FULL BIOGRAPHY

Professor Richard Wiseman started his working life as an award-winning professional magician, and was one of the youngest members of The Magic Circle. He then obtained a first class honours degree in psychology from University College London and a doctorate from the University of Edinburgh. Since then he has been based at the University of Hertfordshire in the UK, where he currently holds Britain's first Professorship in the Public Understanding of Psychology.

Prof Wiseman has established an international reputation for research into unusual areas of psychology, including luck, deception, the paranormal, humour, and the science of self-help. He has published over 60 papers in refereed academic journals, including articles in some of the world’s most respected science publications.

He frequently gives keynote speeches in Britain and abroad, and has recently presented at The Royal Society, Microsoft, Caltech, and Google. Prof Wiseman’s research has also featured in a large number of television programmes, including Horizon (BBC), Body Shock (Channel 4), 20/20 (ABC), and Dateline (NBC). He is often heard on BBC Radio 4, with regular appearances on Start The Week, Midweek and The Today Programme. Feature articles about his research have been published in The Times, The Daily Telegraph and The Guardian, and his work made the front cover of The New Yorker magazine. A recent poll revealed that he was the psychologist most frequently quoted in the British media.

Prof Wiseman has written three best selling books that have been translated into over thirty languages. The Luck Factor presents a comprehensive account of his research into the psychology of luck. Quirkology examines the curious psychology of everyday life, including laughter, lying, and love. 59 Seconds investigates the science of self-help and rapid change. His latest book, Paranormality, will be published in March 2011.

Over 2 million people have taken part in Prof Wiseman's mass participation experiments, and his YouTube channel has received over 11 million views. He has created several viral videos, including the world famous 'Colour Changing Card Trick'.

Prof Wiseman regularly acts as a consultant, with recent projects including working for Channel 4's 'Derren Brown Investigates', helping to create the MythBusters’ giant mexican wave experiment during Jon Stewart's mass rally in Washington, creating viral videos for CBS's 'The Mentalist', and providing ideas and inspiration for the West End play 'Ghost Stories'.

Prof Wiseman has received various awards for his work, including The CSICOP Public Education In Science Award, the Joseph Lister Award For Social Science, and the prestigious Perrott Warrick Scholarship from Trinity College Cambridge.

He is the most followed psychologist on Twitter, and was recently listed in the Independent On Sunday's top 100 people who make Britain a better place to live.