

# OMRAN K. SAFI

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## EDUCATION

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

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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<b>Graduate Student (MA)</b> Memory and Imagination Lab – University of British Columbia <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Investigating recall of elapsed time for emotional and non-emotional contexts</li><li>Investigating duration memory for emotional and non-emotional imagined future events</li><li>Investigating duration memory for emotional events using virtual reality</li><li>Developing and validating a novel set of emotional stimuli for use in virtual reality</li></ul>	2021-23
<b>Research Assistant</b> Memory and Imagination Lab – University of British Columbia <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Investigating the relationship between emotion and temporal memory</li><li>Examining relationship between emotional arousal and temporal proximity judgements</li><li>Developing a study aiming to examine how emotion affects temporal judgements in episodic future thought</li></ul>	2020
<b>Tracking Independent Information Signals Across Brain Regions</b> Motivated Cognition Lab – University of British Columbia Supervisors: Dr. James Kryklywy and Dr. Rebecca Todd <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Project focused on methodological innovation for neuroimaging analysis</li><li>Analysis of emotional and sensory communication information in the brain</li><li>Statistical analyses and graphical representation using R</li><li>Matrix manipulations in MATLAB</li><li>Neuroimaging processing and displaying done in AFNI</li><li>RSA script in Python</li></ul>	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

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**Paper (Proposal Submitted) – Safi, O.K.,** Madan, C. R., Palombo, D. J. (2022). The Promises and Perils of Investigating Emotional Memory Using Virtual Reality. *Affective Science*.

**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 – under review). The Relationship Between Environmentally Induced Emotion and Memory for a Naturalistic Virtual Experience. *Cognition and Emotion*.

**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

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**Poster – Safi, OK,** Shi, E., Madan, C. R., Palombo, DJ (2023). Immersive affective dilation: Investigating temporal-duration for emotional events using virtual reality. International Conference on Learning and Memory.

**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**

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

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

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**University of British Columbia** 2022/23  
Teaching Assistant  
Course: Psych 333 – Memory: Historical, Clinical and Cognitive Perspectives

**University of British Columbia** 2022/23  
Teaching Assistant  
Course: Psych 309 – Cognitive Processes

**University of British Columbia** 2022/23  
Teaching Assistant  
Course: Psych 333\* – Memory: Historical, Clinical and Cognitive Perspectives  
\* Teaching Assistant for two sections

**University of British Columbia** 2021/22  
Teaching Assistant  
Course: Psych 102 - Introduction to Developmental, Social, Personality, and Clinical Psychology

<b>University of British Columbia</b> Teaching Assistant Course: Psych 307 - Cultural Psychology	2021/22
<b>University of British Columbia</b> Teaching Assistant Course: Psych 309 – Cognitive Processes	2021/22

## SKILLS

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**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

## CERTIFICATIONS

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

## MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

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**Spark Society:** Member (2022/23)  
**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)

## AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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<b>Faculty of Arts Graduate Award</b> <b>University of British Columbia, Department of Psychology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In recognition of academic achievement</li> <li>Amount: \$13,500</li> </ul>	2022
<b>Faculty of Arts Graduate Award</b>	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

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**COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES****Graduate Student Representative**

2023

**UBC Psychology Search Committee**

Evaluated applications for joint faculty position across Psychology and Computer Science departments.

**Cognitive Area Representative**      2022/23  
UBC Psychology Graduate Student Council

**Peer Mentor**      2022/23  
UBC Psychology Diversity Membership Program  
Provide professional development support and mentorship for students from historically underrepresented and/or diverse backgrounds

**Poster Judge**      2022  
UBC Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference  
Evaluated research posters at the department of psychology annual undergraduate research conference

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

**Peer Mentor**      2011 – 2015  
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.