Etienne Abassi, Ph.D.

Date of birth: December 5th 1989 | **Citizenship:** French | **Gender:** Male | (+1) 438 365 3110 | etienne.abassi@gmail.com

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CURRENT AFFILIATIONS

- Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital (MNI) – Montreal, Canada
- International laboratory for Brain, Music and Sound Research (BRAMS) – Montreal, Canada
- Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology (CIRMMT) – Montreal, Canada
- Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music (CRBLM) – Montreal, Canada

EDUCATION

2018 – 2022 | Lyon, France
Ph.D. - NEUROSCIENCES – Claude Bernard Lyon 1 University
Thesis: The two-body dyad in visual perception: a new category of social objects

2015 – 2017 | Caen, France
MASTER - BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES: NEUROSCIENCES AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES – Caen Normandie University
Thesis: Neurofunctional basis of non-verbal body language perception in dance

2012 – 2015 | Montpellier, France
BACHELOR - HUMAN SCIENCES: PSYCHOLOGY AND NEUROPSYCHOLOGY – Paul Valery University - Montpellier 3
Thesis: Synesthesia, a novel approach for cognitive remediation

2008 – 2010 | Montpellier, France
HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA (BTS) - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT – EPSI Montpellier

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2022 – Current | Montreal, Canada
Postdoctoral Researcher – McGill University

Thematic: Influence of social context in processing speech and music: a forgotten feature of audition?
Team Leader: Prof. Robert Zatorre
Laboratory: The Auditory Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory | Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI)

2017 – 2022 | Lyon, France
Ph.D. – French National Centre For Scientific Rresearch (CNRS)

Thematic: Visual processing of multi-person scenarios
Team Leader: Dr. Liuba Papeo
Laboratory: Laboratory of Cognitive Neuropsychology and Development | Institut des Sciences Cognitives Marc Jeannerod

2017 | Maastricht, Netherlands
Master internship – Maastricht University

Thematic: Neurofunctional basis of non-verbal body language perception in dance.
Team Leader: Dr. Beatrice de Gelder
Laboratory: Brain and emotion laboratory | Maastricht university

2016 | Caen, France
Master Internship – CYCERON (BIOMEDICAL IMAGERY PLATFORM)
Thematic: Cognitive and brain correlates of anxiety at different stages of Alzheimer's disease.
Team Leader: Dr. Gaël Chetelat
Laboratory: Multimodal neuroimaging and Lifestyle in Aging and Alzheimer's disease | Cyceron Caen

2015 | Montpellier, France
Bachelor Internship – Institute for Neurosciences of Montpellier (INM - INSERM)

Thematic: Role of Tyrosine kinase FLT3 neuroreceptor in the development of chronic neuropathic pain in rodent models
Team Leader / Supervisor: Dr Jean Valmier / Dr Cyril Rivat
Laboratory: Somesthesis / Physiopathology | INM Montpellier

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2022-2024 | Postdoctoral fellowship (Project: FPA RD-2022-1; *90 000 €*)
Fondation pour l'Audition – France

2020 | Travel Grant – VSS 2020
Vision Sciences Society – USA

STUDENTS SUPERVISION

2024 - Arielle Rabinowitz – PhD student (McGill University)
2024 - Nadia MacGregor – Bachelor student (McGill University)
2024 - Jess Chittock – Bachelor student (McGill University)
2024 - Aarti Advani – Bachelor student (McGill University)
2024 - Iza Tacala – Bachelor student (McGill University)
2024 - Mai Ababneh – Bachelor student (McGill University)
2023 - Violette Munin – Master student (Lyon 1 University)
2018 - Xi Wang – Bachelor student (Lyon 1 University)

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCES

2011 – 2015 | Montpellier, France
IT TECHNICIAN – Occitanie En Scène
Software and hardware maintenance / System and network administration

2010 – 2011 | Montpellier, France
IT TECHNICIAN – French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD OCCITANIE)
Software and hardware maintenance / System and network administration

PUBLICATIONS

- **Abassi, E.**, & Zatorre, R. (2024). Influence of social and semantic contexts in processing speech in noise. *bioRxiv*, 2024-01. https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.01.10.575068

- **Abassi, E.**, Bognár, A., de Gelder, B., Giese, M., Isik, L., Lappe, A. & Vogels, R. (2024). Neural Encoding of Bodies for Primate Social Perception (2024). *Journal of Neuroscience*, *44*(40). https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1221-24.2024

- **Abassi, E.**, & Papeo, L. (2024). Category-Selective Representation of Relationships in the Visual Cortex. *Journal of Neuroscience*, *44*(5). https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0250-23.2023

- Munin, V., **Abassi, E.**, & Papeo, L. (2024). Lateralized perception of static and dynamic social interactions in left and right visual cortex. *Journal of Vision*, *24*(10), 500-500. https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.24.10.500

- Gandolfo, M.*, **Abassi, E.***, Balgova, E., Downing, P. E., Papeo, L., & Koldewyn, K. (2024). Converging evidence that left extrastriate body area supports visual sensitivity to social interactions. *Current Biology*, 34(2), 343-351. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2023.12.009 ***co-first authors***

- **Abassi, E.**, & Papeo, L. (2022). Behavioral and neural markers of visual configural processing in social scene perception. *NeuroImage*, 260, 119506. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2022.119506

- Spriet, C., **Abassi, E.**, Hochmann, J. R., & Papeo, L. (2022). Visual object categorization in infancy. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, 119(8), e2105866119. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2105866119

- Bellot, E., **Abassi, E.**, & Papeo, L. (2021). Moving toward versus away from another: how body motion direction changes the representation of bodies and actions in the visual cortex. *Cerebral Cortex*, 31(5), 2670-2685. https://doi.org/10.1093/cercor/bhaa382

- **Abassi, E.**, & Papeo, L. (2020). The representation of two-body shapes in the human visual cortex. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 40(4), 852-863. https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1378-19.2019

- Vaessen, M. J., **Abassi, E.**, Mancini, M., Camurri, A., & De Gelder, B. (2019). Computational feature analysis of body movements reveals hierarchical brain organization. *Cerebral Cortex*, 29(8), 3551-3560. https://doi.org/10.1093/cercor/bhy228

- Papeo, L., & **Abassi, E.** (2019). Seeing social events: The visual specialization for dyadic human–human interactions. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*, 45(7), 877. https://doi.org/10.1037/xhp0000646