

# OMRAN K. SAFI

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## EDUCATION

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<b>Master of Arts in Cognitive Psychology</b> University of British Columbia	Present
<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>Research Assistant</b> Memory and Imagination Lab – University of British Columbia	2020
<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>	

<b>Tracking Independent Information Signals Across Brain Regions</b> Motivated Cognition Lab – University of British Columbia Supervisors: Dr. James Kryklywy and Dr. Rebecca Todd	2020
<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>	

<b>Senior Thesis*</b> 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

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**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. (2021, 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

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**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.

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

**Poster** – **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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<b>University of British Columbia</b> Guest Lecture Course: Psych 309 – Cognitive Processes	2021/22
<b>University of British Columbia</b> Teaching Assistant Course: Psych 102 - Introduction to Developmental, Social, Personality, and Clinical Psychology	2021/22
<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  
**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

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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: \$15,000</li></ul>	2021
<b>Visiting Philosopher</b> <b>University of Pittsburgh, Department of Philosophy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worked with other visiting academics on a wide range of issue in philosophy of science</li><li>• Areas discussed included laws of nature, thought experiments, scientific controversy, confirmation theory, ethical issues in science, and modern technologies</li><li>• Funding provided by Pittsburgh University's Center for Philosophy of Science</li></ul>	2018

**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**

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**VCH Privacy and Confidentiality** 2019

Vancouver Coastal Health

**Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans** 2016

Tri-Council Policy Statement 2: CORE

## **MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

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**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

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### **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.