



Neves Ana

PSYCHOLOGY PHD RESEARCHER

University of Sussex, Brighton, UK

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Doctoral Tutor and PhD researcher in Psychology at the University of Sussex, supervised by Dr Dominique Makowski. My research explores the role of interoception - our perception of internal bodily states - in shaping emotional experiences and beliefs about reality. I use a combination of behavioural tasks and physiological measures to investigate how bodily awareness influences responses to emotionally evocative stimuli.

Education

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - Psychology

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

- supervised by [Dr. Dominique Makowski](#)

UK

2024 -

Research Masters (MRes) in Psychological Methods

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

UK

2023 - 2024

Bachelor of Science (BSc) - Psychology with Cognitive Science

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

UK

2018 - 2022

Experience

TEACHING

Doctoral Tutor for Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

Brighton, UK

Jan-Apr, 2025

- Facilitated students' critical engagement with quantitative and qualitative research methods in psychology, with a particular focus on measurement issues and the interpretive decisions researchers make when investigating complex psychological constructs.

Doctoral Tutor for Discovering Statistics

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

Brighton, UK

Sep-Dec, 2024

- Supported students in developing both theoretical understanding and practical skills in implementing, interpreting, and reporting statistical analyses, with a focus on the linear model.

Skills

LANGUAGE

- **Portuguese:** Native
- **English:** Fluent

RESEARCH

My PhD investigates how awareness that a stimulus is 'fake' influences emotional and belief-related responses, and seeks to identify the factors that shape these reality judgments. A key focus is the role of interoception in modulating affective responses - measured in terms of intensity, valence, and eroticism. We are also keen on exploring the use of transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation (tVNS) to manipulate interoceptive sensitivity, with the aim of determining whether such modulation affects both physiological and subjective responses to stimuli labelled as 'fake', as well as their perceived realism.

TECHNIQUES, METHODS AND OPEN SCIENCE

I am currently developing technical expertise in EEG, physiological signal processing, and computational methods including Bayesian modelling. Aligned with my supervisor's ([GitHub](#)) commitment to open science, I actively contribute to open-source communities (e.g., on [GitHub](#)) to support accessibility and transparency in research.

I am committed to the highest standards of open and reproducible science, routinely sharing data, materials, and analysis scripts. This commitment is grounded in a strong emphasis on methodological rigour and ethical responsibility throughout the research process.

OTHER PROJECTS

I am also currently collaborating on a project outside my PhD with a PhD researcher at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia ([GitHub](#)). The project is a meta-analysis examining the association between psychopathology and heart rate variability.

Publications

Makowski, D., Te, A. S., **Neves, A.**, Kirk, S., Liang, N. Z., Mavros, P., & Chen, S. A. (2025). Too beautiful to be fake: Attractive faces are less likely to be judged as artificially generated. *Acta Psychologica*, 252, 104670.

PRE-PRINTS

Makowski, D., **Neves, A.** (2025). Testing the Relationship between Phenomenological Control related to Illusion Sensitivity

Makowski, D., Te, A. S., **Neves, A.**, & Chen, S. A. (2024). Measuring Depression and Anxiety with 4 items? Adaptation of the PHQ-4 to increase its Sensitivity to Subclinical Variability

References

Contact in case of inquiry.

- **Dr Dominique Makowski** (PhD supervisor): d.makowski@sussex.ac.uk