

OMRAN K. SAFI

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EDUCATION

Master of Arts in Cognitive Psychology University of British Columbia	Present
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

Research Assistant Memory and Imagination Lab – University of British Columbia	2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigating the relationship between emotion and temporal memory• Examining relationship between emotional arousal and temporal proximity judgements• Developing a study aiming to examine how emotion affects temporal judgements in episodic future thought	

Tracking Independent Information Signals Across Brain Regions Motivated Cognition Lab – University of British Columbia Supervisors: Dr. James Kryklywy and Dr. Rebecca Todd	2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project focused on methodological innovation for neuroimaging analysis• Analysis of emotional and sensory communication information in the brain• Statistical analyses and graphical representation using R• Matrix manipulations in MATLAB• Neuroimaging processing and displaying done in AFNI• RSA script in Python	

Senior Thesis* Behavioral Sustainability Lab - University of British Columbia Motivated Cognition Lab – University of British Columbia Supervisors: Dr. Jiaying Zhao and Dr. Rebecca Todd	2020
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*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, POSTERS, & PRESENTATIONS

Paper – Balance, B.C., Tuen, Y., Petrucci, A.S, Orwig, W., **Safi, O.K.**, Madan, C. R., Palombo, D. J. (2021, under review). Imagining Emotional Events Benefits Future-Oriented Decisions. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*

Paper – Petrucci, A. S., McCall, C., Schofield, G., Wardell, V., Safi, O.K., Palombo, D. J. (2021, in preparation). The Relationship Between Environmentally Induced Emotion and Memory for a Naturalistic Virtual Experience.

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

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

Poster Presentation – **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.

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>

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

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	

SKILLS

Programming Languages: C, C#, Python, R, HTML/CSS, Java Script
Statistical Programs: R, SPSS, JASP, G-Power
Experimental Technology: PsychoPy, QRSTool, Afni (Neuroimaging), MATLAB, EEGLAB & ERPLAB, Qualtrics

Web Frameworks: WordPress, Weebly, Squarespace
Visual/Audio Programs: Unity, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Audacity
Natural Languages: English, Dari, Farsi, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish, German (Learning)

AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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	2019
Vancouver Coastal Health	

Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans	2016
Tri-Council Policy Statement 2: CORE	

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

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

Volunteer at Technical Career Fair	2020
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

Planning Committee Member	2018
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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

Imagine Day Orientation Leader	2017
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University of British Columbia

Provided orientation to incoming undergraduate students and provide ongoing support throughout their first year of university

Peer Mentor	2011 – 2015
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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.