

# Robert Contofalsky

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[robertcontofalsky.com](http://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

- Contofalsky, R.**, Gastellu, N., McGuinness, B., Al Kharusi, S. (2024) Can ChatGPT Accurately Represent Human Moral Reasoning? *Manuscript in Preparation*
- Skvortsova, A., Carrier, S., **Contofalsky, R.**, & Mogil, J. (2024). The Neurochemical Mediation of Conditioned Hyperalgesia in Mice. *Manuscript 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

## PRESENTATIONS

- Contofalsky, R.** (2024). Estimating The Reproducibility Of Psychological Science. Invited Speaker for the Tanenbaum Open Science Institute (TOSI) ReproducibiliTea Journal Club . Montreal, Canada.
- Skvortsova, A., Carrier, S., **Contofalsky, R.**, & Lima V. L. (2022). Nocebo Hyperalgesia In Male but Not Female Mice Is Mediated by CCK-B Receptors. Poster Presentation at the IASP 2022 World Congress on Pain. Toronto, Canada.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Intact Financial Corporation

Behavioural Science Intern – IntactLAB

**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

## MOGILab

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

McGill University  
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 expected Q2/Q3 2024

## Communication and Consciousness Lab

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

McGill University  
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

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

McGill University  
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

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

McGill University  
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

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**R-Academy** - Founder, Host & Producer

June 2023 - Present

*Platforms:* [YouTube](#), [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) | [robertcontofalsky.com/#podcast](https://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 interviews with notable figures in the field such as Laura Wagner, and Stevan Harnad (Episode in Production), to explore advanced concepts in cognitive science, categorization, linguistics, and AI
- 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

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McGill University

*Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology*

Montreal, Canada  
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

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

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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- **IBM (via EDx)** - Professional Certificate in C++ Programming Essentials

May 2023 - August 2023

## LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

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

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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### Private Neuropsychologist Clinic

*Personal Assistant*

**Montreal, Canada**

January 2020 - January 2021

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

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Bar Bello

*Waiter*

**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

### Health Care Relocation

*Hospital Relocation Technician*

**Montreal, Canada**

May 2021 - August 2021

- Deployed across various hospitals, successfully adapting to various working environments
- Managed cross-hospital equipment relocations, ensuring operational integrity and safety compliance.
- Inspected and maintained medical equipment integrity within health and safety compliance parameters

### 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

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- **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