

# Joseph Ventress

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## Education

- **PhD in Cognitive Psychology (Interdisciplinary with Computer Science)**  
Northumbria University, Newcastle (Oct 2024–Present)  
Thesis: Toward more 'human' microscopic crowd simulations: Using theories of Joint Action to understand and predict pedestrian yielding behaviours.  
Supervisors: Dr Merryn D. Constable, Prof. Martyn Amos  
Funding: NINE-DTP (ESRC)
- **MRes in Psychology**  
Northumbria University, Newcastle (Sept 2023–Sept 2024)  
Distinction (1st)  
Thesis: Comparing the effects of traits of facial attractiveness on attention  
Supervisor: Dr Jason Rajsic
- **BSc (Hons) Clinical Psychology**  
Northumbria University, Newcastle (Sept 2019–July 2023)  
Second Class Honours (Upper Division) (2:1)  
Dissertation: An exploration into mate BMI ideals for short-term relationships  
Supervisors: Dr Jeanne Bovet, Dr Michael Smith
- **A Levels**, UK (July 2019)  
Psychology (B), Biology (C), Photography (B)
- **GCSEs**, UK (July 2017)  
9 GCSEs at grades A to B

## Experience

- **Demonstrator in Psychology**, Northumbria University (Sept 2024–Present)
- **Research Assistant**, Dr Merryn Constable, Northumbria University (Sept 2023–Present)  
Research on joint action facilitation; participant recruitment, motion capture, data processing, data analysis; supervised undergraduates.
- **Research Assistant**, Dr David Smailes, Northumbria University (Jan 2023–July 2023)  
Replicability in social media and body image research; coding scheme for 38 papers.
- **Research Team Member**, INSneuro (Dr Carol Sampson) (Apr 2018–July 2018)  
Study on mild traumatic brain injury in adolescents; interviews and analysis.
- **Tutor**, Better Results Tuition (Oct 2017–May 2019)  
Academic development of 21 pupils; parent feedback.

## Professional Groups

- Member, AMPA (Attention, Memory, Perception, and Action) group, Northumbria University

## Skills

- Qualtrics, SPSS, Pavlovia, PsychoPy, JASP, R, MATLAB, Python, LaTeX
- Quantitative and Qualitative design, development, and pre-registration, Eye-tracking, motion capture, experience working cross institutionally, cross-disciplinary, and with external partners/stakeholders , research dissemination

## Funding and Grants

- ESRC NINE-DTP Studentship - £91,751 (Oct 2024–Apr 2028): Full Award: tuition, stipend + additional RTSG, placement funding.  
Details: An internationally recognised, prestigious, highly competitive award funded by the ESRC, the award includes a comprehensive funding package including: full tuition fees at the UKRI rate, a stipend at UKRI rates, additional financial support for a 3 month overseas institutional visit and a 3-month placement. Not only this, but the award gives the awardee access to the NINE DTP network, allowing for access to ESRC placements and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Urban Futures IDRT Seedcorn Funding - £1821 (Jan 2025–July 2025): PI on pavement parking project; partnership with Gateshead Council  
Details: Secured competitive funding to lead a research project evaluating the effects of pavement parking on pedestrian access in Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, with a specific focus on the general public and individuals with disabilities. The project was conducted in partnership with Gateshead Council and received formal endorsement from Liz Twist MP.

## Invited Talks and Presentations

- Poster, EPS, University of York (2024): The impact of stakes and task difficulty in Human–Human Joint Action Handovers
- Short Talk, EHBEA, Northumbria University (2025): Comparing the effects of traits of facial attractiveness on attention
- Poster, Joint Action Meeting, Turin, Italy (2025): Who yields and why? A qualitative analysis of pedestrian yielding behaviours.
- Poster, NINE DTP Summer School (2025): Using theories of Joint Action to explain, understand and predict pedestrian yielding behaviours.
- Talk, Northumbria PGR Conference (2025): Who yields and why? A qualitative analysis of pedestrian yielding behaviours.

## Publications

- Smailes, D., Aleksandra, A., Coakley, M., Mair, S., & Ventress, J. (2025). Examining the availability/findability of stimuli employed in social media and body image research. *PLOS ONE*, 20(5), e0324514. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0324514>

## Projects

- Joint action facilitation: human-human handovers
- Effects of task difficulty joint action facilitation: human-human handovers

- Attentional effects of traits of facial attractiveness traits on attention
- Inhibition of Return Systematic Review
- Pavement Parking in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear: Implications for pedestrian mobility and access.

## Academic Services

- NINE-DTP Student Representative, ESRC
- Conference Organising Team Member (Mobility and accessibility contact), European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA) 2025.

## References

- Dr Merryn D. Constable: [merryn.constable@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:merryn.constable@northumbria.ac.uk)
- Professor Martyn Amos: [martyn.amos@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:martyn.amos@northumbria.ac.uk)
- Dr Jason Rajsic: [jason.rajsic@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:jason.rajsic@northumbria.ac.uk)