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EDUCATION

2022-present	PhD, UCL-Wellcome 4-year Programme in Mental Health Science

2019-2020   MSc Medical Statistics, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)
- Degree outcome: Distinction (4.6/5 GPA incl. 5/5 in both written exams & final project)

2016-2019   BA Neuroscience, St. Hugh's College, University of Oxford
- Degree outcome: First Class (overall weighted mean mark: 72.6)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2021–2022   Research assistant, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit (CBU), University of Cambridge
- Work with Dr. Camilla Nord on a large online experiment, which combined a reinforcement learning (RL) task (probabilistic selection task; Frank *et al.*, 2007, *PNAS*) with momentary affect reports and a novel cognitive distancing manipulation in half the participants
- Helped to design the study and coded it in JavaScript (+ HTML/CSS) using the jsPsych library, before running it on Prolific in over 1,000 participants
- Conceptualised and implemented the full analysis pipeline in the form of an R package, Jupyter notebooks, and a Docker image; wrote first draft of paper (pre-printed on *PsyArXiv*), and presented poster versions at RLDM 2022 and the BAP Summer Meeting 2022

2020–2022   Honorary member (formally April 2021–), Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford
- Work with Dr. Maxime Taquet, Professor Paul Harrison, and colleagues
- Contributed to a (re)analysis of two large experience sampling studies (total *n*=58,328), published in *Psychological Science* in reply to a statistical critique of an earlier study
- Contributed statistical analyses and methods to a number of large-scale electronic health records (EHR) studies into post-COVID sequelae up to two years post infection, including articles published in *PLoS Medicine*, *Brain Behavior & Immunity*, and *The Lancet Psychiatry*

Jul-Oct 2020 MSc research project, supervised by Dr. Jennifer Nicholas, investigating links between grip strength at 53-69 and brain health/cognition at 70 in the MRC 1946 Birth Cohort
- Accepted to and presented at the Spring Meeting 2021 of the British Geriatrics Society (BGS), as part of the President's Round – conference abstract published as part of a supplement in *Age and Ageing*, and full paper published in *BMC Geriatrics*

2018-2019   Work in a circadian neuroscience lab headed by Dr. Aarti Jagannath, part of the Foster Group in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Oxford
- Performed cell culture and mouse tissue experiments towards undergraduate research project (final mark: 81), aiming to characterise two novel clock genes

Jul-Sep 2018 Summer intern (10 weeks) in Boston, USA at the Cardiovascular Research Center, part of Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and Harvard Medical School
- Learnt to use bioinformatic and machine learning approaches such as PCA and cluster analysis in R (genomics data), culminating in a presentation to the rest of the lab

PUBLICATIONS (*contributions*)

Dercon Q, Nicholas JM, James S-N, Schott JM, Richards M. Grip strength from midlife as an indicator of later-life brain health and cognition: evidence from a British birth cohort. *BMC Geriatr*. 2021; **21**: 475. *Responsible for all statistical analyses, drafted original manuscript, prepared figures/tables, and handled submission (i.e., cover letter, reviewer responses etc.).*

Taquet M, **Dercon Q**, Harrison PJ. Six-month sequelae of post-vaccination SARS-CoV-2 infection: A retrospective cohort study of 10,024 breakthrough infections. *Brain Behav Immun*. 2022; **103:** 154–162. S*tatistical analyses, supplementary methods/table preparation, editing of the manuscript.*

Taquet M, **Dercon Q**, Luciano S, Geddes JR, Husain M, Harrison PJ. Incidence, co-occurrence, and evolution of long-COVID features: A 6-month retrospective cohort study of 273,618 survivors of COVID-19. *PLoS Med.* 2021; **18**: e1003773. *Responsible for statistical analyses and methodology, preparation of tables and supplementary information, plus reviewing/editing of the manuscript.*

Quoidbach J, **Dercon Q**, Taquet M, Desseilles M, de Montjoye YA, Gross JJ. Happiness and the Propensity to Interact With Other People: Reply to Elmer (2021). *Psychol. Sci.* 2021; **32**: 960–5. *Responsible for all statistical analyses, table preparation, and some writing (methods/results).*

Preprints

Dercon Q, Mehrhof, SZ, Sandhu, TR, Hitchcock, C, Lawson, RP, Pizzagalli, DA, Dalgleish, T, & Nord, CL. A core component of psychological therapy causes adaptive changes in computational learning mechanisms. *PsyArXiv* 2022. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/jmnek. *Helped design experiment, coded online tasks, and handled data collection; designed the analysis pipeline, prepared figures, and wrote the first draft.*

Conference abstracts/posters

Dercon Q, Mehrhof, SZ, Sandhu, TR, Hitchcock, C, Lawson, RP, Pizzagalli, DA, Dalgleish, T, & Nord, CL. Computational psychotherapy: cognitive distancing alters reinforcement learning. In: Proceedings of the British Association of Psychopharmacology Summer Meeting (Imperial College, 2022).

Dercon Q, Mehrhof, SZ, Sandhu, TR, Hitchcock, C, Lawson, RP, Pizzagalli, DA, Dalgleish, T, & Nord, CL. The computational consequences of cognitive distancing. In: Proceedings of the 5th Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision-Making (Brown University, 2022).

Dercon Q, Nicholas J, James S-N, Schott J, Richards M. 488 - Grip strength from midlife as an indicator of later-life cognition and brain health: Evidence from a British birth cohort. In: Age and Ageing. Oxford Academic, 2021: ii5–7. *Wrote the conference abstract and presented at the BGS Spring Meeting 2021.*

ACADEMIC PRIZES

- Gibbs Prize in Neuroscience (2019), University of Oxford – *ranked #1 in neuroscience Finals*
- NIHR MSc Studentship in Medical Statistics (2019-2020) – *full scholarship for my MSc at LSHTM*
- St. Hugh's College Travel Grant (2018; *for my US internship*) & Final Honour School Prize (2019)

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Programming: In order of experience/preference: R (*4+ years; multiple complete projects + package writing*); Python (*2+ years; Google ML courses/Leetcode*); JavaScript (+ some HTML/CSS) (*~1 year; multiple online tasks*); Stan (*1+ years, Bayesian models of various types*); MatLab (*occasional*)

Academic: - Attended University of Zurich computational psychiatry course (CPC) in 2020 and 2021; in-depth tutorials in RL models, hierarchal Gaussian filter, and model inversion

- Attended meetings of the transcontinental computational psychiatry workgroup (TCPW) and UCL FIL's brain meetings throughout 2020-2021

Music: - Played drums in (2016-2019) and ran (2018-2019) a large, 14-piece university funk band – in charge of bookings and rehearsals

- Help run an electronic record label and club night (Vāsuki Sound), focused on upcoming (particularly minority ethnic) artists, initially funded by an Arts Council grant