



**Dr. Branden Thornhill-Miller**  
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Dr. Branden Thornhill-Miller is a researcher, speaker, and consultant, affiliated with Paris Descartes University (Sorbonne) and the University of Oxford. He was a Lecturer and Director of Studies for Psychology and Philosophy at the University of Oxford, for many years, where he has more recently been a College Fellow and Visiting Researcher, and remains affiliated with several different colleges and faculties. He now lives in Paris where he conducts research at LATI, the Sorbonne's leading laboratory for the study of work psychology, individual differences and creativity. As an Adjunct Professor for Economics and Psychology at the Sorbonne, he also teaches research methods and supervises research on decision-making, cognitive bias, and leadership. Branden's speaking, consulting, and research interests are focused on creativity, individual differences (e.g. personality, intelligence, culture, gender, psychometric tests, and test development), the psychology of religion (especially fundamentalism, identity and conflict, religious experience, and meaning-making), behavioral economics (cognitive biases and decision-making), and other aspects of social, political and organizational psychology like leadership and visionary personalities, behavioral change, well-being, and "gross national happiness.". He also conducts more entrepreneurial research in technological areas, supervising students from engineering and IT schools like EPITA and CNAM on topics like online consulting and the use of virtual reality to enhance creativity.

Branden believes that psychology, optimally pursued, should be re-envisioned as a subdiscipline of many other fields, providing tools and perspectives to improve the full range of human efforts and interactions. In this vein he delivered the 65<sup>th</sup> annual Minns Lecture Series at theological schools of Harvard, University of Chicago, and Berkeley on "Psychology of Religion for the 20<sup>th</sup> Century." He is also keenly interested in the application and effects of new technologies, arguing that our unprecedented technological powers increasingly suggest human nature as the key to understanding human future in a rapidly evolving globalized world increasingly of our own making. As Professor and Director of Research for the Preparing Global Leaders Foundation, he regularly explores some of these issues and is conducting an on-going study of an emerging paradigm of globally-oriented leadership at intensive workshops with up-and-coming young leaders, typically from 30 to 40 different countries at a time.

In addition to his teaching and research Branden works as a consultant, individual coach, and organizational advisor, holding cultural and talent visas that allow him to work in Russia and France. As Vice President of Omni Art Design he has served as a visual artists and been in charge of strategic planning, IT, and public communications. Recently, he has been the creative consultant for two large-scale public monuments in the US, working as a lead advisor for technical, conceptual, aesthetic, strategic, and/or public relations aspects of community- and identity-building projects such as "New Bloom" (the landmark sculptor designed as the new symbol for Fort Wayne, Indiana) and the even larger Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial in San Diego, California. These strands of research and design have more recently come together in his interest in Design Thinking and Design Leadership and his role as Associate Editor of the new flagship design research publication, the *Journal of Design, Business & Society*.

In the past he has also functioned as an innovator for business (e.g. building and programming computers to run new industrial production lines for a Fortune 500 company), as a Legislative Assistant on Capitol Hill, and as Visiting Professor of Literature at Beijing University. Early in his career he was one of twenty-three scholars from different disciplines and around the world invited by the Foundation for the Future to discuss the problems and possibilities facing humanity's long-term survival.

Branden received his bachelor's degree in Ethics, Politics, and Economics from Yale University, where he was also Vice President of the student government, coordinator of the Yale Club in Washington, D.C, and wrote a second thesis in literature on originality, supervised by Harold Bloom. While doing his Masters of Divinity focusing on world religions at Harvard, he became Director of the Inter-religious Dialogue Program for the Boston Theological Institute, a consortium of nine schools, including Harvard, Boston University and Boston College. He was nominated by the US for a Fulbright Scholarship to attend Cambridge University, but pursued his doctoral studies in psychology at the University of Oxford supported by an Overseas Research Award from the British Government and the Knox Fellowship from Harvard University.