

Scott Claessens

EDUCATION

- 2016 – 2017 **MRes Evolution and Human Behaviour (Distinction), Newcastle University**
Taught modules: The Biological Basis of Behaviour, Comparative Cognition, Sensory Systems. Further training on experimental design and statistics, introduction to animal observation methods and evolutionary modelling, and supplementary workshops on Endnote, Matlab and Python. *Research project:* “The benefits of being seen to be cooperative” supervised by Gilbert Roberts.
- 2012 – 2015 **BSc Psychology (First class honours), University of Bristol**
First and second year: social psychology, developmental psychology, neuroscience, and cognitive psychology. *Third year:* nutrition and behaviour, neuropsychiatry, and evolutionary psychology. Psychological research skills and statistical training. *Research project:* a psychophysics study into the effect of dynamic dazzle camouflage on human time-to-contact judgements.
- 2010 – 2012 **Queen Mary’s College, Basingstoke**
A-levels: Maths (A*), Biology (A*), Psychology (A)
AS-level: English Literature (A)
- 2005 – 2010 **Brighton Hill Community College, Basingstoke**
3 A*s and 6 As at GCSE level, including Maths and English.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Scholar at Arizona State University, Arizona, US (2017, three months)

After completing my Masters degree, Athena Aktipis at ASU invited me to complete a short research internship in her lab, as part of the interdisciplinary “Human Generosity Project”. In this time, I have worked on several projects, including: 1) designing an economic game to study need-based giving and risk pooling in volatile environments, 2) interrogating an agent-based model of female mating and intra-sexual competition to study the function of concealed ovulation, and 3) running an online experiment to study risk aversion in need-based transfer systems. I have also acted as a Teaching Assistant for the undergraduate Evolutionary Psychology course, creating quizzes for students and stimulating in-class discussions.

Research Executive at Marketing Sciences, Winchester, UK (2015 – 2016)

After graduating, I worked full-time at a Market Research consultancy. My team conducted large-scale quantitative studies into the effectiveness of new packaging designs for brands such as Bulmers, Lucozade and Cadbury. My responsibilities included questionnaire development, online data collection and analysis, visualization of data in presentation form, and reporting directly to clients.

Research Intern at University of Bristol, UK (2014, eight weeks)

In my second year, I worked alongside PhD students in a research group in the Biology department (Camolab). I contributed by participating in pilot studies and collecting preliminary data. I also attended a conference on visual perception during this time, which was my first introduction to the overlap between psychology and behavioural ecology.

SKILLS

Research

- *Research design and statistical analysis.* I am competent in experimental design and data collection. I can conduct t-tests, ANOVAs and multiple regression analyses where appropriate, and can interpret the outputs of these inferential statistics.
- *Eye-tracking.* At Marketing Sciences, I conducted eye-tracking studies into the effectiveness of new packaging designs. Using Tobii eye-tracking equipment, I can design eye-tracking experiments and analyse gaze data.
- *oTree.* For my Masters research project, and during my internship at ASU, I have taught myself to code economic experiments in the new open-source software oTree. I can run well-established games such as Dictator Games, Trust Games, and Public Goods Games. I have also created my own unique games using the software.

Communication

- *Written ability.* I have developed my scientific writing throughout my higher education, in the form of lab reports and essays. I am also a passionate writer outside of University.
- *Public speaking and presentation skills.* I presented academic papers regularly during my undergraduate degree, and this continues to be important at postgraduate level. I am a confident public speaker who is happy to communicate scientific work to others.
- *Peer tutoring and blog.* I believe that you never understand something properly until you can communicate it efficiently. During my undergraduate degree, I acted as a Psychology peer-tutor, and I now keep an informal science blog, with the goal of improving my science communication.

IT / Technical

- *Microsoft Office.* I am competent with Microsoft Office programs, after using them on a regular basis throughout both higher education and full-time work.
- *Statistical packages.* I am most comfortable using SPSS, but I am also currently learning to use R to organise, analyse and visualise data.
- *NetLogo.* From my internship at ASU, I have gained a basic understanding of the agent-based modelling software NetLogo. I can create agent-based models with emergent behaviour, and can interrogate these models by systematically varying their parameters.
- *Coding in R and Python.* In my Masters course, we had several classes on using R to interrogate optimality models of behavioural evolution. I have since taught myself the basics of the coding language. Furthermore, my Masters project required me to teach myself Python, to code behavioural economic experiments in oTree.

INTERESTS

Outside of University, I am a passionate musician. I played drums in two bands throughout my time in Bristol. Also, I feel extremely fortunate to have seen as much of the world as I have. South America, Europe, America and Australia are among the places I have travelled, which has expanded my experience with different cultures and ways of life.

REFEREES

Nick Scott-Samuel is a Reader in Visual Perception at the University of Bristol. Nick supervised my third-year project during my undergraduate degree. Gilbert Roberts is a Senior Lecturer at Newcastle University, and he supervised my Masters project.

Dr Nick Scott-Samuel
Priory Road Complex,
Priory Road, Clifton, BS8 1TU
Tel: +44 (0) 117 928 8557
Email: n.e.scott-samuel@bristol.ac.uk

Dr Gilbert Roberts
Henry Wellcome Building,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4HH
Tel: +44 (0) 191 20 88704
Email: gilbert.roberts@ncl.ac.uk