JOSEFINA BERNARDO – Ph.D. Candidate, Biological Psychology

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EDUCATION

FREE UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM   Amsterdam, Netherlands
Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Biological Psychology   Sep 2023 - Present
Topic: Statistical modeling of gene-environment interplay in childhood educational development
Supervisors: Dr. Elsje van Bergen, Prof. Dr. Conor Dolan

PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE NORWAY   Oslo, Norway
Visiting Researcher, Centre for Fertility and Health   Nov 2024 – Apr 2025
Project: The role of parental educational attainment in children's school performance: A Children-of-Twins-and-Siblings Study of GPA at age 16
Supervisor: Dr. Fartein Ask Torvik

UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM   Amsterdam, Netherlands
Master of Science: Psychology (Research)   Sep 2020 - Jan 2023
Major: Psychological Methods; Minor: Brain and Cognition
Cumulative GPA: 8.5 (Letter Grade: A)

KOREA UNIVERSITY   Seoul, South Korea
Exchange Semester (Bachelor of Science: Psychology)   Aug 2019 - Dec 2019

FREE UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM   Amsterdam, Netherlands
Bachelor of Science: Psychology   Sep 2017 - Jul 2020
Minor: Genes, Brain, and Behavior
Cumulative GPA: 8.0 (Letter Grade: A)

WORK HISTORY & VOLUNTEERING

R-LADIES AMSTERDAM   Amsterdam, Netherlands
Organizer   February 2024 – Present
- Organizing talks and workshops for different levels of R users in academia and industry with the purpose of promoting gender diversity and inclusivity in the R community

UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM   Amsterdam, Netherlands
Research Assistant Data Analysis: Dr. Eftychia Stamkou   April 2023 – August 2023
- Analyzed and visualized a cross-cultural dataset on the topic of imagination.
- Assessed atypicality of movies on MovieLens using natural language processing models (SBERT, word2vec), applied methods to quantify gender stereotyping to movie scripts and synopses

BRAINS FIRST   Amsterdam, Netherlands
Data Science Intern: Dr. Ilja Sligte   Feb 2021 – Jul 2021
- Aggregated unstructured data from LinkedIn to improve predictions and understanding of the customer base
- Built machine learning models in R to offer career advice to customers based on cognitive abilities

ATHENA STUDIES   Amsterdam, Netherlands
Statistics Tutor   Feb 2020 – Oct 2020

- Designed and taught the Statistics 2 crash course and Statistics 2 exam training

CONFERENCES

- European Social Science and Genetics Network Conference IV in Bristol, UK (May 2025)
- Annual Meeting of the Behavior Genetics Association in London, UK (June 2024)
- European Social Science and Genetics Network Conference III in Rotterdam, the Netherlands (May 2024)
- International Statistical Genetic Workshop for Human Complex Traits in Boulder, Colorado (March 2024)
- Annual LEARN! Conference at the VU Amsterdam (November 2023)
- Cognitive Modelling Spring School at the University of Groningen – Courses: ACT-R; Dynamical Systems (April 2022)

CONFERENCE POSTERS

- A simulation study on detecting cultural transmission and sibling interaction using polygenic scores. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Behavior Genetics Association in London, UK (June 2024)
- Poster presented and the IV European Social Science and Genetics Conference in Rotterdam, the Netherlands (May 2024)
- A simulation study on detecting cultural transmission and sibling interaction using polygenic scores. Poster presented at the 2024 International Statistical Genetic Workshop for Human Complex Traits in Boulder, Colorado (March 2024)
- Applying ACT-R Models of Addition Strategies to Math Garden Data. Poster presented at Annual LEARN! Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands (November 2023)

TALKS

- The role of parental educational attainment in children's school performance: A Children-of-Twins-and-Siblings Study of GPA at age 16. Talk presented at the European Social Science and Genetics Network Conference IV in Bristol, UK (May 2025)
- Talk presented at the seminar: Behavioural Genetic Approaches to Studying Individual Differences in Children's Behaviour and Learning of the Center for Research on Equality in Education (CREATE) of the University of Oslo, Norway (March 2025)

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

- Travel grant of the Faculty of Behavioral and Movement Sciences of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (€ 5,000)
- Erasmus+ Scholarship for Traineeships (€ 3,385)
- Travel grant of Amsterdam Public Health, research program: Methodology (€ 3,500)
- Travel grant of Amsterdam Public Health, research program: Personalized Medicine (€ 1,500)
- Travel award for the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Behavior Genetics Association in London, UK ($ 150)
- Scholarship for the 2024 International Statistical Genetic Workshop for Human Complex Traits in Boulder, Colorado ($ 400)