

# Povilas Karvelis, PhD

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## Research Interests

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I work at the interface of computational neuroscience and translational science, focusing on core methodological challenges in studying individual differences and validating novel psychometric instruments. I also develop open-source tools designed to enhance scientific rigor and efficiency by tackling systemic issues in academic research practices.

## Employment History

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2020-present    **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**  
Krembil Centre for Neuroinformatics (KCNI), The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), affiliated with University of Toronto, Canada  
Mentor: Dr. Andreea Diaconescu

## Education

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2016-2020    **PhD in Machine Learning, Computational Neuroscience, Computational Biology**  
University of Edinburgh, UK  
Thesis title: Perceptual Bayesian Inference in Autism and Schizophrenia  
Supervisor: Prof. Peggy Seriès

2015-2016    **MSc with Distinction in Computational Cognitive Science**  
University of Edinburgh, UK  
Dissertation title: Probabilistic Inference in Schizotypy and Autistic Traits  
Supervisor: Prof. Peggy Seriès

2011-2015    **MSci First-Class Honours in Physics and Astrophysics (International study)**  
University of Birmingham, UK  
Dissertation title: Asteroseismology with Kepler: Constraining mass-loss rate of RGB stars in open clusters NGC6791 and NGC681  
Supervisor: Prof. Andrea Miglio

2013-2014    **Exchange year - 3<sup>rd</sup> year BSc Physics courses**  
University of Melbourne, Australia

## Additional Training & Courses

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2023/11	Deep learning specialization, an online course by DeepLearning.ai, Coursera
2018/10	Structural Parametric Mapping for fMRI/VBM, University College London, UK
2018/07	Computational Psychiatry course, University College London, UK
2016/09	Computational Psychiatry course, University & ETH Zurich, Switzerland
2016-2019	Training for Teaching Support Providers in the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, UK

## Fellowships, Scholarships, & Awards

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2022-2024	<b>Postdoctoral Fellowship</b> , Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), Canada 90,000 CAD
2016-2020	<b>Doctoral Scholarship</b> , Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), UK 50,500 GBP
2018	<b>Travel Award</b> , European Behavioural Pharmacology Society (EBPS), Cambridge, UK 1,000 USD
2016	<b>Best Poster Award</b> , The Scottish Mental Health Research Network (SMHRN) Annual Scientific Meeting, Edinburgh, UK 100 GBP
2011	<b>Physics Entry Achievement Scholarship</b> , University of Birmingham, UK 1,000 GBP

## Publications

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1. **Karvelis, P.**, Seitz, A. R., Lawrie, S. M., & Seriès, P. (2018). Autistic traits, but not schizotypy, predict increased weighting of sensory information in Bayesian visual integration. *eLife*, 7, e34115
2. Cohen Hoffing, R. A.\*, **Karvelis, P.\***, Ruppelchert, S., Seriès, P., & Seitz, A. (2018). The Influence of Feedback on Task-Switching Performance: A Drift Diffusion Modeling Account. *Frontiers in integrative neuroscience*, 12, 1.
3. Valton, V.\*, **Karvelis, P.\***, Richards, K. L., Seitz, A. R., Lawrie, S. M., & Seriès, P. (2019). Acquisition of visual priors and induced hallucinations in chronic schizophrenia. *Brain*, awz171
4. Richards, K. L.\*, **Karvelis, P.\***, Lawrie, S. M., & Seriès, P. (2020). Visual statistical learning and integration of perceptual priors are intact in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. *PloS one*, 15(12), e0243100.

5. **Karvelis, P.**, & Diaconescu, A. O. (2022). A Computational Model of Hopelessness and Active-Escape Bias in Suicidality. *Computational Psychiatry*, 6(1)
6. Hauke, D. J., Roth, V., **Karvelis, P.**, Adams, R. A., Moritz, S., Borgwardt, S., Diaconescu, A. O., & Andreou, C. (2022). Increased Belief Instability in Psychotic Disorders Predicts Treatment Response to Metacognitive Training. *Schizophrenia Bulletin*.
7. **Karvelis, P.\***, Charlton, C. E.\*, Allohverdi, S. G., Bedford, P., Hauke, D. J., & Diaconescu, A. O. (2022). Computational Approaches to Treatment Response Prediction in Major Depression Using Brain Activity and Behavioral Data: A Systematic Review. *Network Neuroscience*, 1-52.
8. Charlton, C. E., **Karvelis, P.**, McIntyre, R. S., & Diaconescu, A. O. (2023). Suicide prevention and ketamine: insights from computational modeling. *Frontiers in psychiatry*, 14.
9. **Karvelis, P.**, Paulus, M. P., & Diaconescu, A. O. (2023). Individual differences in computational psychiatry: a review of current challenges. *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*, 105137.
10. Hauke, D. J., Wobmann, M., Andreou, C., Mackintosh, A. J., de Bock, R., **Karvelis, P.**, ... & Diaconescu, A. O. (2024). Altered perception of environmental volatility during social learning in emerging psychosis. *Computational Psychiatry*, 8(1), 1.
11. **Karvelis, P.**, Hauke, D.J., Wobmann, M., Andreou, C., Mackintosh, A., de Bock, R., Borgwardt, S. and Diaconescu, A., (2024). Test-retest reliability of behavioral and computational measures of advice taking under volatility. *PLOS ONE*.
12. Diaconescu, A. O., **Karvelis, P.**, & Hauke, D. J. (2024). Rethinking interpersonal judgments: dopamine antagonists impact attributional dynamics. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*.

### Preprints

13. **Karvelis, P.**, & Diaconescu, A. O. (2025). Clarifying the reliability paradox: poor test-retest reliability attenuates group differences. *PsyArXiv*.
14. Allohverdi, S., Soltanzadeh, M., Schmidt A., Charlton, C., Hauke, D. J., **Karvelis, P.**, Vollenweider F., Diaconescu, A. O. (2024). Ketamine and Psilocybin Differentially Impact Sensory Learning During the Mismatch Negativity.
15. Allohverdi, S., Soltanzadeh, M., Schmidt A., **Karvelis, P.**, Charlton, C., Wang, Z., and Diaconescu, A. O. (2024). Decoding Psychedelic Therapy: Computational Insights into Ketamine and Psilocybin as Antidepressants
16. Yang, Y., **Karvelis, P.**, Siddiqui, I., Foussias, G., Diaconescu, A. O. (2024). Deciphering Amotivation in Schizophrenia: A Bayesian Computational Analysis of Exploratory Behavior.

\* Co-first author

## Patents

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**Karvelis, P.** & Diaconescu, A. Apparatus and method for assessing active-escape bias in mammals. Canada & United States of America. Patent Application Numbers: CA3236532A1 & US18/655,054. <https://patents.google.com/patent/WO2023077229A1>

## Open-source projects

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- 2025      **E2P Simulator** – an interactive web-based tool for translating effect sizes into predictive utility metrics: <https://www.e2p-simulator.com>  
<https://github.com/povilaskarvelis/e2p-simulator>
- 2023      **DataViz** – Matlab data visualization toolbox.  
<https://github.com/povilaskarvelis/DataViz>  
Selected as the Pick of the Week by Matlab Central:  
<https://blogs.mathworks.com/pick/2024/01/27/statistical-visualization-functions-and-open-in-matlab-online>.

## Presentations & Workshops

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### Oral conference presentations

- 2020      **Perceptual inference with continuous variables, continuous time and complex priors.** Canadian Computational Neuroscience Spotlight (CCNS), Toronto, Canada
- 2018      **Is Perceptual Bayesian Inference Impaired in Autism and Schizophrenia?** European Behavioural Pharmacology Society (EBPS) workshop, Cambridge, UK

### Poster presentations

- 2025      **Developing a Battery of Reliable Computational Assays for Studying Psychopathologies.** Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP), Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- 2025      **Why Small Effects Fail: An Interactive Tool for Understanding Predictive Utility.** Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP), Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- 2024      **Clarifying the reliability paradox: poor test-retest reliability attenuates group differences.** Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM), Seoul, South Korea
- 2024      **Clarifying the reliability paradox: poor test-retest reliability attenuates group differences.** Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP), Austin, Texas, USA
- 2023      **The challenges of measuring individual differences in computational psychiatry.** Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM), Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- 2023      **Test-retest reliability of behavioral and computational measures of advice taking.** Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM), Montreal, Quebec, Canada

- 2023      **The challenges of measuring individual differences in computational psychiatry.**  
Computational Psychiatry Conference, Dublin, Ireland
- 2023      **The challenges of measuring individual differences in computational psychiatry.**  
Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP), San Diego, California, USA
- 2022      **A Computational Model of Hopelessness and Active-escape Bias in Suicidality.**  
Computational Psychiatry Course (CPC++), New York City, New York, USA
- 2016      **Probabilistic Inference in Schizotypy and Autistic Traits.** The Scottish Mental Health  
Research Network (SMHRN) Annual Scientific Meeting, Edinburgh, UK

### Invited scholarly talks

- 2021/10      **A neurocomputational model of hopelessness and active-escape bias in suicidality.**  
Alliance of Suicide Prevention and Intervention Researchers and Educators at the  
University of Toronto (ASPIRE), Toronto, Canada
- 2021/02      **Suicidality: hopelessness and active-escape bias.** BRAIN-TO workshop, Toronto,  
Canada
- 2021/06      **Perceptual Bayesian inference in autism and schizophrenia.** Theoretical &  
Computational Neuroscience Group, Basel, Switzerland
- 2020/12      **Suicidality: hopelessness and active-escape bias.** Computational Psychiatry Lab,  
Institute for Adaptive and Neural Computation, University of Edinburgh, UK
- 2018/03      **Bayesian inference in schizophrenia and autism.** Brain Game Center for Mental  
Fitness and Well-Being, University of California, Riverside (UCR), California, USA

### Educational talks/workshops

- 2022/03      **DCM for fMRI.** Cognitive Network Modelling (Cognemo) EduSeries, Toronto, Canada
- 2021/10      **Schizophrenia: computational frameworks and models.** Cognitive Network Modelling  
(Cognemo) EduSeries, Toronto, Canada
- 2021      **Computational and physiological mechanisms of suicide.** Cognitive Network  
Modelling (Cognemo) EduSeries, Toronto, Canada
- 2021/07      **Tutorial: Dynamic causal modeling for fMRI.** Krembil Centre for Neuroinformatics  
(KCNI) Summer School, Toronto, Canada.
- 2021/05      **Statistical Parametric Mapping: hierarchical models, empirical Bayes, and variational  
Bayes.** Cognitive Network Modelling (Cognemo) EduSeries, Toronto, Canada
- 2021/01      **Statistical Parametric Mapping: fMRI data pre-processing.** Cognitive Network  
Modelling (Cognemo) EduSeries, Toronto, Canada

- 2020/02     **Is Perceptual Bayesian Inference Impaired in Autism and Schizophrenia?** Wellcome Trust 4-year PhD Translational Neuroscience programme, University of Edinburgh, UK
- 2019/02     **Is Perceptual Bayesian Inference Impaired in Autism and Schizophrenia?** Wellcome Trust 4-year PhD Translational Neuroscience programme, University of Edinburgh, UK
- 2018/02     **Bayesian inference in schizophrenia and autism.** Wellcome Trust 4-year PhD Translational Neuroscience programme, University of Edinburgh, UK

## Teaching Experience

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- 2022             Guest Lecturer for **Bayesian Models of Perception and Decision-Making** (PSY3100 S5), Department of Psychology, University of Toronto, Canada
- 2019-2020     Teaching Support roles at the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, UK
- Tutor for **Computational Cognitive Neuroscience** (graduate)
  - Tutor for **Computational Cognitive Science** (graduate)
  - Tutor & Marker for **Informatics Research Review** (graduate)
  - Tutor & Marker for **Informatics Project Proposal** (graduate)
  - Demonstrator & Marker for **Informatics 1 - Cognitive Science** (undergraduate)
- 2018-2019     Teaching Support roles at the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, UK
- Tutor for **Computational Cognitive Neuroscience** (graduate)
  - Tutor for **Computational Cognitive Science** (graduate)
  - Tutor & Marker for **Informatics Research Review** (graduate)
  - Tutor & Marker for **Informatics Project Proposal** (graduate)
- 2017-2018     Teaching Support roles at the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, UK
- Tutor for **Computational Cognitive Neuroscience** (graduate)
  - Tutor & Marker for **Informatics Research Review** (graduate)
  - Tutor for **Informatics Project Proposal** (graduate)
  - Demonstrator & Marker for **Informatics 1 - Cognitive Science** (undergraduate)
- 2016-2017     Teaching Support roles at the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, UK
- Teaching Assistant for **Computational Cognitive Science** (graduate)
  - Tutor & Marker for **Informatics Research Review** (graduate)
  - Tutor for **Informatics Research Proposal** (graduate)
  - Demonstrator & Marker for **Informatics 1 - Cognitive Science** (undergraduate)
- 2015-2016     Teaching Support roles at the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, UK
- Demonstrator for **Informatics 1 - Cognitive Science** (undergraduate)

## Service

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### Peer reviewer

Computational Psychiatry (since 2021)  
Frontiers in Human Neuroscience (since 2022)  
Depression & Anxiety (since 2023)  
Frontiers in Psychiatry (since 2023)  
BMC psychiatry (since 2024)  
Communications Psychology (since 2024)  
Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology (since 2024)  
Clinical and Translational Neuroscience (2024)  
Scientific Reports (since 2024)  
npj Mental Health Research (since 2024)  
Cognitive Neuropsychiatry (since 2025)

### Funding reviewer

2022 Wellcome Trust Early-Career Awards Committee  
2023 CIHR Doctoral Research Awards Committee

### Editorial contributions

2022-2023 Guest Associate Editor, Frontiers in Psychiatry

### Conference organization

2022 Chair at Canadian Computational Neuroscience Spotlight (CCNS)  
2024-2025 Hybridization Chair at OHBM Open Science Special Interest Group (OSSIG)

### Mentoring activities

2020-pres. **Co-mentor**, Krembil Centre for Neuroinformatics (KCNI), The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), affiliated with University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

- Pamina Laessing, PhD student
- Jason Yang, MSc student
- Daniel Wurgaft, BSc student
- Alex Coutler, BSc student

2017-2019 **Co-mentor**, School of informatics, University of Edinburgh, UK

- Nikitas Chrysaitis, MSc student
- Raffaele Piccini, MSc Student
- Gizem Aras, MSc student

## Other skills

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**Languages:** English (fluent), Lithuanian (native), Russian (basic), Spanish (basic)

**Coding:** Python, R, Matlab, C/C++, JavaScript, HTML, GitHub, Cursor AI

## Community and volunteer activities

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2016-2020 Founder and president of Breakdance Society, University of Edinburgh, UK