

**Valentina Nicolardi**

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**Work experiences:**

**Research fellow (Dicember 2019-Dicember 2020)**

At the Cognitive, Social and Affective Neuroscience Lab (Head: Prof. Salvatore Maria Aglioti), Department of Psychology, Faculty of Medicine and Psychology, University of Rome “Sapienza”. One-year research fellowship aimed at investigate correlates of error/feedback monitoring and pain processing during social interaction and social rejection.

**Scientific collaborator (October 2019)**

at the University Unitelma “Sapienza”. The collaboration concern data collection and analyses for the project led by Dr. Gaetano Tieri, titled: “Virtual bodies, real empathy: behavioural, bodily and neural reactivity to the observation of Pain and Pleasure on self and others in immersive virtual reality”

**Visiting post-doctoral scholar (November 2018 – June 2019)**

at the Institute of Neuroscience (IONS), Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium, under the supervision of Professor A. Mouraux. Project: “Behavioural and neural correlates of controllable and uncontrollable pain during induced central sensitization.”

**International Ph.D. in Psychology and Social Neuroscience (2016 – 2019)**

Research career in Cognitive, Social and Affective Neuroscience (coordinator: Prof. Salvatore Maria Aglioti), Department of Psychology, Faculty of Medicine and Psychology, University of Rome “Sapienza” and IRCCS Santa Lucia Foundation. Ph.D. Dissertation Thesis: “Interpersonal modulation of pain. The effect of social- moral- and self-related aspects on pain and its neural

processing”.

#### **Post- lauream internship (March 2015- March 2016)**

La Sapienza University and IRCCS Fondazione Santa Lucia, Rome, Italy.

Supervisor: Salvatore Maria Aglioti. Electroencephalography (EEG) applied to the study of nociception and pain.

#### **Master internship (February 2014- December 2015)**

La Sapienza University and IRCCS Fondazione Santa Lucia, Rome, Italy.

Supervisor: Prof. Salvatore Maria Aglioti and Dr Elia Valentini.

The project concerned the impact of death- vs. threat-related visual cues on pain perception as well as brain activity evoked by visual and co-occurring nociceptive stimuli.

Master thesis: “Neural and behavioural effects related to the concept of death during nociceptive and visual stimulation”.

#### **Bachelor internship (February 2012- April 2012)**

Women's refuge “Renata Fonte”, Lecce, Italy. Supervisor: Prof. Sara Invitto, University of Salento.

Attendance to the support program and data collection for the experimental thesis.

Bachelor thesis: "Cortical activation patterns in a sample of women victims of violence by intimate partners. An ERP study”.

#### **Education**

**2016-2019:** International Ph.D. in Psychology and Social Neuroscience. Research career in Cognitive, Social and Affective Neuroscience, La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy.

**2012-2014:** Master Degree in Neuroscience and Psychological Rehabilitation, 110/110 *cum Laude*, La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy.

**2009-2012:** Bachelor Degree in *Psychological Science and Techniques*, 107/110, University of Salento, Lecce, Italy.

**2003-2008:** Diploma Liceo Scientifico (High School), 82/100.

### **Additional courses**

2018:

- **The São Paulo School of Advanced Science on Social and Affective Neuroscience (SPSAN).** August 20-30, 2018. Centro de Ciências Biológicas e da Saúde – UPM. São Paulo, Brazil.

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2017:

- **Chronic pain. Plasticity and therapeutic perspectives.** May 13-20, 2017. Neuroscience school of advanced studies (NSAS). Coordinator: **A.Vania Apkarian** (Northwestern University, Chicago. USA).

Faculty members: Stephen McMahon, King's College, London (UK); Volker Neugebauer, Texas Tech University School of Medicine, Lubbock, USA; Giandomenico Iannetti, University College, London. UK; Marwan Baliki, Northwestern University, Chicago, USA; Ulrike Bingel, University of Essen, Germany ; Didier Bouhassira, INSERM, Boulogne-Billancourt, France; A. Vania Apkarian, Northwestern University, Chicago. USA

- **Empathy and Compassion: Contemplative Practices, Neuroscience and Clinical Implications.** June 10 – 14, 2017. Gerace (RC). Italy

**2016:**

- **The Visceral Mind VII.** A hands-on course in the neuroanatomy of cognition, 4 – 10 September 2016, Bangor University Wales, UK.
- **Maths and Matlab for neuroscientist, Mike X. Cohen,** August 1-5 2016, Radboud University, Nijmegen , The Netherlands.

**2014: Matlab for Psychologist course of Dr. Antonia Hamilton,** University College London, London, UK

**2013: ERP Summer School 2013,** Bangor University, Wales.

### **Personal skills**

**Mother tongue(s):** Italian

**Other languages :**

Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
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English

B1	B1	B1	B1
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**2012:** Certificated by Cambridge English Language Assessment

### **Research skills**

EEG data collection

EEG cap maintenance (electrodes testing and welding)

EEG data analysis, with Matlab, EEGLAB, Letswave and Analyzer (version 1 and 2)

Selective nociceptive stimulation via a (Nd:YAP) laser

Intra-epidermal and transcutaneous electrical stimulation

Statistical analysis with Statistica and R (Linear mixed models analyses)

### **Grants and Awards**

**2018: International scholarship** awarded by University of Rome “Sapienza” for a research project on “Behavioural and neural correlates of controllable and uncontrollable pain during induced central sensitization.” The project has been implemented at the Institute of Neuroscience (IONS), Université Catholique de Louvain under the supervision of Professor A. Mouraux.

**2016: Starting Research grant** awarded by Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. 26/7/2016.

### **Scientific Publications**

Yordanova, J., Kolev, V., Mauro, F., **Nicolardi, V.**, Simione, L., Calabrese, L., ... & Raffone, A. (2020). Common and distinct lateralised patterns of neural coupling during focused attention, open monitoring and loving kindness meditation. *Scientific Reports*, 10(1), 1-14.

**Nicolardi, V.**, Panasiti, M. S., D’Ippolito, M., Pecimo, G. L., & Aglioti, S. M. (2020). Pain perception during social interactions is modulated by self-related and moral contextual cues. *Scientific Reports*, 10(1), 1-12.

Pezzetta, R., **Nicolardi, V.**, Tidoni, E., & Aglioti, S. M. (2018). Error, rather than its probability, elicits specific electrocortical signatures: a combined EEG-immersive virtual reality study of action observation. *Journal of neurophysiology*.

Valentini, E., **Nicolardi, V.**, & Aglioti, S. M. (2017). Visual reminders of death enhance nociceptive-related cortical responses and event-related alpha desynchronisation. *Biological Psychology*.

Valentini, E., **Nicolardi, V.**, & Aglioti, S. M. (2017). Painful engrams: Oscillatory correlates of working memory for phasic nociceptive laser stimuli. *Brain and cognition*, 115, 21-32.

Spinelli, G., & **Nicolardi, V.** (2016). Commentary: Prestimulus Theta Oscillations and Connectivity Modulate Pain Perception. *Frontiers in human neuroscience*, 10.

**Nicolardi, V.**, & Valentini, E. (2016). Commentary: Top-down and bottom-up modulation of pain-induced oscillations. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 10, 152.

Valentini E., Koch K., **Nicolardi V.**, Aglioti S.M. (2015). Mortality salience modulates cortical responses to painful somatosensory stimulation: evidence from slow wave and delta band activity. *NeuroImage*. 120, 12-24.

### **Conference oral presentation**

**2019: Nicolardi V.**, van den Broeke E.N., Filbrich L., Legrain V., Mouraux A. “The effect of controllability on secondary hyperalgesia. 9<sup>th</sup> Laser and pain talks in Europe, May 23-25, Lyon, France.

**2018: Nicolardi V.**, “Cognitive and emotional modulation of pain at the individual and interpersonal level”. Symposium: “The signature of pain in the brain: how to dissect attention from nociception (Symposium of the Italian Society of Psychophysiology and Cognitive Neuroscience)”. 19th World Congress of Psychophysiology. Lucca, Italy. September 4 – 8, 2018.

### **Conference poster presentation**

**2019: Nicolardi V.**, van den Broeke E.N., Filbrich L., Legrain V., Mouraux A. Stimulus controllability can modulate the induction of HFS-induced central

sensitization. EFIC Congress 2019 – 11<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Pain Federation, 4-7 September 2019, Valencia, Spain.

**2018: Nicolardi V., D'Ippolito M., Buzzi MG., Panasiti MS (2018).** EEG correlates of the social side of pain. Self- related and moral contextual cues modulate pain perception and its neural processing during social interactions. Sao Paulo School on advanced science on social and affective neuroscience. Centro de Ciências Biológicas e da Saúde – UPM, Sao Paulo, Brasil.

**Nicolardi V., D'Ippolito M., Pecimo GL., Panasiti MS (2018).** The social side of pain. Self-related and moral contextual cues modulate pain perception during social interactions. In: 4th international conference of the European Society for Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience (ESCAN), which will take place in Leiden, The Netherlands, between 19-22 of July, 2018, at the Leiden University Medical Center.

**Nicolardi V., Kolev V., Yordanova J., Mauro F., Malinowski P., & Antonino Raffone.** The effects of focused attention, open monitoring and loving kindness meditation on pain experience and its electroencephalographic correlates in Theravada Buddhist monks International Conference on Mindfulness, ICM 2018, Amsterdam. July (10-13)

**2017: Pezzetta R., Nicolardi V., Tidoni E (2017).** The monitoring system is sensitive to the error per se, not to violation of expectation. In: Salzburg Mind-Brain Annual Meeting (SAMBA). Salzburg (Austria), 13-14 July 2017

**2015: Nicolardi V., Aglioti S.M., Valentini E.** Electrophysiological evidence for the effect of visual reminders of death during threatening somatosensory stimulation. Neuronus IBRO e IRUN Neuroscience forum. Krakow, Poland. April 17-19 2015.

Valentini E., **Nicolardi V., Aglioti S. M.** “Pain engrams”: behavioural and neural correlates of nociceptive working memory. 9th Congress of the European Pain Federation, EFIC® (EFIC 2015). Vienna, Austria, from 2-5 September, 2015.

**2014: Valentini E., Nicolardi V., Koch K., Aglioti S.M.** Thoughts of death modulate the cortical responses to threatening stimuli. 15th World Congress on Pain. Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 6th- 11th, 2014.

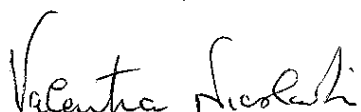
**2012: S. Invitto, V. Nicolardi, G. Nicolardi, 2012.** *Intimate Partner Violence and Emotional Attention: an ERP study.* XX National Congress SIPP, IRCCS Fondazione

Ospedale San Camillo, Venice, Italy. November 22-24.

### **Publications on Italian journals**

**Nicolardi V.**, 2016. Il ruolo dello psicologo nel team di terapia del dolore. Dolore. Aggiornamenti clinici. Organo ufficiale della Associazione Italiana per lo Studio del Dolore. 9 (n. 3): 27-28. (English title: "The role of the psychologist in the team for pain therapies". Published with the official journal of the Italian Association for the Study of Pain)

Rome, 30/11/2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Valeria Nicolardi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.