Sepehr Saeedpour

✉ sepehrsdp@gmail.com 📞 +33759517181 in linkedin.com/sepsad github.com/sepsad 🌐 sepsad.github.io

Education

- **École Normale Supérieure (ENS) - PSL University**   Paris, France
  Normalien and M.Sc. in Cognitive Science   *2024 - now*
  - Cognitive modeling, neurotheory and AI Track

- **University of Tehran - School of Electrical and Computer Engineering**   Tehran, Iran
  B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering   *2018 - 2023*
  - Thesis: Interindividual differences in Learning to Act or Avoid.
  - Awarded Best Undergraduate Thesis in the ECE School.

Research Experience

- **Sorbonne université — Institut des Systèmes Intelligents et de Robotique**   Paris, France
  Research Assistant   *Aug 2025 – Present*
  Supervisor: Dr. Heike Stein
  - Leading a project on modeling head-direction circuit dynamics by designing Gaussian Process state-space and dynamical models to capture neural population activity.

- **École Normale Supérieure (ENS) — Human Reinforcement Learning Lab**   Paris, France
  Research Intern   *Feb 2024 – June 2025*
  Supervisor: Dr. Stefano Palminteri
  - Investigated the computational mechanisms of experiential knowledge transmission (e.g., teaching) by designing and implementing an online behavioural experiment (demo), recruiting and testing 50 participants.

- **Ludwig Maximilians Universität München - Crowd Cognition Group**   Remote
  Undergraduate Research Assistant   *June 2021 - August 2024*
  Co-supervisors: Dr. Bahador Bahrami, Prof. Dr. Ophelia Deroy
  - Led a study on Pavlovian–instrumental interactions by designing an online Go/NoGo task, implementing reinforcement-learning models, and publishing the results.
  - Quantified goal-directed vs. habitual control in social decision-making by fitting model-based and model-free reinforcement-learning models to behavioral data and co-authoring the manuscript.
  - Developed real-time eye-tracking pipelines for interactive environments and characterized gaze dynamics using time-series analysis and visual saliency representations.

Publications

- **Saeedpour, S.**, Miandari, M., Deroy, O., Bahrami, B. (2023). Interindividual differences in Pavlovian influence on learning are consistent, Royal Society Open Science, doi.org/10.1098/rsos.230447

- Navidi, P., **Saeedpour, S.**, Miandari, M., Ershadmanesh, S., Bahrami, B. (2023). Prosocial learning: Model-based or model-free?, PLoS One, doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0287563

Honors and Awards

- **Admitted to the Concours Normalien Étudiant.** École Normale Supérieure-PSL, Cognitive Science   2024
  Highly selective french competitive exam granting Normalien student status at ENS.

- **The Best Undergraduate Thesis Award.** ECE school, University of Tehran. (Link)   2022

- **International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) world finalist.** Bangladesh. (Link)   Nov 2022
  Coached the team "aFunnyRandomPhrase" from the Univesity of Tehran

- **Silver Medalist** in the 12th National Olympiad of Astronomy and Astrophysics (NOAA)   2016

Poster Presentations

- **Inferring Ring-Attractor Dynamics in Head-Direction Neural Activity.** Presented at the PINTS (Paris Neuroscience, Theory an Systems) Conference, Paris, Fall 2025.

- **Teaching by Description Can Transfer Rule Policies in a Deterministic Contextual Bandit.** Presented at the COSMOS (Computational Summer school on Modeling Social and collective behavior) Summer School, Tokyo, Japan, Summer 2025.

Work Experience

- **Venture Capital Team - Khalgh Servat Sarzamin Parseh** — Tehran, Iran
  Part-time Investment Analyst — *Aug. 2022 - Sep. 2024*
  - Analyzing early-stage startups using known frameworks such as pain points, and JTBD (job to be done).
  - Identifying candidates for investment within the allotted fund.

- **YUZ Games Studio - Cafe Bazaar** — Tehran, Iran
  Game Data Analyst — *Apr. 2021 - Aug. 2022*
  - Employed statistical and machine learning approaches to analyze YUZ games' users' behavior in the game and optimizing various aspects of the game and levels to improve gamers' experience.

- **People Analytics Team - Cafe Bazaar** — Tehran, Iran
  Human Resources Data Analyst — *Jun. 2019 - Apr. 2021*
  - Utilized data-driven approaches to analyze employees' profiles to optimise work conditions.

Teaching Experience

- **Teaching Assistant - University of Tehran**

  - **Machine Learning**: Instructors: Prof. Nadjar Araabi & Dr. Abolghasemi Dahaqani — Fall 2020
  - **Engineering Probability and Statistics**: Instructor: Dr. Behnam Bahrak — Spring 2020
  - **Engineering Probability and Statistics**: Instructor: Dr. Abolghasemi Dahaqani — Fall 2019

- **Instructor, Astronomy & Astrophysics Olympiad** — 2017 - 2019
  Allame Helli 1 High school
  - Taught Data Analysis methods (e.g. linear models, clustering) to students preparing for the National Olympiad in Astronomy & Astrophysics (NOAA).

Organizational Experience

- **Executive Director at CNCS 2019** — Winter 2019
  University of Tehran (Cognitive Neuroscience Competiton for Students)
  - Managed a team to execute the event.
  - Gathered speakers on different topics in cognitive science.

- **Performing Arts Club Vice Chair** — 2019
  University of Tehran
  - Managed the activities of Theater groups, shows and performances, workshops and events around Performing Arts in the University of Tehran.