READER





Superpower 5: Ace Resilience

- IS THIS YOUR CARD?
- THE PERAMBULATING PAPERCLIP

Superpower 6: Grow Your Curiosity

- THE SENSATIONAL STRAW
- MATTER THROUGH MATTER
- THINK OF A NUMBER
- THE MAGIC CIRCLES
- THE HUMAN CALCULATOR

Superpower 7: Improve Focus

- HAND TO HAND
- THE RIBBON SPREAD
- THE TWISTER
- SPELL-O-MATIC
- THE CHOICE IS YOURS



Superpower 8: Conjure up Creativity

- CRISS-CROSS CARD MAGIC
- THE BAFFLING BOOMERANGS
- THE BOOK OF MAGIC
- THE MAGIC BOXES

Finale

- HOW TO CHANGE A TEA TOWEL INTO A CHICKEN!



About the Author



Professor Richard Wiseman is a psychologist, author and magician. He has written several bestselling self-development books, created illusion-based YouTube videos that have attracted over 500 million views and carried out research into the relationship between magic and wellbeing. Richard recently received the prestigious Golden Grolla award for his work on psychology and magic. He has worked with legendary illusionists Derren Brown, David Copperfield, and Penn and Teller. He has been described by Elizabeth Loftus (past president, Association for Psychological Science) as ‘one of the world’s most creative psychologists’.