

## MASSIMILIANO PATACCHIOLA

---

Name	Massimiliano
Surname	Patacchiola
Address	Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom
Blog	<a href="http://mpatacchiola.github.io/blog">http://mpatacchiola.github.io/blog</a>
GitHub	<a href="https://github.com/mpatacchiola">https://github.com/mpatacchiola</a>
Nationality	Italian
Sex	Male

---

### Profile

Researcher specialised in computational modelling through machine learning and deep learning techniques. Interdisciplinary skills in machine learning, robotics, and neuroscience.

Research interests: deep learning (neural net compression, meta-learning), reinforcement learning (learning in large state spaces, multi-agent learning), robotics (cognitive architectures).

---

### Work/Research Experience

- 2018-Present    Postdoctoral Researcher. University of Edinburgh. United Kingdom.  
Member of the Machine Learning group. Research project on compression of large neural networks and online few-shots learning via meta-learning (in collaboration with Huawei) ([www.anc.ed.ac.uk/machine-learning](http://www.anc.ed.ac.uk/machine-learning))  
Supervisor: Amos Storkey
- 2018 Summer    Internship, Snapchat inc. Research project on the disentanglement of latent representations in deep autoencoders ([www.snapchat.com](http://www.snapchat.com))
- 2012-2015       Robotics Engineer. Eurolink Systems group. Rome, Italy. My duties involved creating algorithms and models for the control of UGV (Unmanned Ground Vehicle) and UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) ([www.eurolinksystems.com](http://www.eurolinksystems.com))
- 2011-2012       Internship, LARAL (Laboratory of Artificial Life and Robotics). Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies. Rome, Italy. My duties involved creating cognitive models for simulations in Evolutionary Robotics (<http://laral.istc.cnr.it>)
- 2008-2009       Placement, ECONA (Research Centre for Cognitive Elaboration on Natural and Artificial Systems). La Sapienza University. Rome, Italy. Research project on visual perception and memory (<https://web.uniroma1.it/econa>)
- 

### Education

- 2015-present    PhD in “Cognitive Robotics and Machine Learning”. Plymouth University, School of Computing, Electronics and Mathematics. United Kingdom.  
Supervisors: Angelo Cangelosi, Torbjorn Dahl, Giorgio Metta  
[www.thrive-project.org](http://www.thrive-project.org)
- 2009-2011       MSc in “Cognitive Neuroscience”. La Sapienza University. Rome, Italy.  
Supervisors: Stefano Puglisi Allegra, Gianluca Baldassarre, Domenico Parisi

- 2006-2009 BSc in “Experimental Cognitive Psychology”. La Sapienza University. Rome, Italy.  
Supervisor: Marta Olivetti Belardinelli
- 1999-2004 Secondary School. Scientific Course: National Plan of Computer Science. Rieti, Italy.  
It gives entry to university. Main subjects: computer science, mathematics (linear algebra, pre-calculus, calculus), physics, biology, English, French.

---

## Technical Skills

- Machine Learning -Programming experience with TensorFlow and Google Cloud ML for Deep Learning applications [\[GitHub\]](#)  
-Experience with Artificial Neural Networks and the most recent Deep Learning techniques (e.g MLP, CNN, ResNet, GAN, VAE, etc).  
-Experience with supervised, unsupervised learning algorithms, reinforcement learning (DQN, Double DQN, MC, SARSA, etc), and Bayesian networks.
- Robotics -I developed libraries for the control of humanoid robots, drones and autonomous ground rover.  
-Experience with the most important software tools for Robotics and Computer Vision (e.g. ROS, YARP, NAOqi, OpenAI Gym, OpenCV).
- Computer Science -Advanced knowledge of Unix OS (Shell, Bash scripting, SSH).  
-Proficiency in Python (Numpy) and familiarity with several programming languages (C/C++, C#, Java, Visual Basic, HTML, PHP, JavaScript).

---

## Languages

Italian (native speaker), English (advanced), French (intermediate)

---

## Awards, Fellowships and Scholarships

- 2018-present Associate Fellowship, Higher Education Academy (HEA). Programme that supports early career researchers who have responsibility for teaching and learning.
- 03-2016 Academic Hardware Grant, NVIDIA corporation. I received a Tesla K40 GPU in support of a project on head pose estimation through convolutional neural networks.
- 2012-present Member, Mensa International. Society for people with high intelligence quotient.

---

## Talks, Conferences, Workshops, Media

- 27-07-2017 (Extra) BBC documentary. Hyper Evolution: Rise of the Robots. Episode 1 and 2, the iCub humanoid robot at CRNS lab.
- 2015-present (Reviewer) I have been the reviewer for different conferences and journals: ICRA (International Conference on Robotics and Automation), IROS (International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems), IEEE Transactions on Cognitive and Developmental Systems.

---

## Selected Publications [\[scholar\]](#)

Polvara\* R., **Patacchiola\* M.**, Sharma, S., Wan J., Manning, A., Sutton R., Cangelosi, A. (under review). “Autonomous Quadrotor Landing using Deep Reinforcement Learning”. \*Co-first authors, [\[arxiv\]](#)

**Patacchiola, M.**, Cangelosi, A. (2017). “Head Pose Estimation in the Wild using Convolutional Neural Networks and Adaptive Gradient Methods”. *Pattern Recognition*, vol. 71, pp. 132-143. [\[pdf\]](#) [\[GitHub\]](#)

Zanatto, D., **Patacchiola, M.**, Goslin, J., Cangelosi, A. (2016). “Priming antropomorphism: Can the credibility of humanlike robots be transferred to non-humanlike robots?”. *In Proceeding of the Eleventh Annual ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human Robot Interaction*, Christchurch, New Zeland, pp. 534-544. [\[pdf\]](#)

Paglieri, F., Parisi D., **Patacchiola, M.**, Petrosino, G. (2015). “Investigating intertemporal choice trough experimental evolutionary robotics”. *Behavioural Processes*, vol. 115, pp. 1-18. [\[pdf\]](#)