

CURRICULUM VITAE

Sofia Ciccarone

CURRENT POSITION

Postdoc Researcher in Cognitive Social and Affective Neuroscience

Department of Psychology - Sapienza University of Rome

October 2022 – Present

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- ❖ Studying physiological correlates of interoception in patients suffering from gastrointestinal, urogenital and gynaecological chronic pain syndromes (irritable bowel syndrome, IBS; chronic prostatitis; endometriosis)
- ❖ Studying the role of interoceptive processes in shaping the sense of self in clinical and non-clinical populations
- ❖ Body image plasticity in Anorexia Nervosa and in neurotypical populations
- ❖ The relationship between interoception and psychiatric conditions

QUALIFICATIONS

Psychologist

Department of Psychology - Sapienza University of Rome

September 2020

Passed the state exam for professional certification

EDUCATION

❖ **PostDoc**

Santa Lucia Foundation

January 2022 – September 2022

❖ **Ph.D. candidate in Cognitive Social and Affective Neuroscience**

Department of Psychology - Sapienza University of Rome

November 2018 – April 2022

Final grade: **cum Laude**

Thesis (Supervisor: Prof. Ilaria Bufalari):

“A Multi-Dimensional Approach to the Study of Body Representation in Patients with Anorexia Nervosa and Neurotypicals: Behavioural and Electroencephalographic studies”

❖ **MSc Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychological Rehabilitation**

Sapienza University of Rome

September 2015 – March 2017

Degree: **110 Summa cum Laude**

Final Project (Supervisor: Prof. Ilaria Bufalari):

“Plasticity of the Bodily Self in Anorexia Nervosa: Studies using Interpersonal Multisensory Stimulation and Immersive Virtual Reality”

- Created stimuli in virtual reality
- Conducted experiments with patients with anorexia nervosa and neurotypical participants
- Analysed data and reported results

❖ **MSc Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuropsychology**

Birkbeck University of London

September 2014 – September 2015

Degree: **Distinction**

Final Project (Supervisor: Dr. Tim Smith):

“Fixation Dependent Memory For Static and Dynamic Scenes”

- Created visual stimuli
- Conducted experiments with adults using eye tracker
- Analysed data and reported results

❖ **BSc Psychology**

Birkbeck University of London

October 2011 – June 2014

Degree: **First Class Honours**

Final project (Supervisor: Dr. Tim Smith):

“The Effect of Musical Tempo and Cutting Rates on Arousal and Attention”

- Created novel audio-visual stimuli
- Conducted experiments with adults combining eye tracker, ECG and EDA measures

❖ **High School - Liceo Ginnasio Statale Dante Alighieri**

Rome, September 2006 - July 2011

WORK EXPERIENCE

❖ **Scholarship**

Fondazione Santa Lucia, Rome

July 2017 – Novembre 2018

Supervisor: Prof. Ilaria Bufalari

“Body Image Distortion in Anorexia Nervosa: Studies using Immersive Virtual Reality”

- Responsible for financial reporting of project expenses
- Helped in preparing the experimental stimuli
- Managed communication with patients
- Conducted experiments with patients and neurotypical participants
- Involved in “Alternanza Scuola – Lavoro” with high school students (June, 2017 and April 2018)

❖ **Internship**

Mental Health Centre (ASL Roma 1)

March 2017 – March 2018

Tutor: Dr. Grazia Cerbo

- Acceptance and Clinical Assessment of patients supervised by psychiatrists
- Wrote and updated patients' clinical records
- Participated in the activities organised by the day care centre
- Attended weekly staff meetings

- Attended weekly group therapy with patients and their families (*Multi Family Group Analysis-(MFGA)*) and participated in post-group meetings with members of the team
- Introductory training in *Open Dialogue* approach: involved in the treatment and therapy sessions of 10 patients (supervised by Dr. Lupo Macolino)

❖ **Voluntary Research Assistant**

Lab of Dynamic Visual Cognition – Birkbeck University of London

January 2013 – August 2015

- Coded data from free recall after presentation of visual stimuli
- Conducted experiments with adults and children using eye tracker
- Helped during the conference “Cognition at the Movies - Cognitivism Study Day, Birkbeck, University of London” on 6 November 2013
- Helped during the conference “SCSMI LONDON 2015”, 17-20 June 2015: contributed to the organisation of the event, welcomed participants, worked as a timekeeper during talks

WORKSHOPS

- Birmingham Boot Camp (BBC) 4.0, 17-20 July 2018
- Multilevel Models and Bayesian Statistics, 23-25 January 2019 (Sapienza University of Rome)
- Immersive Virtual Reality course, 13-18 May 2019 (Unitelma Sapienza, Rome)
- Matlab. Basic Computations and Experimental Applications, 23-24 September 2019 (Sapienza University of Rome)
- Analyses of EEG Data – Theory and Practice, 3-4 October 2019 (Sapienza University of Rome)
- PracticalMEEG, 3-5 December 2019 (ICM, Paris)

SKILLS

- Proficient in Microsoft Office package
- Proficient knowledge of Statistica and SPSS
- Proficient knowledge of Eprime
- Proficient knowledge of EEG Recording and Analysis (BrainVision Analyzer and FieldTrip)
- Basic knowledge of virtual reality software (Make Human, XVR, Unity, Motion Capture)
- Experience with recording physiological data (ECG and EGG) using ADI and LabChart

GRANTS

- **Progetti di Avvio alla Ricerca, tipo 1 (Sapienza University of Rome)**

"The role of cognitive control on body image distortion in Anorexia Nervosa: behavioural and electroencefalography studies"

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Ciccarone, S., Moreau, Q., Fusco, G., Bufalari, I., *Negative bias towards overweight bodies in healthy women: behavioural and EEG evidence in a novel Body-Flanker task*. Poster presentation. XXVIII Congresso Nazionale SIPF - Real brains in the virtual SIPF Annual Meeting, November 20-21/27-28, 2020.

Ciccarone, S., Provenzano, L., Porciello, G., Tieri G., Marucci, M. Dazzi F., Loriedo C., Lenggenhager, B. & Bufalari, I. *Characterizing Body Image Distortion and its Plasticity in Anorexia Nervosa*. Poster Presentation. Rovereto Workshop on Concepts, Actions, and Objects. Functional and Neural Perspectives, May 3 – 5, 2018.

Porciello, G., Lenggenhager, B., Tieri, G., Ciccarone, S., Provenzano, L., Marucci, M., Dazzi, F., Loriedo, C. & Bufalari, I. *The Plastic Bodily Self in Anorexia Via Virtual Reality and Multisensory Stimulation Paradigms*. Poster presentation. 6th Scientific Conference of the Federation of the European Societies of Neuropsychology (FESN), Maastricht, Holland, September 13 – 15, 2017.

Porciello, G., Provenzano, L., Ciccarone, S., Marucci, M., Tieri, G., Dazzi, F., Loriedo, C., Lenggenhager, B. & Bufalari, I. *Implicit and Explicit Indicators of Bodily Self-plasticity in Anorexia Nervosa*. XIX Congresso Nazionale Sezione di Psicologia Clinica e Dinamica. Torino, Italy.

Provenzano L., Ciccarone S., Porciello G., Tieri G., Marucci M., Dazzi F., Loriedo C., Lenggenhager B., Bufalari I. *Characterizing Body Image Distortion and its Plasticity in Anorexia Nervosa*. 4th International Conference of the European Society for Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience (ESCAN), Leiden (Netherlands), July 19-22, 2018.

Smith, T. & Ciccarone, S. (2016), *More than meets the eye: Raw scanpath replay is an insufficient memory cue for static and dynamic scenes*. Vision Sciences Society Annual Meeting Abstract (*Journal of Vision*, 16(12), 325-325. doi:10.1167/16.12.325).

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Using Virtual Reality and Embodiment illusion to Investigate Body Image Distortion in Anorexia Nervosa, Laboratoire Mémoire, Cerveau et Cognition (UPR 7536), Université de Paris, Institut de Psychologie, 19/11/2021.

PUBBLICATIONS

Provenzano, L., Porciello, G., Ciccarone, S., Lenggenhager, B., Tieri, G., Marucci, M., Dazzi, F., Lored, C. & Bufalari, I. (2020). Characterizing Body Image Distortion and Bodily Self-Plasticity in Anorexia Nervosa via Visuo-Tactile Stimulation in Virtual Reality. *Journal of clinical medicine*, 9(1), 98.

PUBBLICATIONS (in preparation)

Ciccarone S., Moreau Q., Fusco G., Bufalari I. *Negative bias towards overweight bodies in healthy women: behavioural and EEG evidence in a novel Body-Flanker task.*

Fusco G., Ciccarone S., Porciello G., Bufalari I. *The role of cognitive control in body-size representation-evoked conflict: A Flanker study.*

Provenzano L., Ciccarone S., Porciello G., Bufalari I. *Sensorimotor representation and its plasticity: An immersive virtual reality study.*

LANGUAGES

- Native proficiency in Italian
- Full Professional Proficiency in English

MEMBERSHIPS

- British Psychological Society, Graduate member (MBPsS)

REFERENCES

References available upon request