

Robert Contofalsky (He/Him)

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robertcontofalsky.com • Podcast

EDUCATION

Concordia University

Graduate Diploma, Computer Science

Montreal, Canada

September 2023 - August 2024

- Selected Coursework: Advanced Programming; Principles of Data Structures

McGill University

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology Major; History minor

Montreal, Canada

January 2019 - September 2022

- CGPA: 3.63/4.00; CGPA of most recent 60 credits: 3.83/4.00
- Thesis: [Supervised Learning of Auditory Categories: A Pilot Study](#)
- Recipient of the **Tomlinson Engagement Award for Mentoring** for Fall 2021, \$300

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Categorization & Categorical Perception
- Conceptualization & Conceptual Development
- Computational Cognitive Science

PUBLICATIONS

- Skvortsova, A., **Contofalsky, R.**, Carrier, S., & Mogil, J. (2023). The Neurochemical Mediation of Conditioned Hyperalgesia in Mice. *In preparation*
- Koestner, R., & **Contofalsky, R.** (2021). The Psychological Effects of The COVID-19 Pandemic on Young Adults: A Self-Determination Theory Perspective. *McGill Journal of Human Behaviour*, 1(1), 89-103

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

MOGILab

McGill University

Thesis Student (Principal Investigator: Prof. J. Mogil)

September 2021 - September 2022

- Conducted research on mice & humans regarding the novel “nocebo conditioned hyperalgesia effect”
- Performed ANOVA's on over 400 mice and controlling for 3 independent factors using Excel & SPSS
- Upcoming publication in *The Canadian Journal of Pain* (expected Q4 2023/Q1 2024)

Communication and Consciousness Lab

McGill University

Thesis Student (Principal Investigator: Prof. S. Harnad)

December 2020 - September 2021

- Designed and managed a pilot study in auditory categorical perception in humans using Python and Javascript for website building
- Executed Regression Analyses on four sets of 100 supervised learning trials each, using Excel and SPSS, to determine the presence of an auditory categorical perception effect

McGill University Health Centre

McGill University

Research Assistant (Principal Investigator: Prof. M.O. Martel)

August 2020 - September 2021

- Aided a chronic back pain study; collected data, recruited patients, organized study materials
- Received high praise and recognition for singlehandedly recruiting over 70% of the active participants

McGill Human Motivation Lab

McGill University

Thesis Student (Principal Investigator: Prof. R. Koestner)

May 2020 - October 2020

- Invited by Dr. Koestner to analyze longitudinal data on Covid lockdown impacts on students from a Self-Determination Theory lens
- Conducted Regression Analyses & ANOVA's on 380 participants across 5-time periods using SPSS
- Research efforts culminated in a co-authored publication in *The McGill Journal of Human Behaviour*

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

R-Academy - Founder, Host & Producer

June 2023 - Present

Platforms: [YouTube](#), [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) | robertcontofalsky.com/#podcast

- Created and produced a bi-weekly podcast dedicated to breaking down complex scientific concepts for a general audience, bridging the gap between academia and the public
- Featured discussions and interviews on topics; cognitive science, linguistics, moral psychology, and neuroscience, ultimately translating them into relatable and understandable narratives
- Conducted extensive literature reviews for each episode, ensuring accuracy and comprehensiveness
- Video & Audio tools used: Adobe Creative Suite, Zoom, OBS, YouTube, Spotify, Apple Podcasts

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

McGill University

Montreal, Canada

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology

September 2021 - December 2021

- Course: PSYC 332, Intro to Personality
- Assisted in the delivery of course content to a class of 400 students
- Gave class tutorials, generating and evaluating exam material, enhancing course instruction

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Organizational Software:** Advanced Microsoft Office, Zoom & Microsoft Teams, Google Drive, Sharepoint
- **Statistical Software:** Advanced SPSS, Intermediate R
- **Programming:** Intermediate C++, Beginner Python & HTML/CSS
- **Bibliographic tools:** Zotero
- **Digital Media Production & Broadcasting:** Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Audition, Photoshop, OBS, YouTube Studio, Spotify for Podcasters & Apple Podcasts

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Human Methodology

- TCPS 2: Tri-Council Policy Statement
- RI-MUHC: Standard Operating Procedures & Good Clinical Practice

Biomethodology

- CMARC1: Handling & restraint, humane intervention, and euthanasia
- CMARC2: Substance administration and blood collection in the laboratory mouse

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Harvard University (via EDx)** - CS50: Introduction to Computer Science April 2023 - May 2023
- **IBM (via EDx)** - Professional Certificate in C++ Programming Essentials May 2023 - August 2023

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- English (Native Speaker)
- French (High level reading, writing and speaking)
- Slovak (Basic level reading and speaking)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Private Neuropsychologist Clinic

Montreal, Canada

Personal Assistant

January 2020 - January 2021

- Supervisor: Dr. Genevieve Gagnon
- Helped with administrative tasks in a private clinic

WORK EXPERIENCE

Bar Bello

Bar-back

Montreal, Canada

July 2023 - Present

- Collaborated closely with bartenders, ensuring timely restocking and seamless service
- Engaged with a diverse clientele to foster a welcoming environment
- Expanded knowledge of drink mixology

Intact Financial Corporation

Behavioural Science Intern

Montreal, Canada

January 2023 - June 2023

- Created an internal emotional resilience program; increasing employee retention across Canada
- Analyzed data for 2000+ employees with R; informing company interventions
- Optimized sales processes for IFC products using various cognitive bias tools
- Bi-weekly solution presentations to stakeholders led to the adoption of key strategies
- Conducted a SWOT analysis on AI, contributing to the creation of a roadmap for AI integration

Douglas Mental Health University Institute

Research Assistant - Eating Disorders Continuum

Montreal, Canada

June 2022 - September 2022

- Developed an online psychoeducation tool using LimeSurvey & Qualtrics
- Translated grant proposals, study materials, and email communications from English to French
- Managed a database with over 6000 participants & 6000 variables using Excel & SPSS
- Organized weekly group therapy sessions for 4 clinicians to serve 15-30 patients each

Costco Wholesale

Meat Department Assistant

Saint-Bruno, Canada

June 2018 - May 2022

- Served 20+ members daily, enhancing satisfaction and earning team lead praise
- Resolved member issues personally by coordinating with over 6 departments
- Helped achieve weekly targets, generating \$300,000 in weekly profit

McDonald's Corporation

Team leader

Greenfield Park, Canada

September 2016 - June 2018

- Led a team of 15 employees to run the most profitable franchise in the South Shore
- Recognized for being among the top 10 fastest drive-thrus in Canada

REFERENCES

○ **Dr. Richard Koestner**

Professor, Department of Psychology; McGill University

Email: richard.koestner@mcgill.ca

○ **Dr. Marc-Olivier Martel**

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Dentistry; McGill University

Email: marc.o.martel@mcgill.ca

○ **Dr. Jeffrey Mogil**

E.P. Taylor Professor, Department of Psychology; McGill University

Email: Jeffrey.Mogil@mcgill.ca

○ **Dr. Stevan Harnad**

Adjunct Professor, Department of Psychology; McGill University, UQAM, Soton

Email: harnad@uqam.ca