Sajjad Torabian

Current Position	Ph.D. Student in Cognitive Neuroscience, Visual Perception and Neuroimaging Lab, Department of Cognitive Sciences, University of California, Irvine
Contact	torabias@uci.edu

Research Interests	Social Cognition, Motion Perception, Machine Learning

Education & Professional Appointments

University of California Irvine, CA, USA — September 2019 - Present
Ph.D. Student, Department of Cognitive Sciences

Stanford University, CA, USA — May 2017 - May 2018
Research Assistant, Department of Psychology

University of Louisville, KY, USA — August 2015 - May 2017
M.Sc., Computer Science and Engineering Department

- *GPA: 3.936 out of 4*

University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran — September 2009 - January 2015
B.Sc., Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Research Experience

Dept. of Cognitive Sciences, UC Irvine — September 2019 - Present
Grad. Researcher, ***Visual Perception and Neuroimaging Lab***
Advisor: Prof. Emily Grossman

Dept. of Psychology, Stanford University — May 2017 - May 2018
Research Assistant, ***Social Learning Lab***

- *Developed an fMRI pipeline in collaboration with Stanford Center for Reproducible Neuroscience*
- *Made pipelines executable on Stanford's research computing cluster (Sherlock): https://github.com/sajjadtorabian/StanfordSherlockfMRIGuide/wiki*

Supervisor: Prof. Hyowon Gweon

Dept. of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Univ. of Louisville — Fall 2016 - Spring 2017
Grad. Researcher, ***NeuroImaging Laboratory of Cognitive Affective and Motoric Processes***

- *Used MVPA to decode fMRI responses to fear and anxiety*

Advisor: Prof. Brendan Depue

Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering, Univ. of Louisville — Spring 2015 - April 2017
Grad. Researcher, ***Cyber Security Laboratory***
Supervisor: Prof. Roman Yampolskiy

Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering, Univ. of Louisville — July 2013 - September 2013
Research Intern, ***Cyber Security Laboratory***

- *Developed audio CAPTCHAs*
- *Work recognized in a spotlight on CECS department homepage*

Supervisor: Prof. Roman Yampolskiy

Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Univ. of Tehran — January 2012 - June 2013

Undergrad. Researcher, ***Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Laboratory***

Supervisor: Prof. Hadi Moradi

Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Univ. of Tehran — January 2011 - June 2013

RoboCup Team Member

- *3D soccer simulation with humanoid robot NAO*

Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Univ. of Tehran — Fall 2009 - Fall 2011

Game Team Leader

- *Developed 3D games with Microsoft DirectX*
- *Taught computer graphics fundamentals and DirectX to undergraduate students, Spring 2011*

Teaching Experience

University of California Irvine

Teaching Assistant, ***Psychology Fundamentals*** — Winter 2020

Instructor: Prof. Michael D'Zmura

Teaching Assistant, ***Psychology Fundamentals*** — Fall 2019

Instructor: Prof. Donald Hoffman

University of Louisville

Teaching Assistant, ***Intro to Programming Languages*** — Fall 2015 - Spring 2017

Instructor: Prof. Roman Yampolskiy

University of Tehran

Teaching Assistant, ***Discrete Mathematics*** — January 2013 - June 2013

Instructor: Prof. Siamak Mohammadi

Roozbeh Institute

Pre-University Teacher, Discrete Mathematics — Spring 2012

Middle School Teacher, Geometry — Spring 2012

Middle School Teacher, Discrete Mathematics — Fall 2011

High School Teacher, C++ Programming — Fall 2011

Middle School Teacher, Introduction to Information Technology — Fall 2009 - Spring 2011

Honors & Awards

Graduate Dean's **Recruitment Fellowship**, University of California Irvine (Spring 2019)

- *Made to exceptional students admitted into graduate programs at UC Irvine*

CECS **Master of Science Award**, University of Louisville (April 2017)

- *Annual top student award*

Merit Scholar Award, University of Louisville (Fall 2015 - Spring 2017)

CECS Department Scholarship, University of Louisville (Spring 2016)

International Center Scholarship, University of Louisville (Spring 2016, Fall 2016)

Alumni Association of Faculty of Engineering Scholarship, University of Tehran (Spring 2013)

Ranked 314th among 87,000 applicants in National Universities Entrance Exam (2009)

Software

PyMVPA BIDS-App: A reproducible fMRI pipeline for MultiVariate Pattern Analysis

- https://github.com/BIDS-Apps/PyMVPA

Publications

Torabian, S. Using a MultiVariate Pattern Analysis (MVPA) approach to decode fMRI responses to fear and anxiety. 2017

- *Master's Thesis*

S. Torabian, S. HoseinAlipour, A. Mirzargar, and M. Tavakkolian. Improving the Localization of Humanoid Soccer Robots in Specified Fields: A Neural Network Approach. *RSI/ISM International Conference on Robotics and Mechatronics (ICRoM)*, Tehran, Iran, 2013

Invited Talks

S. Torabian. From Genes To Cognition. Amirkabir Artificial Intelligence Summer Summit, Amirkabir University of Technology, July 2019

S. Torabian. MultiVariate Pattern Analysis. Deep Learning Summer School, University of Tehran, August 2018

S. Torabian. How to study the Mind: Monolithic or Modular? Stanford University Graduate Community Center, November 2017

Conference Presentations

S. Torabian, S. HoseinAlipour, A. Mirzargar, and M. Tavakkolian. Improving the Localization of Humanoid Soccer Robots in Specified Fields: A Neural Network Approach. Talk presented at the International Conference on Robotics and Mechatronics, Tehran, Iran, February 2013

Workshops Organized

How to Apply, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran, October 4, 2018

- *Assisted students in graduate school applications*

How to Apply, Tehran, Iran, July 25, August 29, September 12, November 7, 2018, January 11, & February 15, 2019

International Internship, Student Scientific Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran, November 22 & December 20, 2014

Computer Skills

Programming Tools and Languages: Python, Bash, C, C++, Java, R, Matlab, HTML

Neuroimaging Tools: PyMVPA, BrainVoyager, FSL, NeuroDebian, NeuroElf

Operating Systems: Linux, Mac, Windows

High Performance Computing (HPC)

Other: Docker, Singularity, CircleCI

Volunteer Experience

Vice President at Organization Assisting and Serving International Students (OASIS), Fall 2016

Officer at Iranian Student Organization, University of Louisville, Fall 2015 - Spring 2017

Sport

Second-rate certificate from Life Saving and Diving Federation, Tehran, Iran

Swimming coach at Manzariyeh Camp, Tehran, Iran, Summers 2009, 2010, & 2011

Music & Performances	Playing Santoor (Iranian instrument) since Summer 2009 Concertino for Santoor & Orchestra (by Hossein Dehlavi), Margaret Comstock Concert Hall, Univ. of Louisville School of Music, April 21 2017 • *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9WZBtXJioM* Solo Concert, Malcolm Bird Hall, Univ. of Louisville School of Music, March 10 2016 • *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TV8OYrYQxTE* Concert at Univ. of Tehran commencement ceremony, Olympic Hotel, Tehran, Iran, Fall 2014 Concert at Espandegan celebration, Univ. of Science & Culture, Tehran, Iran, Spring 2013 Concert at Eidaneh celebration, Univ. of Tehran, Tehran, Iran, Spring 2013
Languages	English: Fluent Spanish: Intermediate (Follow me on www.duolingo.com/sajjadtorabian) Arabic: Intermediate Persian: Native Language
Online Courses Completed	Know Thyself - The Value and Limits of Self-Knowledge: The Unconscious, Coursera, July 2019 Know Thyself - The Value and Limits of Self-Knowledge: The Examined Life, Coursera, May 2019 Soul Beliefs: Causes and Consequences - Unit 3: How Does It All End?, Coursera, May 2019 Soul Beliefs: Causes and Consequences - Unit 2: Belief Systems, Coursera, May 2019 Soul Beliefs: Causes and Consequences - Unit 1: Historical Foundations, Coursera, May 2019 Miracles of Human Language: An Introduction to Linguistics, Coursera, April 2019 Philosophy and the Sciences: Introduction to the Philosophy of Cognitive Sciences, Coursera, April 2019 Philosophy and the Sciences: Introduction to the Philosophy of Physical Sciences, Coursera, March 2019
Other Interests	Consciousness, Story of Civilization, Theory of Music, Persian Music, Mysticism, Ethics, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Religion
References	**Prof. Emily Grossman**, Professor, Department of Cognitive Sciences, University of California Irvine, CA, US. Email: grossman@uci.edu **Prof. Hyowon Gweon**, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Stanford University, CA, US. Email: hyo@stanford.edu **Prof. Brendan Depue**, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Louisville, KY, US. Email: brendan.depue@louisville.edu