

# DAVIDE VALERIANI

davide.valeriani@gmail.com  
<https://www.davidevaleriani.it>

## Research Interests

Brain-computer interfaces, machine learning, neuroimaging, data science, artificial intelligence, decision-making.

## Work Experience

*Neurable Inc.*

**Senior Machine Learning Scientist**

Feb 2021 – present

*Massachusetts Eye and Ear, Harvard Medical School*

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow** in Multimodal Neuroimaging

Sep 2018 – Feb 2021

Supervisor: Prof. Kristina Simonyan

*University of Essex*

**Postdoctoral Research Associate** in Neural Engineering

Feb 2017 – Jul 2018

Supervisor: Prof. Luca Citi

## Education and Training

*University of Essex*

**Ph.D. in Computing and Electronic Systems**

2013 – 2017

Supervisors: Prof. Riccardo Poli and Dr. Caterina Cinel

Thesis title: *Improving Group Decision Making with Collaborative Brain-Computer Interfaces*

*University of Parma*

**M.S. in Computer Science Engineering** (*summa cum laude*)

2010 – 2013

Supervisors: Prof. Stefano Caselli and Dr. Dario Lodi Rizzini

Thesis title: *A 3D Perception System for Mobile Robot Navigation and Object Detection*

**B.S. in Computer Science Engineering** (*summa cum laude*)

2007 – 2010

Supervisors: Prof. Stefano Caselli and Dr. Jacopo Aleotti

Thesis title: *Development of a Software Library for Programming the Comau Smart Six Robot Manipulator*

## Research Grants

**U.S. Department of Defense**, W911NF1810434

Sep 2018 – Aug 2021

Project title: *Adaptive joint cognitive systems for complex and strategic decision making*

Role: Co-Investigator

\$385,000

**U.K. Ministry of Defence**

Jan 2017 – Mar 2019

Project title: *Brain-computer-interface-assisted confidence estimation for group decision making, group selection and personnel training*

Role: Co-Investigator

£390,000

**University of Essex**, DC10758

Oct 2016

Project title: *Towards Cybathlon 2016*

Role: Co-Investigator

£4,989

## Publications

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=kBHV5dAAAAAJ>

### Journal Articles

1. Fernandez-Vargas J, Tremmel C, **Valeriani D**, Bhattacharyya S, Cinel C, Citi L, Poli R (2021). Subject- and task-independent neural correlates and prediction of decision confidence in perceptual decision making. *Journal of Neural Engineering*. doi:10.1088/1741-2552/abf2e4
2. Easttom C, Bianchi L, **Valeriani D**, Nam C S, Hossaini A, Zapala D, Roman-Gonzalez A, Singh A K, Antonietti A, Sahonero-Alvarez G, Balachandran P (2021). A Functional Model for Unifying Brain Computer Interface Terminology. *IEEE Open Journal of Engineering in Medicine and Biology*. 2: 91-96. doi:10.1109/OJEMB.2021.3057471
3. **Valeriani D**, Simonyan K (2020). A microstructural neural network biomarker for dystonia diagnosis identified by a DystoniaNet deep learning platform. *PNAS*, 117(42): 26398-26405. doi:10.1073/pnas.2009165117
4. Bielczyk N Z, Ando A, Badhwar A, Caldinelli C, Gao M, Haugg A, Hernandez L, Ito K, Kessler D, Lurie D, Makary M, Nikolaidis A, Veldsman M, Allen C, Bankston A, Bottenhorn K, Braukmann R, Calhoun V, Cheplygina V, Costa Boffino C, Ercan E, Finc K, Foo H, Khatibi A, La C, Mehler D, Narayanan S, Poldrack R, Reddy Raamana P, Salo T, Godard-Sebillotte C, Uddin L, **Valeriani D**, Valk S, Walton C, Ward P, Yanes J, Zhou X, OHBM Student and Postdoc Special Interest Group (2020). Effective Self-Management for Early Career Researchers in the Natural and Life Sciences. *Neuron*, 106(2): 212-217. doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2020.03.015
5. **Valeriani D**<sup>†</sup>, Poli R (2019). Cyborg groups enhance face recognition in crowded environments. *PLOS ONE*, 14(3): e0212935. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0212935
6. **Valeriani D**, Cinel C, Poli R (2019). Brain-Computer Interfaces for Human Augmentation. *Brain Sciences*, 9(2): 22. doi:10.3390/brainsci9020022
7. Cinel C, **Valeriani D**, Poli R (2019). Neurotechnologies for Human Cognitive Augmentation: Current State of the Art and Future Prospects. *Frontiers Human Neuroscience*, 13(13). doi:10.3389/fnhum.2019.00013
8. **Valeriani D**<sup>†</sup>, Cinel C, Poli R (2017). Group Augmentation in Realistic Visual-Search Decisions via a Hybrid Brain-Computer Interface. *Scientific Reports*, 7(7772): 1-12. doi:10.1038/s41598-017-08265-7
9. **Valeriani D**<sup>†</sup>, Poli R, Cinel C (2016). Enhancement of Group Perception via a Collaborative Brain-Computer Interface. *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering*, 64(6): 1238-1248. doi:10.1109/TBME.2016.2598875
10. Poli R, **Valeriani D**, Cinel C (2014). Collaborative Brain-Computer Interface for Aiding Decision-Making. *PLOS ONE*, 9(7): e102693. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102693
11. Cigolini M, Costalunga A, Parisi F, Patander M, Salsi I, Signifredi A, **Valeriani D**, Lodi Rizzini D, Caselli S (2014). Lessons Learned in a Ball Fetch-And-Carry Robotic Competition. *Journal of Automation, Mobile Robotics & Intelligent Systems*, 8(1): 82-90. doi:10.1431/JAMRIS\_1-2014/11

<sup>†</sup>Corresponding author.

### Conference Proceedings

1. Fernandez-Vargas J, **Valeriani D**, Cinel C, Sadras N, Ahmadipour P, Shanechi M, Citi L, Poli R (2020). Confidence Prediction From EEG Recordings in a Multisensory Environment. Proceedings of the 2020 10th International Conference on Biomedical Engineering and Technology (ICBET). doi:10.1145/3397391.3397426
2. Bhattacharyya S, **Valeriani D**, Cinel C, Citi L, Poli R (2019). Collaborative Brain-Computer Interfaces to Enhance Group Decisions in an Outpost Surveillance Task. Proceedings of the 2019 41st Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBC). doi:10.1109/EMBC.2019.8856309
3. Bhattacharyya S, **Valeriani D**, Cinel C, Citi L, Poli R (2019). Target Detection in Video Feeds with Selected Dyads and Groups Assisted by Collaborative Brain-Computer Interfaces. Proceedings of the 2019 9th International IEEE/EMBS Conference on Neural Engineering (NER). doi:10.1109/NER.2019.8717146

4. **Valeriani D**, Cinel C, Poli R (2017). Augmenting group performance in target-face recognition via collaborative brain-computer interfaces for surveillance applications. Proceedings of the 2017 8th International IEEE/EMBS Conference on Neural Engineering (NER). doi:10.1109/NER.2017.8008378
5. **Valeriani D**, Matran-Fernandez A (2015). Towards a wearable device for controlling a smartphone with eye winks. Proceedings of the 2015 7th Computer Science and Electronic Engineering Conference (CEECE). doi:10.1109/CEECE.2015.7332697
6. **Valeriani D**, Poli R, Cinel C (2015). A collaborative Brain-Computer Interface for improving group detection of visual targets in complex natural environments. Proceedings of the 2015 7th International IEEE/EMBS Conference on Neural Engineering (NER). doi:10.1109/NER.2015.7146551
7. **Valeriani D**, Poli R, Cinel C (2015). A collaborative Brain-Computer Interface to improve human performance in a visual search task. Proceedings of the 2015 7th International IEEE/EMBS Conference on Neural Engineering (NER). doi:10.1109/NER.2015.7146599
8. **Valeriani D**, Lodi Rizzini D, Oleari F, Caselli S (2013). A Viewpoint Planning and Navigation Algorithm for Mobile Robots using Depth Images. Proceedings of the Australasian Conference on Robotics and Automation.
9. Mesejo P, Cagnoni S, Costalunga A, **Valeriani D** (2013). Segmentation of histological images using a metaheuristic-based level set approach. Proceedings of the 15th Annual Conference Companion on Genetic and Evolutionary Computation (GECCO). doi:10.1145/2464576.2466808

## Book Chapters

1. **Valeriani D**, Cinel C, Poli R (2019). Hybrid Collaborative Brain-Computer Interfaces to Augment Group Decision Making. In H. Ayaz & F. Dehais (Eds.), *Neuroergonomics: The Brain at Work and in Everyday Life*. Elsevier. doi:10.1016/B978-0-12-811926-6.00031-2
2. **Valeriani D**, Matran-Fernandez A (2018). Past and Future of Multi-Mind Brain-Computer Interfaces. In C. S. Nam, A. Nijholt, & F. Lotte (Eds.), *Brain-Computer Interfaces Handbook: Technological and Theoretical Advances*. CRC Press.
3. Matran-Fernandez A, **Valeriani D**, Poli R (2016). Toward BCIs Out of the Lab: Impact of Motion Artifacts on Brain-Computer Interface Performance. In P. Salvo & M. Hernandez-Silveira (Eds.), *Wireless Medical Systems and Algorithms*. CRC Press. doi:10.1201/b19682-12

## Conference Abstracts

1. **Valeriani D** (2020). Neurotechnologies for Optimal Human-Machine Collaboration in Decision-Making. 2020 IEEE Brain Workshop on Advanced Neurotechnologies.
2. **Valeriani D**, Simonyan K (2020). DystoniaNet: Neural Biomarker-Based Platform for Dystonia Diagnosis using Deep Learning. International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders 2020.
3. **Valeriani D**, O'Flynn L C, Worthley A, Simonyan K (2020). Neural Correlates of Accuracy and Confidence during Realistic Decision-Making in Noisy Environments. Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM) Annual Meeting 2020.
4. Manmadhan-Nair R, Ghasem-Sani O, Sadras N, Song C, Ahmadipouranari P, **Valeriani D**, Cinel C, Citi L, Poli R, Shanechi M (2019). Decoding human confidence from neural signals. Society for Neuroscience (SfN) Annual Meeting 2019.
5. Narasimham S, **Valeriani D**, Hutchinson M, Simonyan K, Reilly R (2019). Evaluating Multimodal Integration of Abnormalities in Adult Onset Idiopathic Focal Dystonia (AOIFD) via Multivariate Pattern Analysis (MVPA) and Ensemble Learning (EL). International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders 2019.
6. **Valeriani D**, Simonyan K (2019). Towards Automatic Diagnosis of Laryngeal Dystonia. 2019 Boston Speech Motor Control Symposium.
7. **Valeriani D**, Simonyan K (2019). Automatic Diagnosis of Spasmodic Dysphonia with Structural MRI and Machine Learning. Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM) Annual Meeting 2019.

8. Bhattacharyya S, Cinel C, Citi L, **Valeriani D**, Poli R (2019). Walking Improves the Performance of a Brain-Computer Interface for Group Decision Making. 2nd Neuroadaptive Technology Conference (NAT'19).
9. **Valeriani D**, Bhattacharyya S, Cinel C, Citi L, Poli R (2018). Augmenting group decision making accuracy in a realistic environment using collaborative brain-computer interfaces based on error-related potentials. 7th International BCI Meeting.
10. **Valeriani D**, Cinel C, Poli R (2017). A Collaborative BCI Trained to Aid Group Decisions in a Visual Search Task Works Well with Similar Tasks. 1st Neuroadaptive Technology Conference (NAT'17).
11. **Valeriani D**, Cinel C, Poli R (2016). Hybrid Collaborative Brain-Computer Interfaces to Augment Group Decision Making. 1st International Neuroergonomics Conference.
12. **Valeriani D**, Cinel C, Poli R (2016). Improving Speech Perception with Collaborative Brain-Computer Interfaces. 38th Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBC).
13. **Valeriani D**, Matran-Fernandez A, Perez-Liebana D, Asensio-Cubero J, O'Connell C, Iacob A (2015). A Comparison of Ensemble Methods for Motor Imagery Brain-Computer Interfaces. European Conference on Data Analysis (ECDA) 2015.
14. Cigolini M, Costalunga A, Parisi F, Patander M, Salsi I, Signifredi A, **Valeriani D**, Lodi Rizzini D, Caselli S (2013). Lessons Learned in a Ball Fetch-And-Carry Robotic Competition. 4th International Conference on Robotics in Education.

## Patents

1. Simonyan K, **Valeriani D**. *Objective evaluation of neurological movement disorders from medical imaging*, PCT Patent Application (submitted on Sep 30, 2020).

## Teaching and Mentoring

Associate Fellow of the UK's Higher Education Academy (#PR068571).

## Courses

### University of Essex

#### **Large Scale Software Systems and Extreme Programming (CE320)** (Undergraduate)

Role: Co-Instructor (1/2 of frontal lectures, prepared assignments and final exams, coordinated 3 TAs) 2017  
 Role: Teaching Assistant 2013, 2014, 2015

#### **Mobile & Social Application Programming (CE881)** (Master)

Role: Teaching Assistant 2014, 2015

#### **Introduction to Programming (CE151)** (Undergraduate)

Role: Teaching Assistant 2014

#### **Data Structures and Algorithms (CE204)** (Undergraduate)

Role: Teaching Assistant 2013, 2014

#### **Applied Mathematics (MA105)** (Undergraduate)

Role: Teaching Assistant 2014

#### **Professional Development (CE101)** (Undergraduate)

Role: Teaching Assistant 2013, 2014

### University of Parma

#### **Computer Architectures** (Undergraduate)

Role: Teaching Assistant 2012

#### **C++ Programming** (Undergraduate)

Role: Teaching Assistant 2012

## Students

Jessica Yatvitskiy (High School), The Pingry School	Summer 2019
Thrusha Puttaraju (High School), Harvard Summer School	Summer 2019
Mariam Tigane (High School), Harvard Summer School	Summer 2019
Alice Agnoletto (Undergraduate), University of Parma	Summer 2017

## Volunteering

<b>Skype a Scientist</b> Scientist	2019 – present
<b>Penne amiche della scienza</b> Scientist pen pal	2019 – present
<b>Letters to Pre-Scientist</b> Scientist pen pal	2018 – present

## Awards and Honors

Student Award, 8th International BCI Meeting	2021
Abstract Award, 2nd Annual Computational Data Neuroscience Symposium	2020
NetSci 2020 Fellowship	2020
Radcliffe Exploratory Seminar Award (\$18,000)	2020
Shortlisted for MoBI award	2020
Harvard Brain Initiative Host-a-Scholar Award (\$4,000)	2019
OHBM People's Choice Abstract Award (\$500)	2019
Shortlisted for MoBI award	2018
Bronze medal at Cybathlon BCI race	2016
Winner of IET Present Around The World local network competition	2016
Best paper award, 7th International IEEE EMBS Neural Engineering Conference	2015
London Science Museum Award for winning HackTheBrain UK	2015
Best paper award, 4th International Conference on Robotics in Education	2013
Winner of the Sick Robot Day	2012

## Media Coverage (selected)

<b>Neurology Live</b> Focal Dystonia Accurately Identified by AI-Based Deep Learning Platform	2020
<b>Wired</b> Why computers won't be reading your mind any time soon	2020
<b>BBC Science Focus</b> Should you upgrade your brain?	2019
<b>The Conversation</b> Humans and machines can improve accuracy when they work together	2019
<b>AWS re:invent</b> Automatic Diagnosis of Speech Disorders with Machine Learning Algorithms	2018
<b>Sky News</b> 'Mind-reading' computers could enhance human brain and help police, surgeons and City traders	2018
<b>The Guardian</b> Neurotechnology, Elon Musk and the goal of human enhancement	2018
<b>The Conversation</b> Sometimes one head is better than two when it comes to decisions	2017
<b>The Conversation</b> Elon Musk wants to merge man and machine - here's what he'll need to work out	2017

## Academic Service and Leadership

<b>BCI Society</b> Chair of Student and Postdoc Committee	2020 – present
<b>Frontiers in Neuroergonomics</b> Associate Editor	2020 – present
<b>Frontiers in Neuroscience</b> Guest Associate Editor in Neural Technology	2018 – present
<b>PLOS ONE, Scientific Reports, Frontiers, Brain Sciences, Sensors, Movement Disorders</b> Reviewer	2017 – present
<b>Harvard Medical Postdoctoral Association</b> Board Member	2019 – 2021
<b>European Commission</b> Reviewer of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships	2020
<b>Neuromatch</b> Chair of Observer Track in Neuromatch Academy, Volunteer in Neuromatch Conference	2020
<b>Brain Sciences</b> Guest Editor	2017 – 2018
<b>7th Computer Science and Electronic Engineering Conference</b> Program Chair	2015
<b>University of Essex</b> PhD Student Representative in Departmental and Faculty Committees	2020

## Invited Talks (selected)

<b>NYU Langone</b> Departmental seminar (online)	2021
<b>US-Korea Conference</b> Plenary talk (online)	2020
<b>NeuroBoston Fall Symposium</b> Selected talk (online)	2020
<b>2nd Annual Computational Data Neuroscience Symposium at Harvard</b> Selected talk (online)	2020
<b>IEEE Brain Workshop on Advanced Neurotechnologies</b> Talk (online)	2020
<b>International Congress on Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders</b> Selected talk (online)	2020
<b>BCI Un-Conference</b> Selected talk (online)	2020
<b>IEEE WCCI 2020 - BCI Workshop</b> Talk (online)	2020
<b>International STEM Awards</b> Talk (online)	2020
<b>Neuromatch 1.0 and 3.0</b> Talk (online)	2020
<b>Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging</b> Science on Tap seminar (Boston, MA)	2019
<b>MIT Media Lab</b> Fluid Interfaces group seminar (Cambridge, MA)	2019
<b>Harvard University</b> CRISP group seminar (Cambridge, MA)	2019
<b>7th International BCI Meeting</b> Plenary talk (Pacific Grove, CA)	2018
<b>University College London</b> Metacognition meeting seminar (London, UK)	2018
<b>University of Twente</b> Seminar (Enschede, Netherlands)	2016
<b>University of Parma</b> Seminar (Parma, Italy)	2016
<b>7th International IEEE EMBS Neural Engineering Conference</b> Plenary talk (Montpellier, France)	2015