

CURRICULUM VITAE | Olaf Borghi

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EDUCATION

- Since Sep. 23 **Doctoral Candidate in Psychology | Royal Holloway, University of London**
Supervisors: Manos Tsakiris, Kaat Smets
Member of the MSCA Doctoral Network: "IP-PAD (Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Politics of Adolescence & Democracy)"
www.ippad.eu
Working thesis: Cognitive and emotional contributions to the making of the political mind
- Jul. 23 **M.Sc. in Psychology | University of Vienna (with distinction / summa cum laude)**
Track: Social Neuroscience, Cognitive Psychology and Research Methods
Supervisors: Magdalena Boch; Claus Lamm
Thesis: *Modulation of the Action Observation Network: Investigating Action, Agent and Observer Factors in an fMRI Study*
- Jul. 21 **B.Sc. in Psychology | University of Vienna (with distinction / summa cum laude)**
Supervisor: Ulrich Tran
Thesis: *Differential associations of the two higher-order factors of mindfulness with trait empathy and the mediating role of emotional awareness*

RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- April-July 25 **Visiting Researcher at the Joint Research Centre – European Commission, in Brussel, Belgium**
Unit for Science for Democracy and Evidence-Informed Policymaking
- 2021-23 **Student Research Assistant | Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience at the University of Vienna**
fMRI data collection at the Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Unit supervised by Claus Lamm
- 2022-2023 **Student Teaching Assistant | Psychological Methods at the University of Vienna**
Methods and Statistics tutor supervised by Frank Scharnowski and Ulrich Tran
- 2022-2023 **Research Internship | Psychological Methods at the University of Vienna**
Research intern in applied statistics and mindfulness research supervised by Ulrich Tran
- 2020 **Research Internship | Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience at the University of Vienna**
Support in fMRI data collection at the Comparative Canine Neuroimaging Unit supervised by Magdalena Boch
- 2020-2021 **Student Tutor | Department of Developmental and Educational Psychology at the University of Vienna**
Teaching of Supervised Orientation Tutorial for first year students under the supervision of Birgit Leidenfrost & Christoph Burger

PUBLICATIONS

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9724-2839> Google Scholar: [googlescholar/olafborghi](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=olafborghi)

Borghi, O., Tappin, B. M., Smets, K., & Tsakiris, M. (2026). Mind over bias: How is cognitive control related to politically motivated reasoning? *Cognition*, 268, 106373. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2025.106373>

Borghi, O., Niraki, M., Seremeta, E., Smets, K., & Tsakiris, M. (2025). Facing a dark future: Young people's future anxiety and political attitudes in the UK and Greece. *Advances in Psychology*, 2, e555124. <https://doi.org/10.56296/aip00042>

Borghi, O., L., Voracek, M., & Tran, U. S. (2024). Day-to-day associations between mindfulness and perceived stress: Insights from random intercept cross-lagged panel modelling. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 15. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2024.1272720>

Borghi, O., Mayrhofer, L., Voracek, M., & Tran, U. S. (2023). Differential associations of the two higher-order factors of mindfulness with trait empathy and the mediating role of emotional awareness. *Scientific Reports*, 13(1). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-30323-6>

PREPRINTS, WORKING PAPERS & DATASETS

OSF: osf.io/2a896 Github: <https://github.com/olafborghi>

Working paper: Borghi, O.*, Günes, M. T.*, Tsakiris, M., Lamm, C. & Martins, M. J. D. (in preparation). Uncovering the Moral Foundations of Polarized Movie Reviews

Reproducibility Report: Borghi, O., & Shankar, S. (2025). A comment on 'Bayesianism and wishful thinking are compatible' (I4R Discussion Paper Series No. 198). Institute for Replication (I4R). <https://hdl.handle.net/10419/309441>

Report: Borghi, O.*, Arahal, I.*, Smets, K.*, Tsakiris, M*. (2024). The IP-PAD Youth Survey UK Report. <https://www.ippad.eu/post/youth-survey-uk>

Dataset: Smets, K., Arahal, I., Bakker, B., Barkas, D., Bathelt, J., Borghi, O., Chatsisvili, N., Chrysoschoou, X., Couto de Jesus, G., Kasper, J., Kegel, J., Knorr, A., Kossowska, M., Kovalov, N., Kritzing, S., Laffineur, C., Lamm, C., Liao, Y., Mazur, L., ... Wichary, S. (2024). IP-PAD Wave 1: Online panel – United Kingdom [Data set]. OSF. <https://osf.io/fmn5r/>

Working paper: Borghi, O. & Boch, M. Modulation of the human action observation network: Investigating action, agent, and observer factors. https://github.com/olafborghi/AON_ACTION

*Equal author contributions

PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, AND POSTERS

Workshop (2025): Borghi, O. & Kasper, J. Data visualization in the social and cognitive sciences using ggplot2. IP-PAD Meeting Training Day in Amsterdam. <https://olafborghi.com/misc/2025/11/12/index.html>

Poster presentation (2025): Facing a Dark Future: Young people's future anxiety and political attitudes. IP-PAD Meeting Open Conference Day in Amsterdam. <https://olafborghi.com/research/posters/borghi-future-anxiety-IP-PAD/index.html>

Individual talk (2025): Facing a Dark Future: Young people's future anxiety and political attitudes. BPS Developmental Psychology Section Annual Conference 2025 at Royal Holloway, University of London.

Panel co-organiser and co-chair (2025): Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Young People's Political Agency and Voting Rights. 48th annual scientific meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) in Prague.

Panel chair (2025): Biological and Psychometric Approaches. 48th annual scientific meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) in Prague.

Individual talk (2025): Mind over bias: How is cognitive control related to politically motivated reasoning? 48th annual scientific meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) in Prague.

Individual talk (2024): The link between cognitive control and motivated reasoning from an interdisciplinary perspective. PGR Conference, Department of Psychology, Royal Holloway, University of London.

Individual talk (2023): Day-to-day association between mindfulness and perceived stress and how to investigate psychological chicken-and-egg problems. PGR Conference, Department of Psychology, Royal Holloway, University of London.

Poster presentation (2023): Borghi, O., Lamm, C., & Boch, M., Modulation of the Action Observation Network by Action, Agent and Observer Factors: Insights from an fMRI Study on Dog-Experts and Non-Experts. ECR Poster Session, Faculty of Psychology, Vienna. <https://olafborghi.com/research/posters/borghi-AON-master-thesis/index.html>

SUMMER/WINTER SCHOOLS ATTENDENCES

Winter school (2025): ISPP Virtual Academy Fellow (2024)

Summer school (2024): Birmingham-Leiden Summer School Computational Social Cognition

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

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| 2024 | Scholarship for excellent academic achievements, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria (931€) |
| 2023 | Scholarship for excellent academic achievements, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria (750€) |
| 2022 | Scholarship for excellent academic achievements, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria (750€) |

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Data acquisition

- Extensive training and certification for Siemens Magnetom Skyra MR system
- First Aid training for MRI scanning
- Eye-tracking with Eyelink 1000 Plus, SR Research, Ontario, Canada
- Online questionnaire construction with Qualtrics and SoSci Survey, online experiments using Gorilla and Prolific

Data analysis I Coding

- Advanced proficiency in R (data cleaning, visualization and advanced statistical analyses such as SEM and multilevel modeling with the tidyverse, ggplot2, brms, lavaan, lme4, afex, marginaleffects ...)
- Python (data analysis using various libraries such as *numpy* and *pandas*, data visualization, MRI data analysis using *Nipype*, *Nilearn* and *Nibabel*)
- fMRI data analysis in FSL; basic knowledge of bash scripting
- Basic knowledge of Git and version control
- State-of-the-art open science methods such as pre-registration and safeguard power analysis
- Other software: JASP and SPSS (multivariate statistics), G*Power (power analysis), ITK-snap (manual brain segmentation)

Languages

- German (native)
- English (C2 level; proficient in writing, reading, and speaking)
- Italian (B2/C1 level)

GENERAL

Ad-hoc peer reviewer for the journals “Cognition” and “Mindfulness”

PGR representative of the Department of Psychology, Royal Holloway, University of London (academic year 2024/25)

Doctoral Candidate representative of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions IP-PAD network (academic year 2025/26)

Member of the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP)