
Sara Aleskerova

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Objective

I am experienced in conducting behavioural experiments, designing experiments on various platforms and have some experience with implementing eye tracking and non-invasive brain stimulation methods. My interests lie in the fields of memory research, experimental psychology, neurophysiology and statistics for social sciences. I am looking very much forward to learning fMRI techniques.

Languages

Russian - native

English - Advanced level

- 2015: Mock IELTS (exam by HSE) - 8/10
- 2012: TOEFL - 83

French - Pre-Intermediate

- A1 DELF Junior Attestation de Reussite 84.50/100
- A2 DELF Junior Attestation de Reussite 84.25/100

Italian - beginner

Education

Undergraduate Programme "Psychology"

Sep 2014 – June 2018

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Higher School of Economics

GPA: 9.01 out of 10

2016-2017 - 1st place in the overall rating of 3rd-year students

2015-2016 - 2nd place in the overall rating of 2nd-year students

2014-2015 - 2nd place in the overall rating of 1st-year students

Thesis: "The Role of the BDNF Factor in Spatial and Temporal Working Memory Maintenance: an Eye-Tracking Behavioral Study".

Academic advisor: Matteo Feurra, PhD, Assistant Professor at HSE.

Undergraduate Programme "Biology"

Sep 2013 – Feb 2014

Faculty of Biology, Moscow State University

Left after the first semester and then entered Higher School of Economics.

Junior Year

Sep 2012 – Nov 2013

American Hebrew Academy (AHA) in Greensboro, NC, USA

- American History - 100%
- English Literature - 100%
- Biology - 92%
- Physics AP (Advanced Placement) - 87%

Completed these courses at Alexander Muss High School in Israel as all junior students of AHA spend fall term on a special programme in Israel.

Secondary School

Sep 2006 – June 2013

L. I. Milgram Grammar School #45

- 2013 - Diploma cum laude in Biology, Physics, Geography, Literature, History, History of Art, English and French.
- May 2012 - Best project in History of Art. It was sent to the IB Diploma Programme committee in Denmark
- May 2011 - Winner of the contest "The Way to Success" in the nomination "Golden Globe" for the waste recycling project in schools of South-West District of Moscow.
- Nov 2011 - Prizewinner of the All-Russia School Olympiad in Literature (Stage of Municipality)
- Dec 2010 - Prizewinner of the All-Russia School Olympiad in History of Art (Stage of Municipality)
- 2010 - Prizewinner of the research projects competition "Russian Energy Sector" (project "Natural Gaz")
- 2010 - Prizewinner of the natural science projects contest ("Metals and Human Physiology")

Work and Research Experience

Memory and Motor Control Group, Centre for Cognition & Decision Making, HSE

Dec 2016 – Present

Student

Experience:

- Conducted several experiment sessions with transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS),
 - Recruited subjects for several independent studies,
 - Participated in lab meetings and discussions of research projects.
- 3rd-year undergraduate thesis: "The Role of Val66Met Polymorphism in Maintaining Spatial and Temporal Information in Working Memory", academic advisor Matteo Feurra, grade 9/10.

Second International Student Conference "Alliance of Social Sciences", HSE

07.11.2017 – 08.11.2017

Chairman of the Programme Committee

Experience:

- Invited the main speakers/presenters for talks, workshops, and/or panel discussions.
- Created the program of the conference

Laboratory assistant

Experience:

- Collected EEG data (I ran more than 100 subjects both on my own and with lab partners),
- Analyzed data in MATLAB (eeglab toolbox): cleaning data from artefacts, channel interpolation, independent component analysis (ICA), epochs extraction,
- Recruited subjects,
- Helped with applying for a grant to the Russian Science Fund,
- 2nd-year undergraduate thesis "The Psychophysiology of Feature Binding", academic advisor Boris Cherenyshev, grade 9,
- I also participated in a research project "Feature Binding in Auditory Modality".

**Anatomy and Physiology of
Central Nervous System**

01.09.2015 – 30.06.2016

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Responsibilities:

- Provided additional course materials,
- Checked and updated the grade sheet,
- Organized additional seminars and helped students to keep track of the course.

Scholarships

**Oxford Russia Fund
Scholarship**

01.09.2017 – 30.06.2018

Scholar

This scholarship is given to social sciences undergraduate students of year 3 and 4, who showed excellent academic achievements, participated in the research projects and showed active involvement in the social life of the university. Last year the Fund awarded 2200 scholarships all over Russia.

**Increased State Academic
Scholarship**

10.01.2016 – 31.12.2016

Level 2 scholarship for social activity achievements

The competition is held every semester. The scholarship was awarded to me for both semesters. It was given to approximately 500 hundred students of Moscow campus

**Russia State Academic
Scholarship**

01.09.2014 – 30.06.2018

Scholar

This scholarship is given to full-time state-funded students who have grades 6+ out of 10 at the end of each semester.

Academic Achievements

HSE Student Research Papers Competition 2017 - Winner

Title of the work: "The Role of Val66Met Polymorphism in Maintaining Spatial and Temporal Information in Working Memory"

Academic advisor: Matteo Feurra, PhD, Assistant Professor at HSE.

Internships

Brain Anatomy Course

03.04.2017 – 28.04.2017

N.N. Burdenko National Scientific and Practical Centre for Neurosurgery

Topics:

- White matter and grey matter of the human brain,
 - Diencephalon,
 - Brainstem,
 - Medulla Oblongata,
 - Anatomy and Physiology of visual and auditory perception,
 - Anatomy and Physiology of motion,
 - Limbic system and its functions.
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Additional Courses

Winter School on Data Analysis in R

04.01.2018 – 09.01.2018

Psychological Institute of Russian Academy of Education

Topics:

- Graphs,
- Term frequency inverse document frequency (tf-idf) analysis (packages "tidyverse", "stringr"),
- Web scraping and parsing (packages "rvest", "RSelenium"),
- Visualization: Shiny,
- RMarkdown.

EYELINK 1000 Plus Course

Feb 2017 – March 2017

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, HSE

one-month basic course on eye tracking methods, EYELINK 1000 Plus and Experiment Builder for conducting eye tracking experiments at the centre for Neuroeconomics and Cognitive Research, HSE.

TMS and EEG Course

Oct 2016 – Jan 2017

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, HSE

three-month basic course on transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) and electroencephalography (EEG) at the centre for Neuroeconomics and Cognitive Research, HSE.

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, HSE

Course taught by Pavel Rogozin, researcher at the Department of Brain Studies, Research Centre of Neurology, Moscow

During this course, we covered numerous topics from molecular basics of brain physiology, neurotransmitters, synaptic plasticity to present studies on brain connectome, theories of schizophrenia, autism and others.

Main literature of the course was:

- Nicholls J.G., Martin A.R., et al. (2011). *From Neuron to Brain* (5th ed.). Sinauer Associates. ISBN 978-0878936090
- Kandel E.R., Schwartz J.H., Jessell T.M. (1991). *Principles of Neural Science* (5th ed.). Appleton & Lange. ISBN 0-8385-8068-8
- Bloom, F. E., Nelson, C. A., & Lazerson, A. (2005). *Brain, Mind, and Behavior* (3rd ed.). W H Freeman & Co. ISBN 978-0716728337

Online Courses (MOOC)

Coursera:

Course name: Medical Neuroscience

University: Duke University

Grade: currently completing

Course name: Bayesian Statistics: From Concept to Data Analysis

University: University of California, Santa Cruz

Grade: 99.3% (Certificate with Honours)

Certificate: available upon request

Course name: Visual Perception and the Brain

University: Duke University

Grade: 99.2%

Certificate: available upon request

Course name: Introduction to Human Behavioral Genetics

University: University of Minnesota

Grade: 98.6%

Certificate: available upon request

Programming Languages and Software Skills

Programming languages:

- R - 4 years (Curriculum courses, several workshops and data analysis for all past and current research projects)
- Python - 2 years (Curriculum courses, used PyCoder in PsychoPy for design of experiments)
- MATLAB - 2 years (Curriculum courses, workshop on EEG data analysis, experienced eeglab toolbox user)
- SDL (Scenario Description Language) - beginner
- PCL (Program Control Language) - beginner

Psychology Software Tools:

- PsychoPy- experienced user
- Presentation - currently using for thesis research
- E-Prime - used for several behavioural studies

Social Activity

Ombudsman

Nov 2016 – Present

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, HSE

Responsibilities:

- representing interests and rights of students of Department of Psychology,
- resolving conflicts and investigating complaints and issues,
- providing information on University policies and practices.

Representative of the Department of Psychology

Nov 2017 – Present

Faculty of Social Sciences Student Union

I am responsible for representing interests and rights of students of Department of Psychology.

Activist and Project Manager

Sep 2017 – Present

HSE Green

Activist and curator of green projects at the Dep. of Psychology, HSE.

Lecturer

16.04.2017 – 20.04.2017

Young Psychologist School for High School Students, HSE

Gave several lectures on neurovisualization and brain stimulation.

Chairman of the Programme Committee

27.03.2017 – 01.04.2017

Spring School of Psychology for High School Students at HSE

Experience:

- Invited the main speakers/presenters for talks, workshops, and/or panel discussions.
- Created the program of the school