Manikya Alister

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy (Cognitive Science) 2022 – 2025 (expected)
The University of Melbourne Melbourne, Australia
Thesis topic: *Learning from others: A computational and experimental study of how social reasoning shapes human inference*

Computational Modelling of Language Summer School August, 2022
The University of California, Irvine. Irvine, USA
Accepted with full scholarship and travel grant.

Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours Class 1) 2017 – 2020
The University of Queensland (UQ) Brisbane, Australia
Thesis: *The effect of deliberation time on multiple goal pursuit*
GPA: 6.8/7

Selected Honours & Awards

University Medal Awarded to top ~2% of graduates across whole university 2020
Australian Psychological Society Prize #1 ranked graduate in cohort (~250 students) 2020
McElwain Prize Best Honours thesis in the School of Psychology 2020

Selected Publications

Alister, M., Herbert, S., Sewell, DK., Neal, A. Ballard, TJ., (Under Review). The Impact of Cognitive Resource Constraints on Goal Prioritization. Preprint.

Alister, M., McKay, KT., Sewell, DK., Evans, NJ., (Under Review). Uncovering the Cognitive Mechanisms Underlying the Gaze Cueing Effect. Preprint.

Alister, M., Ransom, KJ., Perfors, A. (2022). Source independence affects argument persuasiveness when the relevance is clear. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society 44 (44).* Link.

Alister, M., Vickers-Jones, R., Sewell, DK., Ballard, TJ., (2021). How do we Choose Our Giants? Perceptions of Replicability in Psychological Science. *Advancements in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science.* Link.

Selected Scholarships & Funding **$215, 825 AUD Total**

Research Training Scholarship (tuition + living stipend for PhD) **$208,075** 2022-2025
UC Irvine Travel Scholarship **$750 + food and accomodation** 2022
UQ Summer Research Scholarship **$7000** 2018 & 2019

Selected Experience

Freelance Data Scientist   August 2022 – Present

Good Data Institute: Consolidated their internal database of volunteers and automated their intake processes. Designed and deployed a web-based dashboard using R shiny that visualizes the demographic makeup of their volunteers.

QLD Mind Project: Consulted on data analysis and implemented reproducible Bayesian and frequentist statistical models using R.

Doctoral Candidate, University of Melbourne   Jan 2021 – 2025 (expected)

Led all aspects of several research studies that involved collecting data from over 2,000 participants, implementing web-based surveys and gameified experimental tasks, and coordinating research teams made up of interstate and international personnel. Applied Bayesian and Frequentist quantitative analysis techniques to generate insights from multiple diverse data sets. Communicated insights to different audiences in 5+ empirical research papers and 8+ presentations at domestic and international scientific conferences.

Academic Tutor   Feb 2021 - Present

In this position, I deliver lectures, facilitate workshops, and prepare course materials for 40-80 students per semester. Subjects I have taught include:

PSYC30013: Research Methods for Human Inquiry (University of Melbourne – current)

PSYC2371: The Science of Everyday Thinking

PSYC1030: Introduction to Developmental, Social, and Clinical Psychology (**promoted to lead tutor** after one semester)

Research Assistant, University of Queensland   Jan 2021 – Dec 2021

My main duties included simulating computational models of decision-making, fitting them to experimental data and estimating their parameters using Bayesian hierarchical and individual-level techniques, and writing up the findings for publications.

Qualitative Analyst, University of Melbourne: July 2021 – Dec 2021

My main duties included coding several thousand free text responses from a survey asking researchers to evaluate the quality of social science research.

Skills

Data Analysis Specialising in Bayesian statistical & computational modelling
Programming *Advanced*: R (incl. Shiny). *Familiar with*: Stan, JavaScript, CSS, HTML
Other programs/software Github, LaTeX, SPSS, Jamovi, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office

Research design With experience designing and implementing novel experiments, replications, and surveys across multiple platforms and software.
Spoken Languages English (native), Spanish (conversational)

Referees

Provided upon request