

OMRAN K. SAFI

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EDUCATION

Master of Arts in Cognitive Psychology University of British Columbia	2021-23
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology University of British Columbia Specializing in Cognitive Psychology	2020
High School Diploma Point Grey Secondary Graduated with honors	2015

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student (MA) Memory and Imagination Lab – University of British Columbia <ul style="list-style-type: none">Investigating recall of elapsed time for emotional and non-emotional contextsInvestigating duration memory for emotional and non-emotional imagined future eventsInvestigating duration memory for emotional events using virtual realityDeveloping and validating a novel set of emotional stimuli for use in virtual reality	2021-23
Research Assistant Memory and Imagination Lab – University of British Columbia <ul style="list-style-type: none">Investigating the relationship between emotion and temporal memoryExamining relationship between emotional arousal and temporal proximity judgementsDeveloping a study aiming to examine how emotion affects temporal judgements in episodic future thought	2020
Tracking Independent Information Signals Across Brain Regions Motivated Cognition Lab – University of British Columbia Supervisors: Dr. James Kryklywy and Dr. Rebecca Todd <ul style="list-style-type: none">Project focused on methodological innovation for neuroimaging analysisAnalysis of emotional and sensory communication information in the brainStatistical analyses and graphical representation using RMatrix manipulations in MATLABNeuroimaging processing and displaying done in AFNIRSA script in Python	2020

Senior Thesis*

2020

Behavioral Sustainability Lab - University of British Columbia

Motivated Cognition Lab – University of British Columbia

Supervisors: Dr. Jiaying Zhao and Dr. Rebecca Todd

*Data collection disrupted due to Covid-19

- Examining the affective responses produced by VR induced overview effect and its effect on climate change attitudes
- Produced novel idea of examining relationship between the overview effect and climate attitudes
- Conducted literature review
- Created study design and protocol
- Completed and obtained ethics approval (UBC BREB)
- Rendered stimulus in Unity – 3D Model of Earth
- Collect, record, and analyze subject data
 - Heart Rate, Galvanic Skin Response, and Questionnaires

Behavioral Sustainability Lab

2019-Present

University of British Columbia

- Worked on my senior thesis examining the consequences of the overview on climate change attitudes
- Completed and obtained ethics (UBC BREB)
- Dynamic model of Earth created in Unity
- Coded aspects of the environment in C# (atmosphere, cloud movement, earth rotation)
- Coded player movement scripts in C#
- Coded Oculus Rift headset and Oculus controller integration in C#
- Prepared surveys in Qualtrics measuring several psychological variables (PANAS-X, AWE-S, INS, Climate Concern)
- Learned use of Empatica E4 wristband to collect physiological data (Heart Rate & GSR)
- Learned to use QRSTool, an open source software, to analyze physiological data

Behavioral Reward Affect & Impulsivity Neuroscience (BRAIN) Lab

2019 - 2020

University of British Columbia

- Project focusing on using the MUSE (portable EEG headband) to assess implicit craving in clinical populations with concurrent stimulant use and mental disorders
- Project aiming to use the MUSE headband to identify a novel biomarker for craving and relapse
- Worked on ethics applications for new studies and add-ons for ongoing studies
- Presented poster at Psychiatry Research Day

Motivated Cognition Lab

2018 – Present

University of British Columbia

- Worked on study investigating the influence of physiological arousal on reward

- Head research assistant for experiment examining attentional biases and emotion
- Received supervision for senior thesis
- Learned proper EEG usage – electrode handling and running participants
- Learned EEG preprocessing and data analysis (EEGLAB & ERPLAB)
- Worked on project aiming to find a novel analysis technique for fMRI data
- Learned to use Analysis of Functional NeuroImages (AFNI) – an open source environment for processing and displaying fMRI data

PUBLICATIONS

Paper – Balance, B.C., Tuen, Y., Petrucci, A.S, Orwig, W., **Safi, O.K.**, Madan, C. R., Palombo, D. J. (2022). Imagining Emotional Events Benefits Future-Oriented Decisions. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17470218221086637>

Paper – Petrucci, A. S., McCall, C., Schofield, G., Wardell, V., **Safi, O.K.**, Palombo, D. J. (2022, in preparation). The Relationship Between Environmentally Induced Emotion and Memory for a Naturalistic Virtual Experience.

Paper – **Safi, O. K.**, Tommasi, M., Sun, B., Thornley, J., Dodani, A. (2020). Carbon Footprint Information Promotes Sustainable Food Choices. UBC SEEDS. <https://open.library.ubc.ca/cIRcle/collections/undergraduateresearch/18861/items/1.0392724>

POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

Poster – **Safi, OK**, Kryklywy, JH, Todd, RM, Palombo, DJ (2022). Investigating the effects of emotion on temporal duration memory using naturalistic virtual reality. Society for Affective Science.

Poster – **Safi, OK**, Bontkes, O, Palombo, DJ (2022). Assessing the perceptual characteristics of emotional and non-emotional simulations using Natural Language Processing. Northwest Cognition and Memory (NOWCAM) Conference.

Poster – Yiran, S, **Safi, OK**, Palombo, DJ (2022). Transfer of Valence in Virtual Reality. UBC Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference.

Presentation – **Safi, O.K.** (2020). Tracking Independent Information Signals Across Regions of Interest. UBC Cognitive Area Workshop.

Presentation – **Safi, O.K.**, Tommasi, M. (2020). Carbon Footprint Information Promotes Sustainable Food Choices. Northwest Cognition and Memory (NOWCAM) Conference.

Poster – **Safi, O.K.**, Li, A.C., Cheng, A.F., Schuetz, C.G. (2020). Assessing Cue-Induced Craving in Individuals with Methamphetamine Addiction Through Portable EEG Technology. Department of Psychiatry 2020 Virtual Research Day.

Poster Presentation – Safi, O.K., (2020). Climate Change, Affect, and The Overview Effect. UBC Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference*.

*Poster accepted but conference cancelled due to Covid-19

SCHOLARLY REVIEW

Ad Hoc Reviewer – Cognition (December 2021). Assisted supervisor with review

Ad Hoc Reviewer – Behavior Research Methods (March 2022). Assisted supervisor with review

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of British Columbia 2021/22

Guest Lecture

Course: Psych 309 – Cognitive Processes

University of British Columbia 2021/22

Teaching Assistant

Course: Psych 102 - Introduction to Developmental, Social, Personality, and Clinical Psychology

University of British Columbia 2021/22

Teaching Assistant

Course: Psych 307 - Cultural Psychology

University of British Columbia 2021/22

Teaching Assistant

Course: Psych 309 – Cognitive Processes

SKILLS

Programming Languages: C, C#, Python, R, HTML/CSS, Java Script

Statistical Programs: R, SPSS, JASP, G-Power, Jamovi

Experimental Technology: PsychoPy, QRSTool, Afni (Neuroimaging), MATLAB, EEGLAB & ERPLAB, Qualtrics

Web Frameworks: WordPress, Weebly, Squarespace

Visual/Audio Programs: Unity, Meshroom, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Audacity

Natural Languages: English, Dari, Farsi, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish

AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Faculty of Arts Graduate Award 2021

University of British Columbia, Department of Psychology

- In recognition of academic achievement
- Amount: \$15,000

Visiting Philosopher 2018

University of Pittsburgh, Department of Philosophy

- Worked with other visiting academics on a wide range of issue in philosophy of science
- Areas discussed included laws of nature, thought experiments, scientific controversy, confirmation theory, ethical issues in science, and modern technologies
- Funding provided by Pittsburgh University's Center for Philosophy of Science

Grant 2018/2019

Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS)

- Wrote grant application and secured a club operation grant from the AUS
- Amount: \$1000

Cognitive Systems Podcast (CogsCast) 2017 - 2020

Official Podcast of UBC CSS

- Cofounder and host
- Podcast discussing and examining various topics of interest in Cognitive Science
- Topics include, but are not limited to, consciousness, intelligence, psychedelics, and emerging technologies

Vice President Media 2019 - 2020

Cognitive Systems Society (CSS)

- Responsible for the Cognitive Systems Podcast (CogsCast)
- Responsible for improvement and maintenance of the CSS website
- Responsible for monthly newsletter
- Involved in planning and running academic events throughout the year

Vice President Arts External 2018 - 2019

Cognitive Systems Society (CSS)

- Cognitive Systems representative to the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS)
- Established a working relationship between the AUS and the CSS
- Successfully secured AUS club grant
- Involved in planning and running events for the CSS and AUS

CERTIFICATIONS

VCH Privacy and Confidentiality Vancouver Coastal Health	2019
Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans Tri-Council Policy Statement 2: CORE	2016

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Society for Affective Science: Member (2022/23)
Cognitive Science Society: Member (2020 - Present)
Cognitive Systems Society: Member (2017-2020), Executive (2018-2020)
UBC Psychology Students Association: Member (2019-2020)
UBC Arts Undergraduate Society: Departmental Representative (2018/2019)

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Poster Judge UBC Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference Evaluated research posters at the department of psychology annual undergraduate research conference	2022
Volunteer at Technical Career Fair University of British Columbia An annual fair held in January at the University of British Columbia that provides students the opportunity to meet with industry employers	2020
Planning Committee Member Life Sciences Research Night – Undergraduate Research Opportunities An annual event held at the University of British Columbia that aims to educate and inspire undergraduate students about research and how to get into research	2018
Imagine Day Orientation Leader University of British Columbia Provided orientation to incoming undergraduate students and provide ongoing support throughout their first year of university	2017
Peer Mentor Best Buddies Canada Paired with a student with an intellectual and/or developmental disability Participated in activities throughout the year – coffee, movies, skating, basketball, etc.	2011 – 2015