Benjamin Melchior Kacso Panny

Ph.D. Student in Intelligent Systems
University of Pittsburgh

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Education

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 2024 - 2028 (Expected)
Ph.D. in Intelligent Systems (Sociotechnical Systems Lab)
Advisor: Dr. Amin Rahimian

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 2024
M.S. in Biostatistics: Health Data Science Concentration
Thesis: Continuous-Time Structural Equation Modelling of Fatigue and Physical Activity with Missing Data during Chemotherapy Treatment
GPA: 3.98/4.0
Committee: Drs. Chaeryon Kang, Gong Tang, and Carissa Low

University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 2017
B.S., B.A., Neuroscience, Psychology
GPA: 3.7/4.0

Research Focus

- Statistical and Agent-Based Modeling to predict the spread and impact of vaccine (mis)information
- Cost-effectiveness analysis of public health interventions to improve vaccine uptake

Research Experience

Clinical Application of Neuroscience Lab, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center 2023 - 2024
Systems Programmer/Analyst
- Published journal article on neural correlates of negative reinforcement learning in OCD patients
- Created REDCap database and data processing pipelines in R for multi-site clinical trial

Epistemix 2023 - 2024
Data Science Intern
- Contributed to 'epxpop' Python library for working with large synthetic population dataset
- Calibrated social networks in agent-based simulations to real-world networks in R, Python, FRED

Mobile Sensing and Health Institute, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center 2023
Data Science Intern
- Contributed to open-source, reproducible analysis pipeline for data streams (RAPIDS)
- Implemented bug fixes and new features in Python and R

Selected Publications

1. Panny B, Price RB, Wears A, Ahmari SE (2024). Altered neural activity during negative reinforcement in people with obsessive-compulsive disorder, Cognitive Therapy and Research. url
2. Kopelman J, Keller TA, Panny B et al. (2023). Rapid neuroplasticity changes and response to intravenous ketamine: a randomized controlled trial in treatment-resistant depression. Transl Psychiatry 13, 159. url
3. Price RB, Spotts C, Panny B, et al. (2022). A Novel, Brief, Fully Automated Intervention to Extend the Antidepressant Effect of a Single Ketamine Infusion: A Randomized Clinical Trial, The American Journal of Psychiatry. url

Honors and Awards

- Delta Omega Dissertation Award (2024)
- Biostatistics Endowed Scholarship Award (2023)
- Biostatistics Achievement Award (2021 - 2023)
- Biostatistics Chairman's Excellence Award (2021 - 2023)
- Travel Award, University of Wisconsin Symposium on Emotion (2023)