Andrei Zărie, PhD

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Behavioural research specialist and statistics consultant (PhD) with 10+ years of experience in advanced data analysis, methodological design, and applied research. Expertly proficient in statistical software including R, SPSS, and jamovi, with advanced programming skills in R and MATLAB. Experienced in applying complex statistical techniques to large-scale datasets. Proven ability as a client-facing statistics adviser, delivering technical consultancy across diverse fields (finance, medicine, social sciences). Highly skilled in translating complex data into actionable insights, resource development, securing independent funding, and managing sensitive data while maintaining strict GDPR compliance. Extensive customer service experience in library/wellbeing support contexts in academic spaces.

SKILLS

Technical Skills

Statistical Data Analysis and visualisation
- SPSS – expert
- jamovi (JASP) – expert
- R – expert
- STATA – advanced
- Power BI – intermediate

Programming & Scripting
- R – advanced
- MATLAB – advanced
- JavaScript (+ HTML, CSS) – intermediate
- SQL – intermediate
- Python – beginner

Software & Productivity Tools
- Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint) – expert
- Adobe Photoshop – intermediate
- Adobe Premiere Pro & After Effects – advanced
- Qualtrics & QuestionPro – expert

Professional & Transferable Skills

- Research design, data collection, and project coordination across multi-phase studies
- Critical evaluation and synthesis of evidence from diverse sources
- Translating research findings into clear, actionable outputs for varied audiences
- Report writing, briefing preparation, and presentation of data-driven insights
- Stakeholder engagement and collaboration with academic, clinical, and community partners
- Managing small teams, mentoring and training researchers and assistants
- Communicating complex concepts in accessible language
- Experienced in GDPR and ethical research standards
- Independent funding acquisition and project delivery to deadline
- Teaching research methods, data analysis and software skills to diverse individuals

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Maths and Stats Help (MASH) Adviser – Statistics Specialist
August 2023 to July 2025 - University of Lincoln, Library Learning & Skills
- Delivered mathematics, statistics and data analysis consultancy and support to staff and students
- Consulted on statistics and data analysis problems across all academic fields/disciplines, including finance, marketing, medicine, social sciences, and computer science
- Taught clients how to use data software – Excel, SPSS, R, Power BI, STATA, jamovi, MATLAB, Python
- Taught descriptive data analysis and hypothesis testing using teach-by-doing methods

- Created online learning resources (videos, handouts, written tutorials, web pages)
- Delivered open workshops, webinars and in-curriculum teaching
- Assisted lecturers with curriculum development
- Maintained a CRM database; extracted and analysed user experience data

Doctoral Researcher

January 2019 to September 2025 - University of Lincoln
- Planned, created and implemented a large research project
- Conducted four emotion recognition studies involving autistic and non-autistic adults and children
- Independently secured funding (Impact Accelerator Fund, £5k) to create original body and face emotion recognition stimuli involving autistic actors; work was presented and assessed as potential REF 3★ or higher
- Filmed, edited and validated open access image and video stimuli (16 actors, half autistic, gender balanced, including non-binary identities, age-diverse)
- Collected data using a wide variety of methods: online, in-person, computer labs and in schools.
- Trained students and school staff in data collection methods to reach further audiences and increase sample size
- Analysed a large dataset obtained from all 4 studies (~2000 participants in total) using multiple statistical software packages (MATLAB, SPSS, RStudio, jamovi)
- Disseminated results to a diverse audience (students, non-academics, researchers, stakeholders, university senior management) via talks, conference posters and research reports.

Associate Lecturer

January 2019 to August 2024 - University of Lincoln
- Taught undergraduate and master's modules in research methods, data analysis, and psychological sciences
- Supervised and mentored dissertation students, guiding them through study design, ethics, data collection, and analysis
- Developed workshops and learning materials to build students' research confidence and analytical skills
- Delivered lectures and practical sessions on quantitative and qualitative methodologies
- Supported assessment and feedback processes to maintain academic standards

Taught and marked on modules: Research skills and methods I and II (first year); Research skills and methods III and IV (second year); Brain, Behaviour and Cognition; Developmental Psychology; Cognitive Psychology; Social psychology; Undergraduate thesis module; Research methods and skills in social and political science (Master's module).

Library assistant

January 2022 to September 2024 - University of Lincoln
- Weekends and evenings customer service role – maintained a database of books and reservations, supported students with borrowing and returning books, printing; managed student behaviour in the library; IT support; general library customer service

Summer Scientist Week Researcher

August 2022, Aug 2023, Aug 2024 - University of Lincoln
- Conducted research with children and parents attending the event
- Managed a small team of research assistants, mentoring them on research methods and data collection
- Guided children through a cognitive test
- Organised research equipment for efficient application in a chaotic environment
- Tracked and analysed the success of the research campaign across three years

Senior residential warden - Student Support Centre

August 2019 to July 2022 - University of Lincoln
- Managed and mentored small teams of residential wardens on evening shifts
- Signposted and offered support to students
- Planned and lead social events and wellbeing campaigns for students
- Used data selection and campaign management tools (Apteco) to facilitate targeted mental health events
- Social media content creation (video filming and editing, photo editing, adverts)
- Conducted welfare checks on students university residences or via phone calls
- Responded to emergency/crisis situations to support students.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

October 2014 to July 2016 - Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory, Babes-Bolyai University
- Managed experiment participants – recruiting, instructing, debriefing
- Designed experiments as a team – literature reviews, presentations
- Organized academic events as part of a team
- Experimenter roles – administered questionnaires, conducted psychophysiological (EEG, EKG) and biochemical (DNA sampling) measurements, administered cognitive-emotional tasks, acted specific roles for covert experimental designs

EDUCATION

PhD in Psychology - 2019 to 2025 (part-time) - University of Lincoln
Thesis: <u>A comparative investigation of face and body emotion recognition: the role of autism, individual differences, task characteristics, and actors' emotion expression ability</u>

MSc Psychological Research Methods - 2016 to 2018 (part-time) - University of Lincoln
Thesis: <u>Construction and piloting of a new emotion recognition test with dynamic body expression stimuli: exploring the effect of facial blurring and individual differences</u>

BSc Psychology - 2013 to 2016 - Babes-Bolyai University

Baccalaureate in Maths and Computer Science - 2009 to 2013 - Traian Vuia High-school, Resita

AWARDS & CERTIFICATES (CTRL + Click on badges for details)

The Lincoln Award - University recognition for co-curricular achievement and employability skills

MOS Excel Associate Certificate – Microsoft Excel Specialist credential, awarded June 2023

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

RIO: Annual Research in Imagery and Observation, Apr 2019, Teesside University, Middlesbrough, UK
Poster – Emotional body expressions modulate steady-state visually evoked potentials (SSVEPs)
Zarie, A., O'Hare, L., Pollux, PMJ.

"Body-Up": Current trends and future directions in embodiment and social interaction, Jun 2019, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK
Poster – The ability to recognize emotions in dynamic body expressions: trait and ability correlates
Zarie, A., O'Hare, L., Pollux, PMJ.

PGR Student Showcase, Feb 2023, University of Lincoln, Lincoln, UK
Presentation – Emotion recognition, autism, and the double empathy problem
Zarie, A., Pollux, PMJ, Kargas, N., Guo, K,