

Laura Sità

Research Assistant

About me

I am a **researcher fellow** in psychology at the Department of Developmental Psychology and Socialization (DPSS, University of Padova), working on the project 'Promotion of Well-being throughout the Life Cycle'. Within this project, I am responsible for promoting Open Science practices and collaborating on the design of a Methodological Review Board. I am also responsible for managing social media, email communications and organizing meetings for the research group Psicostat (<https://psicostat.dpss.psy.unipd.it/>).

Education

- Oct. 2022 - **MSc in Neuroscience and Neuropsychological Rehabilitation**, *University of Padova*, Padova, Italy.
Dec. 2024
- Thesis: Improving the Interpretation of Effect Sizes through Modeling and Simulation
 - Supervisor: Gianmarco Altoè
 - Co-Supervisor: Daniël Lakens
 - Grade: 110/110 cum Laude
- Oct. 2019 - **BSc in Cognitive and Psychobiological Sciences**, *University of Padova*, Padova, Italy.
Jul. 2022
- Thesis: Causal Inference using Propensity Score Techniques: an Analysis of the SHARE Database
 - Supervisor: Massimo Nucci
 - Co-Supervisor: Paolo Girardi
 - Grade: 110/110 cum Laude

Research Experience

- May 2025 - **Research Assistant**, *University of Padova*, Padova, Italy.
Present
- Systematic review on the role of working memory in the link between math anxiety and math performance
 - P.I.: Sara Caviola
- Feb. 2024 - **Curricula Internship**, *Eindhoven University of Technology*, Eindhoven, The Netherlands.
Jul. 2024
- Research project about approach and interpretation of the effect size
 - Supervisor: Daniël Lakens
- Oct. 2021 - **Curricula Internship**, *University of Padova*, Padova, Italy.
Feb. 2022
- Research project about causal inference, focusing on the application of propensity score techniques
 - Supervisor: Paolo Girardi

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Awards & Grants

- Jan. 2025 - **Scholarship**, *University of Padova*.
May 2025 ○ Support for the organization of activities planned within the Promotion of Well-being throughout the Life Cycle Project dedicated to Open Science
- Feb. 2024 - **Scholarship**, *University of Padova*.
Jul. 2024 ○ Erasmus plus for Traineeships (400 euro/month + integrations) at Eindhoven University of Technology (NL)

Training

- 08-10 June **Replicability Crisis in Science**, *University of Padova*.
2025 ○ Seminar on replicability and strategies to enhance scientific reliability, held in collaboration with lecturers from Harvard University and Northeastern University
○ The course included lectures and workshops and took place over three days
- 03-06 June **Basics of Python for Data Science**, *University of Padova*.
2025 ○ In-person course designed to provide foundational Python programming skills for data manipulation, visualization and statistical analysis in psychological research
○ The course was held over four days, for a total of 10 hours
- 26-31 May **Beyond classical p-values**, *University of Trento*.
2025 ○ Summer School on innovative approaches to inferential analyses, including statistical permutation tests, advanced network psychometrics and machine learning techniques from artificial intelligence
- 27-30 Jan. **Introduction to (Bayesian) Hypothesis Evaluation**, *Utrecht University*.
2025 ○ e-learning Summer School course in Bayesian Hypothesis Evaluation
- Nov. 2023 - **Hands-on Workshops on data analysis**, *University of Padova*.
Present ○ Attendance of workshops about statistical topics and how to conduct the analysis of real data sets
○ Workshops last one hour and take place twice a month
- Oct. 2023 - **Psicostat meetings**, *University of Padova*.
Present ○ Attendance of online meetings, organized by an interdisciplinary research group working in areas related to quantitative psychology, psychometrics, psychological testing and statistics
○ Meetings last one hour and take place twice a month

Programming Languages

- **R/RStudio (Proficient)**: Data handling, visualization, statistical analysis, simulations, modeling
- **Python (Basic)**: Data handling, control structures, functions, basic plotting

Academic Experience

Organizational Activities

Round Table on the setup of a Methodological Review Board for Psychological Research (Padova, Italy – 27 June 2025): Member of the organizing team. The event, to be held at the University of Padova and open to all researchers affiliated with the School of Psychology, will focus on the development of a Methodological Review Board (MRB) to support Open Science practices in psychology. The program will include a presentation of the MRB project, the results of an internal survey on research practices and an open discussion with scholars and institutional representatives. The initiative is part of the 2024 Third Mission project funded by the University of Padova.

International Winter School - The 4 Ms: Meta-research, Measurement, Multi-lab, and Multiverse data analysis in Behavioral Sciences (Padova, Italy - 17-21 February 2025): Member of the of the organizing team. The Winter School aims to address the methodological challenges in behavioral sciences, which impact theory, measurement, and data analysis. Its main purpose is to introduce attendees to advancements in meta-research, providing both theoretical insights and practical tools to conduct rigorous research. Additionally, it aims to foster collaborative networks by enabling attendees to discuss their ongoing projects with teachers and peers, facilitating new collaborations and the application of the presented tools. <https://winterschool4ms.dpg.unipd.it/>

Lectures

Causal Inference with Observational Data (Padova, Italy - 26 March 2025). 1-hour presentation delivered to the “Memory and Learning” research group (Department of General Psychology, University of Padova), introducing key concepts of causal inference in psychology using observational data with a focus on Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs), confounding and collider bias and adjustment strategies including propensity score methods.

Workshops

Causal Inference with Observational Data (Padova, Italy - 27 March 2025). 1-hour Hands-on Workshop organized by the “Psicostat” research group (Department of Developmental Psychology and Socialization, University of Padova) and open to all interested researchers, introducing key concepts of causal inference in psychology using observational data with a focus on Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs), confounding and collider bias and adjustment strategies including propensity score methods.

Other

Co-supervision of a student for master thesis (May 2025 - Present).

Research Groups Membership

Psicostat. I am a member of Psicostat, an interdisciplinary research group specialized in quantitative psychology, psychometrics, psychological testing and statistics. (2025 - Present) (<https://psicostat.dpss.psy.unipd.it/pages/people.html>)

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Publications

Published Articles

Sità L., Caserotti, M., Zamparini, M., Lotto, L., de Girolamo, G. & Girardi, P. (2024). Impact of COVID-19 vaccination on preventive behavior: The importance of confounder adjustment in observational studies. *PloS one*, 19(11), e0313117.

Conferences

Oral Presentations

Perugini A., Gambarota, F., Toffalini F., **Sità L.**, Lakens D., Pastore M., Finos L., Psicostat & Altoè, G. (2024). Critical effect size values and why to report them. Oral presentation at the National Congress of the Italian Association of Psychology (AIP) – Developmental and Educational Psychology Section. Cagliari, 19–21 September.

Padova, June 12, 2025

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