Manikya Alister

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Office: UQ, School of Psychology
Citizenship: Australia, United States

Research interests

Computational modelling, cognition, decision-making, reasoning, applied psychology, meta-science

Education

University of Queensland (UQ) — Brisbane, Australia
2017 – 2020
Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours)
Honours GPA: 7/7, Cumulative GPA: 6.8/7
Thesis: Prioritisation under pressure: The effect of deliberation time on multiple goal pursuit

Universidad de Los Andes — Santiago, Chile
January 2018
GoUandes Intensive Latin American Business and Politics Short Term Global Exchange

Honors and Awards

Australian Psychological Society Prize (for graduating top of my psychology honours cohort, $\sim 300 students$) — 2020

McElwain Prize (for the best honours thesis in the School of Psychology) — 2020

Recognition of Academic Excellence (UQ Faculty of Health and Behavioural Science) — 2019, 2018

Dean's Commendation (UQ Faculty of health and behavioural science — 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017

Publications

How do we Choose Our Giants? Perceptions of Replicability in Psychological Science
Manikya Alister, Raine Vickers-Jones, David K. Sewell, Timothy J. Ballard.
Advancements in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science, 2021.
doi.org/10.1177/25152459211018199

Research experience

Casual Researcher, University of Queensland: Computational Modelling of Gaze Cueing — January 2021 – Present
Supervisor: Dr. Nathan J Evans
In this project, we are using evidence accumulation models to better understand the nature of attention shifts that occur as a result of gaze cues. This

research originated as a hobby project of mine, which I asked Dr. Nathan Evans to supervise. Such was the progress we made, Dr. Evans decided to hire me so that I could dedicate more time to the project. **Some of my main duties** have been to run recovery analysis simulations, develop theoretically informed variants of the Drift-Diffusion Model and fit them to data using individual-level and hierarchical Bayesian parameter estimation techniques, and write the manuscript.

Prioritisation Under Pressure: The Effect of Deliberation Time on Multiple Goal Pursuit (Honours Thesis)   March 2020 - September 2020
Supervisor: Dr. Timothy J Ballard
For my fourth-year honours thesis, I adapted and tested a computational model that seeks to explain how people prioritize multiple goals under time pressure. This thesis was recognised as the best honours thesis in my graduating cohort and can be found here. **Tasks that I performed** included design and implementation of two experiments: a conceptual replication and a novel experiment, and running a hierarchical Bayesian parameter estimation and Bayesian logistic regressions using Stan and RStudio.

Undergraduate Research Scholar, University of Queensland: How do we Prioritise Competing Deadlines?   Summer 2019-2020
Supervisor: Dr. Timothy J. Ballard
In this project, I received a scholarship to work on a literature search for studies that investigated how people pursue multiple goals with competing deadlines, with the goal of obtaining raw data for a large, multi-study modelling analysis. My primary duties were to search academic databases, clean any data that was obtained, and run preliminary statistical analyses using R Studio.

Research Assistant, University of Queensland: Perception and Action Lab   Summer 2019-2020
Supervisor: A/Prof. Ada Kritikos
I was hired as a research assistant to facilitate a project investigating the self-reference effect and decision-making. **My primary duties** were to organise, run, and supervise testing sessions on UQ campus.

Undergraduate Research Scholar, University of Queensland: Perceptions of Replicability in Psychological Science   Summer 2018-2019
Supervisors: Dr. Timothy J. Ballard, Dr. David K. Sewell

In this project, I received a scholarship to help develop a registered report investigating how different study attributes influence perceptions of replicability among psychological scientists. I worked on this project for over two-years after the official scholarship was completed and was made first-author on the manuscript for my contributions. **Tasks that I performed** included creating a survey using Qualtrics, cleaning and analysing data using RStudio, extracting meta-data of 10,000+ journal articles from the web of science, and co-writing a registered report.

Teaching experience

Academic Tutor, UQ School of Psychology   Semester 1 2021
PSYC1030: Introduction to Developmental, Social, and Clinical Psychology
I was in charge of independently teaching three classes per week, each two-hours long and with 40 students per class. I was also responsible for marking my students' assignments.
Average student rating: X/5.

Private Tutor, UQ Union College   Semester 1 2021
PSYC3034: Applied Psychology, PSYC3102: Psychopathology, PSYC2010: Psychological Research Methods 2
Union college is an on campus residential facility for UQ students. I was hired by the college to tutor residents in various subjects.
Student ratings not applicable.

Student Tutor, UQ School of Psychology   Semester 1 2020
PSYC2371: The Science of Everyday Thinking
Due to outstanding achievement in this subjects, I was asked to return the following semester to help facilitate weekly large group seminars and assist with class planning.
Student ratings not applicable.

Student Tutor, UQ School of Psychology   Semester 1 2019
PSYC3052: Judgement and Decision-Making
Description same as above
Student ratings not applicable.

Scholarships and Funding $7,000 total

Undergraduate Research Scholarship (University of Queensland) **$3,500**	Summer 2019-2021
Undergraduate Research Scholarship (University of Queensland) **$3,500**	Summer 2018-2019

Talks and Conference Presentations

A computational investigation of the gaze-cueing effect
-Statistics, Modelling, and Cognition Group seminar, School of Psychology,
University of Queensland   May 2021

Perceptions of replicability in psychological science

-Centre for Research in Social Psychology Seminar, School of Psychology, University   March 2021

-Annual Meeting of the Australasian Society of Mathematical Psychology, Newcastle, Australia (presented virtually, link)   February 2021

-Queensland Centre for Perception & Cognitive Neuroscience Mini-Conference, Brisbane, Australia   November 2021

Professional Experience

Institute for Continuing and TESOL Education (ICTE)

General Assistant   Mar 2017 - Apr 2021 (ceased due to COVID)

ICTE is an institute that provides English Language courses and international development training for overseas government departments. My primary responsibilities were to schedule, organise and set up various events within the institute such as meetings, English classes, welcome events, tours and activities for visiting students.

Skills

Programming

Proficient in: R

Familiar with: Latex (CV written in Latex)

Languages

English (mother-tongue), Spanish (fluent)

Other programs/software

SPSS, Jamovi, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office

Professional

memberships

2022 Australasian Mathematical Psychology Conference Planning Committee   January 2021 – Present

Honorary year-long membership for winning the 2021 Australian Psychological Society Prize

Australian Psychological Society   January 2021 – Present

Honorary year-long membership for winning the 2021 Australian Psychological Society Prize