

NICHOLAS A. DEL GROSSO

PERSONAL INFO

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GOALS

- Obtain a PhD in cognitive neuroscience by studying multimodal sensory integration and sensorimotor interactions.
- Obtain teaching, project management, and laboratory experience sufficient to one day become a competent university professor.
- Build technical skills in a wide variety of fields in order to perform high-quality research at institutes with limited resources.

EDUCATION

Aug 2012 M.Sc. NeuroscienceMax Planck International Research School, Graduate
May 2010 School of Neural and Behavioural Sciences B.Sc. PsychologyWittenberg
University RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

May 2013 - Present	Ludwig-Maximilians Universität	Prof. Dr. Anton Sirota	Programmed a 3D graphics engine in Python to build virtual reality system for freely moving rats, supervised students in programming, engineering, and cognitive science projects, organized weekly journal clubs, and ordered new equipment.
Aug 2012 - May 2013	Universität Tübingen	Prof. Dr. Christoph Braun	Wrote a research grant to study the top-down and bottom-up interactions by computational modeling information propagation in early sensory pathways as measured by MEG, designed and administrated an institute wiki, organized a student lecture series, and supervised two students' EEG research projects.
Nov 2011 - July 2012	Universität Tübingen	Prof. Dr. Niels Birbaumer	Programmed in Matlab a time-frequency and evoked potential analysis on three years' worth of MEG data assessing longitudinal changes in stroke patients receiving physiotherapy.
Oct 2012 - Nov 2012	Universität Tübingen	Prof. Dr. Cornelius Schwarz	In this lab rotation, I trained rats to perform whisking in response to barrel cortex stimulation via chronically-implanted electrodes, mapping stimulation sensitivity to each cortical layer.
Nov 2010 - March 2011	Universität Tübingen	Dr. Michael Barnett Cowan	Programmed an online EMG classifier in Matlab and Simulink to accurately detect finger movements within milliseconds for EEG coherence brain-computer interface training.
Dec. 2009 - Aug. 2010	Wittenberg University	Prof. Dr. Josephine Wilson	

Built an NI-DAQ EEG system, programmed online analysis and data acquisition in Matlab and LabView, and confirmed its functionality in three different experiments. As a senior lab assistant, also worked as an aid for rat neurosurgery and noninvasive electrophysiology (skin conductance, EMG, EKG, and EEG) laboratory course sessions, which included planning and giving demonstrations on each method above.

June-Aug 2008 -
June-Aug 2009

Duke University

Prof. Dr. Jennifer Groh

Trained Macaque monkeys to perform visual saccade tasks while mapping receptive fields in superior and inferior colliculus.

Aug 2007 -
Dec. 2009

Wittenberg University

Prof. Dr. Michael Anes

Conducted three behavioral psychophysics studies on the hemispheric lateralization of face perception. Tasks included programming stimulus sequences in SuperLab, patient recruitment and management, data collection, and conference poster preparation.

Nov 2006 -
March 2007

Wittenberg University

Prof. Dr. Jay Yoder

Measured dessication rates in the bed bug and isolated fungal growth in three species of cockroach. These studies resulted in a publication in a peer-reviewed journal and a poster presentation at an undergraduate research conference.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Technical Consultant

UKT Psychosomatic Med. and Sports Med.

I evaluated and designed a solution for performing medical science studies in a placebo study, and taught the PhD student who carried out the study over several remote sessions and a few travel consultations.

Research Internship

The Neuromarketing Labs

I completed set-up of an EEG laboratory, including software calibration and noise measurements. Designed and ran two experiments estimating the evoked responses of semantic agreement and price agreement, then analyzed the data. The results from the second experiment are the basis of Dr. Müller's recently-published book, "Neuropricing". Currently volunteering as an EEG consultant by giving one-day workshops on Fieldtrip, SPM, and artifact correction methods.

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Broetz D., Del Grosso, N.A., Rea M., Ramos-Murguialday, A., Soekadar S.R., Birbaumer, N. "A New Hand Assessment Instrument for Severely Affected Stroke Patients." Journal of Neurorehabilitation. 2014; 34(3)

Benoit, J.B., Del Grosso, N.A., Yoder, J.A., Denlinger, D.L. "Resistance to Dehydration between Bouts of Blood Feeding in the Bed Bug, Cimex Lectularius, is Enhanced by Water Conservation, Aggregation, and Quiescence." American Journal of Tropical Medical Hygiene. May 2007; 76(5):987-93.

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

March 2015

Interact Munich

Demonstrating a Freely-Moving Virtual Reality Approach for Rodent Research

Nov 2014

Society for Neuroscience

ratCAVE, A Novel Virtual Reality System for Freely-Moving Rodents.

Nov. 2012

NENA Tübingen

Interpreting (M)EEG, A First Look at Dynamic Causal Modeling.

Introduced a probabilistic nonlinear modeling framework for interpretation of MEG and EEG data, along with the results of a pilot study in which we applied the approach.

Nov. 2011

NENA Tübingen

The Intrinsic Bias During the Blind-Walking

Task is Not Caused by an Aberrant Intrinsic Ground-Slope Model.

April 2010	Visual Sciences Society	DIY ERPs, Designing inexpensive EEG systems for performing auditory and visual cognitive studies.
March 2010	Butler Undergraduate Research Conference	Discrimination and processing of deviant stimuli at the auditory cortex.
Sept. 2009	European Health Psychology Society	Discrimination of attention-related and motor-related evoked activity by hemispheric comparison over the motor cortex.
May 2009	Visual Sciences Society	Are Local Changes in Faces Really Local?
May 2008	Visual Sciences Society	Hemispheric specialization for face processing revealed by use of thatcherized and feature-distorted faces.

SKILLS

- **EEG System Experience:** BrainProducts, gTec, Grass Instruments, CTF
- **Languages:** English (Mother Tongue), German (Level B1), French (Level A1-2)
- **Programming:** Python, Matlab, C-Sharp, GLSL, R, LabView, C, Bash, LaTeX
- **Wet Lab Skills:** Rat Neurosurgery, Animal Behavioral training (rats and monkeys), in vivo electrophysiology (single needle electrodes, chronically-implanted electrode arrays, noninvasive arrays of EEG electrodes and MEG sensors), Basic Electronics, Comfortable with building custom laboratory equipment
- **Stimulus Presentation:** Psychopy, Neurobs Presentation, Psychophysics Toolbox, OpenGL, Pyglet, SuperLab, RatCAVE
- **Statistical Analysis:** Statistical Parametric Mapping (SPM), SPSS, R, Matlab Statistics Toolbox, Fieldtrip, gTec Analyze, BrainVision Analyzer
- **Graphics:** Blender, Adobe Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign), OpenGL, Google SketchUp, GIMP, Inkspace

AWARDS

2015	Best Poster Award at Interact Munich Conference
2011	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2008	NSF Neuroscience REU Fellowship at Duke University



December 10, 2015