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Vlad Grigoras

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EDUCATION

MA - Cognitive Science

Sep 2019 - May 2023 (expected)

University of Edinburgh

Thesis: Peripersonal Space Extension in Schizophrenia Following Tool-Use: A Neurocomputational Approach

Main courses: Computational Cognitive Science, Computational Cognitive Neuroscience, Data Analysis for Psychology, Behavioural Genetics, Perception Action & Cognition

Societies & Activities:

- Una Europa Student Network Research Lead (Sep 2022 - May 2023):
 - Participated in the Una Europa 2022 October Student Congress.
 - Built the Una Europa Student Task Force from the ground up.
 - Facilitated the knowledge-exchange, research, teaching and educational aspect.
- Degree Representative (Sep 2020 - May 2023):
 - Represented my cohort in school, college and university level meetings, sharing my peer's feedback with academic and administrative staff and brainstorming solutions.
- Cognitive Science Society Podcast Coordinator (Apr 2021 - May 2023):
 - Interviewed researchers on Cognitive Science topics, took care of sound editing and podcast managing.
 - Organised events and gave academic talks for the society.
- Cognitive Science Peer Assisted Learning Support Leader (Sep 2022 - May 2023):
 - Organised presentations for 1st year Cognitive Science students to assist their transition to university life.
 - Answered any assessment questions students might have and pointed them to relevant staff support.
- School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Science (PPLS) Student Community Cognitive Science Ambassador (Sep 2021 - May 2022):
 - Represented the interests of CogSciSoc, facilitating cooperation across PPLS societies and degrees.
 - Built bridges to further integrate our school-wide community and encourage knowledge sharing.
- Edinburgh Award in Leadership (2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023)

Year Abroad

Sep 2021 - May 2022

University of Hong Kong

Main courses: Statistical Machine Learning, Hands-On AI, Quantum Information and Computing, Biopsychology, Neurobiological Basis of Psychological Issues

Relevant Projects: tweet-to-sound project using sentiment analysis, classification, LSTM generation and genetic algorithms, which the Faculty of Engineering invited our team to present at their innovation event

WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching Demonstrator

Jan 2023 - May 2023

School of Informatics (University of Edinburgh)

Edinburgh, UK

- Inf1 - Cognitive Science; Inf4 - Natural Language Understanding, Generation, and Machine Translation.
- Topics: NLP, cognitive modelling (language, reasoning, vision, memory, attention, action & behaviour).
- Assisted students with practical coding questions, as well as theoretical understanding during course labs.

Research Assistant

Oct 2022 - May 2023

Computational Cognitive Science Lab (University of Edinburgh)

Edinburgh, UK

- Performed data coding on participant's answers to a novel behavioural task related to causal learning for a forthcoming paper.
- Performed expected informational gain analysis in R on data from an active learning task, produced figures and helped proof-read the manuscript for submission to the 2023 Cognitive Science Conference .

Student Council Facilitator*Edinburgh University Student's Association***Sep 2022 - May 2023***Edinburgh, UK*

- Chaired the monthly meetings of the council, ensuring respectful and meaningful discussion with the goal of empowering democracy within our student association.
- Met with the Elected Officials of our Student Association and staff members to discuss the council agendas, as well as post-council feedback sessions.

Research Internship*Social and Cognitive Neuroscience Lab (University of Hong Kong)***Jan 2022 - ongoing***Hong Kong SAR, China*

- Performed data coding on participant's qualitative answers, created figures/plots in R and proofread the manuscript for a forthcoming research paper.
- Helped with EEG experiments, including handling, fitting and cleaning the EEG cap, instructing participants and interpreting EEG waves.

Freelance Statistics Tutor**Aug 2021 - ongoing**

- Tutored pre-honours and honours students in statistical analysis methods, both theoretically and practically in terms of coding and implementation using R Markdown.

VOLUNTEERING**Food Waste Hero***Olio***Sep 2022 - Dec 2022***Edinburgh, United Kingdom*

- Worked with local stores to pick-up expiring food and distribute it in the local community.
- Organised food giveaways with the Edinburgh University Student Association, helping students in need.

Social Policy Advisor*The European Center for the Social Inclusion of Rromas in Romania***Jun 2018 - Oct 2019***Bucharest, Romania*

- Engaged in training and regional debates around Romania, facilitating discussions with local actors and government officials with the purpose of developing efficient and inclusive social welfare policies.

Law and Politic Ambassador/Teacher*Vedem Just Association***Oct 2018 - Aug 2019***Bucharest, Romania*

- Acted as an ambassador of our organization within my high school (Grigore Moisil National College), organising workshops related to judicial education.
- Coordinated Faculty of Law (University of Bucharest) students in giving presentations to my high school.

Primary After-School Teacher*Policy Center for Roma and Minorities***Oct 2018 - Aug 2019***Bucharest, Romania*

- Planned, organised and held classes on Mathematics and Physics to children aged 6-14, offered them constructive after-school homework help; was responsible for the well-being of 20-30 children.

SKILLS**Programming**R, Python, C, C++, L^AT_EX, SQL**Languages**

Romanian (native), English (fluent), Japanese (post-beginner), Spanish (beginner)

Other

Github, Microsoft Office

Hobbies

Debating (2019 winner of the UoE Debates Union ESL Cup), yoga & mindfulness (UoE Yoga Society Mindfulness Teacher), poetry (published by the National Romanian Museum of Literature), weightlifting, coding and geopolitics