

Nazia Jassim, PhD

Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Dept of Psychology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

Email: nj304@cam.ac.uk | Website: naziajassim.github.io

EDUCATION

PhD in Psychiatry (Science) , University of Cambridge, UK Autism Research Centre, Dept of Psychiatry <i>Thesis title: "The neurocognitive mechanisms of perceptual inference in autism"</i> <i>Supervisors: John Suckling & Simon Baron-Cohen; Advisor: Rebecca Lawson</i>	Oct 2018 - Dec 2022
MSc Cognitive Neuroscience (Sehr gut/ Excellent) , Freie Universität Berlin, Germany	Oct 2015 - Apr 2018
MSc Neurobiology (First Class) , University of Madras, India	July 2010 - May 2012
BSc Zoology (Distinction) , University of Madras, India	July 2007 - May 2010

ACADEMIC POSTS

Post-Doctoral Research Associate , Uni of Cambridge, UK Prediction & Learning Lab, Dept of Psychology (PI: Rebecca Lawson)	Oct 2023 - present
Parke-Davis Post-Doctoral Exchange Fellow , Brown University, USA Host: Dept of Psychology, Uni of Cambridge (PI: Rebecca Lawson) Visit: Carney Institute for Brain Sciences, Brown University (PI: Frederike Petzschnner)	Oct 2022 -Sept 2023
Visiting Master's Student , Uni of Cambridge, UK Dept of Psychiatry (Supervisor: John Suckling)	Nov 2017 - Apr 2018
Student Research Assistant , LMU Munich, Germany Dept of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (Supervisor: Belinda Platt)	May - Oct 2017
Research Internship , Technical University of Munich, Germany TUM-Neuroimaging Center (Supervisors: Christian Sorg, Felix Brandl)	Jan - May 2017
Research Internship , Charité Medical University of Berlin, Germany Stress and Affective Disorders Lab (Supervisors: Katja Wingenfeld, Julianne Fleischer)	Sept - Dec 2016
Research Internship , National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, India Transpsych Lab (Supervisors: G Venkatasubramanian, Sunil Kalmady)	May - July 2012

PUBLICATIONS [see also [Google Scholar](#)]

*First author

Preprints/submitted:

1. **Jassim, N.***, Waade, P.T., Parsons, O., Petzschnner, F.P., Rua, C., Rodgers, C.T., Baron-Cohen, S., Suckling, J., Mathys, C., Lawson, R.P. (2025) Neurochemical markers of uncertainty processing in humans. *bioRxiv preprints*. doi.org/10.1101/2025.02.19.639013
2. **Jassim, N.***, Hagan, C., Holt R., Goodyer, I., Suckling, J. Differential precuneus and frontal activity associated with facial emotion processing in adolescent depression (*under review*)
3. Lutz N., Villa L., **Jassim N.**, Goodyer I., Suckling J., Wilkinson P. (2020). Neurobiological Underpinnings of Social-Emotional Impairments in Adolescents with Non-Suicidal Self-Injury. *medRxiv preprints*. doi.org/10.1101/2020.11.12.20229138

Peer-reviewed:

1. **Jassim, N.***, McCoy, B.*, Yip, E.W., Allison, C., Baron-Cohen, S., Lawson, R.P. (2025). The "Tetris effect": autistic and non-autistic people share an implicit drive for perceptual cohesion. *Molecular Autism*. doi.org/10.1186/s13229-025-00654-4
2. Falter-Wagner, C.M., Gernert, C., Noreika, V., **Jassim, N.**, Streicher, J., Bekinschtein, T (2024). Protocol of

Stress in Autism (STREAM): The Role of Circadian Activity, Sleep Quality and Sensory Hyper-Reactivity. *Plos One*. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0303209

3. **Jassim, N.***, Owen, A., Lawson, R.P., Suckling, J., Baron-Cohen, S., & Parsons, O. (2022). Perceptual decision-making in autism as assessed by “spot the difference” visual cognition tasks. *Scientific Reports*. doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-19640-4
4. Procyshyn, T., Lombardo, M., Lai, M., **Jassim, N.**, Auyeung, B., Crockford, S., ... Bethlehem, R. A. (2022). Oxytocin enhances basolateral amygdala activation and functional connectivity in autistic women while processing emotional faces. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*. doi.org/10.1093/scan/nsac016
5. Brandl F., Weise B., Bratec S.M., **Jassim N.**, Hoffmann D.A., Bertram T., Ploner, M., Sorg C. (2022). Common and specific large-scale brain changes in major depressive disorder, anxiety disorders, and chronic pain: A transdiagnostic multimodal meta-analysis of structural and functional MRI studies. *Neuropsychopharmacology*. doi.org/10.1038/s41386-022-01271-y
6. **Jassim, N.***, Baron-Cohen, S., & Suckling, J. (2021). Meta-analytic evidence of differential prefrontal and early sensory cortex activity during non-social sensory perception in autism. *Neuroscience & Biobehavioural Reviews*. doi.org/10.1016/j.neubiorev.2021.04.014

AWARDS, GRANTS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

Charles Slater Travel Award to attend Federation of European Neurosciences Societies (FENS) Forum in Vienna, Austria - £400	2024
Guarantors of Brain travel award to attend FENS Forum in Vienna, Austria -£600	2024
International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) travel award to attend annual meeting in Melbourne, Australia -\$2000	2024
British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP) Postdoc Travel Bursary to attend annual meeting in Manchester, UK - £300	2023
Parke-Davis Postdoctoral Exchange Fellowship (one year) to visit Carney institute of Brain Sciences, Brown University, USA- £34,909	2022
Guarantors of Brain travel award to attend Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM) meeting in Glasgow, UK - £400	2022
Grindley award for research (PhD extension), Dept of Psychology, Uni of Cambridge - £3535	2021
INSAR Travel Award (<i>cancelled due to COVID 19</i>)- \$2000	2020
Newnham College Graduate and Research Support Award to attend Computational Psychiatry Course in Zurich, Switzerland - £750	2019
April Trust PhD studentship, Newnham College, fully-funded PhD at Uni of Cambridge - £134,857	2018
Erasmus+ Mobility Grant to conduct a six-month Master's project at Uni of Cambridge - €2,600	2016
Indian Academy of Sciences Summer Research Award for a two-month internship at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, India - ₹ 15,000	2012

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Jassim, N., Petzschnner, F.H., Rua, C., Baron-Cohen, S., Suckling, J Lawson, R.P. (2024). Examining the causal links between autistic traits, occipital GABA, and perception in humans. Poster presentation at *BAP Summer Meeting 2024*, Birmingham, UK.

Jassim, N., Petzschnner, F.H., Rua, C., Baron-Cohen, S., Suckling, J Lawson, R.P. (2024). Autistic traits mediate the relationship between occipital GABA and perceptual choice in a target detection task. Poster presentation at *FENS Forum 2024*, Vienna, Austria.

Jassim, N., McCoy, B., Yip, E.W., Allison, C., Baron-Cohen, S., Lawson, R.P., (2024). The relationship between autism, autistic-like traits, and the perception of "possibility". Poster presentation at *INSAR annual meeting 2024*, Melbourne, Australia.

Jassim, N., Baron-Cohen, S., Rua, C., Parsons, O., Suckling, J., Lawson, R.P. (2023). The links between

statistical learning, uncertainty, and neurotransmitters in humans. Oral and poster presentation at *BAP Summer Meeting 2023*, Manchester, UK.

Jassim, N., Baron-Cohen, S., Rua, C., Parsons, O., Lawson, R.P., Suckling, J. (2022). Probabilistic learning, sensorimotor GABA, & autistic traits. Data blitz (short talk) and poster presentation at *Cambridge Neuroscience Seminar 2022: New Horizons*, Cambridge, UK.

Jassim, N., Baron-Cohen, S., Rua, C., Parsons, O., Lawson, R.P., Suckling, J. (2022). Sensorimotor learning and expectations in adults with varying levels of autistic traits. Poster presentation at the *OHBM annual meeting 2022*, Glasgow, UK.

Jassim, N., Parsons, O., Rua, C., Baron-Cohen, S., Lawson, R.P., Suckling, J. (2022). Sensorimotor learning, expectations & autistic traits: A “7T”-easer. Data blitz (short talk) and poster presentation at *Cambridge Imaging Festival 2022*, Cambridge, UK.

Jassim, N., Baron-Cohen, S., & Parsons, O. (2021). Visual cognition in autism: Autistic adults are better at “spotting the difference”. Poster presentation at the *INSAR annual meeting 2021* (virtual due to COVID-19).

Jassim, N., Baron-Cohen, S., & Suckling, J. (2020). Non-social sensory perception in autism: An fMRI ALE meta-analysis. Poster presentation at the *OHBM annual meeting 2020* (virtual due to COVID-19).

Jassim, N., Villa, L., Goodyer, I., Holt, R., & Suckling, J. (2018). Emotional brain processes in adolescent depression. Poster presentation at the *Cambridge Neuroscience Seminar 2018*, Cambridge, UK.

INVITED TALKS

“The cognitive neuroscience of uncertainty”, keynote speaker at <i>Annual Newnham Graduate Conference</i> , Newnham College, Cambridge, UK [scheduled]	June 2025
Learning and decision-making in mental health and neurodiversity”, <i>Wednesday Lunchtime Seminar Series</i> , MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, Cambridge, UK	Oct 2024
“Perceptual decision-making in autism: From neurochemistry to cognition”, <i>ARClub Talks</i> , Autism Research Centre, Uni of Cambridge, UK	May 2024
“The cognitive neuroscience behind sensory perception and learning in autism spectrum conditions”, <i>Newnham College Alumnae Event</i> , Pitts Museum, Oxford, UK	March 2023
“Learning and perception in autism”, <i>Autism Research (ARCH) Seminar Series (virtual)</i> , ReSpect Lab, King’s College London, London, UK	June 2022
“Meta-analytic evidence of differential prefrontal and early sensory cortex activity during non-sensory perception in autism”, <i>Cambridge Neuroscience Society Seminars</i> , Cambridge University Neuroscience Society, Cambridge, UK	May 2021
“How do autistic individuals process sensory information? Findings from cognitive neuroscience”, <i>Newnham Pudding Seminar Series</i> , Newnham College, Cambridge, UK	May 2021
“Non-social sensory perception in autism”, <i>Autism Journal Club (virtual)</i> , Uni of Glasgow, UK	Sept 2020

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

Lecturer , Psychology and Medical Sciences undergraduate degree programmes, Uni of Cambridge <i>Topics: Mental Health and Neurodevelopment: Depression and Anxiety</i>	2024 - 2025
Research supervision , Psychology undergraduate dissertations, Uni of Cambridge <i>Topics: Visual cognition in autism (co-supervised with Rebecca Lawson)</i>	2024 - present
Small-group teaching , Psychology and Natural Sciences, various Colleges, Uni of Cambridge <i>Topics: Psychological Enquiry & Methods, Cognitive Neuroscience/ Experimental Psychology, Computational Theories of Autism.</i>	2019 - present

NON-TEACHING ACADEMIC ROLES

Undergraduate admissions interviewer (Psychology), Clare College, Uni of Cambridge	2022 - 2024
Examination assessor (Psychology, Neurobiology & Human Behaviour), Uni of Cambridge <i>Topics: Experimental Psychology, Neurobiology, Mental Health, Autism.</i>	2023 - present
Dissertation-marking (Psychology, Biological & Biomedical Sciences), Uni of Cambridge <i>Topics: Computational models of autism.</i>	2023 - present

AFFILIATIONS, MEMBERSHIPS, & COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Department, College, & University

Postdoc Representative, Dept of Psychology, Uni of Cambridge	2023 - present
Postdoc Representative, Information Committee, Dept of Psychology, Uni of Cambridge	2023 - present
Honorary Research Associate, Autism Research Centre, Dept Psychiatry, Uni of Cambridge	2022 - present
College Research Associate, Clare College, Cambridge	2023 - 2024
Cambridge Philosophical Society member, Cambridge	2019 - 2023
Welfare Officer, Newnham College Postgraduate Students MCR, Cambridge	2019 - 2020

National/ International Society Membership

British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP)	2023 - present
Women in Cognitive Science (WICS+)	2024 - present
Federation of European Neurosciences Societies (FENS)	2023 - 2024
International Society for Autism Research (INSAR)	2019 - 2024
British Neuroscience Association (BNA)	2020 - 2024
Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM)	2019 - 2022

ACCESS, OUTREACH, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Cambridge Seren Residential organised by the Government of Wales and Churchill College <i>Speaker: Introductory talk on psychology and neuroscience for students from state-maintained schools in Wales</i>	April 2025
Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) workshops on lived experiences of anxiety <i>Facilitator, Note-taker: Discussions on research priorities and study design with experts by experience</i>	2024 - present
Cambridge Access to Mental Health and Psychology Summer School <i>Mentor: Supervised undergraduate psychology student from University of Dundee, Scotland, on research proposal-writing and postgraduate applications</i>	July 2021

EVENTS ORGANISED

Psychology Research Symposium, Dept of Psychology, Uni of Cambridge [scheduled]	June 2025
PPI workshop (virtual) on uncertainty and anxiety	March 2025
Social events for postdoctoral researchers, Dept of Psychology, Uni of Cambridge	2023 - present
Social/welfare events for postgraduate students, Newnham College, Uni of Cambridge	2019 - 2021

PEER REVIEW

Ad-hoc reviewer for *Autism Research*, *BMC Psychology*, *Brain and Cognition*, *Brain Imaging and Behavior*, *Molecular Autism*, *Scientific Reports*