

Sofia Pelica | Curriculum Vitae

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Education

MSc in Social and Organizational Psychology

Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal. September 2020 – December 2022.

Grade: 19.2 out of 20. Highest-ranked student in this program's graduating class. Ranked first at the entrance of this program in 2020.

Research-based Thesis (graded 20 out of 20): *Adaptive Memory in Contamination Contexts: Emotionality as a Proximate Mechanism*. This research required electrocardiogram (ECG) and electrodermal activity (EDA) measures. The analysis was conducted autonomously using R and Python.

BSc in Psychology

Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal. September 2017 – June 2020.

Grade: 17.0 out of 20, *First-Class Honours*. Iscte is Portugal's leading university in Psychology. Most of the courses in this program had curricular components that required teamwork.

Peer-Reviewed Publication

Ruggeri, K., Symone Tutuska, O., ..., **Pelica, S.**, ... & Ashcroft-Jones, S. (accepted). The psychology and policy of overcoming economic inequality. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. Preprint available at <https://osf.io/2az6f>

Ruggeri, K., Ashcroft-Jones, S., ..., **Pelica, S.**, ... & Stock, F. (accepted to review). Poor but not by choice (s): The persistence of cognitive biases across economic groups. *Scientific Reports*. Preprint available at <https://osf.io/mrxy6>

Research Experience

Organizing Team Member

Junior Researcher Programme (JRP) partnered with Columbia University and the University of Cambridge. December 2022 – Present, United Kingdom.

Junior Researcher, Project Manager

JRP. July 2021 – Present, United Kingdom.

Project: *Does Tax Choice Increase Tax Compliance? A Cross-Cultural Study*.

- Recruited more than 460 individuals from the Portuguese population.
- Conducted data cleaning and wrangling with R.
- Contributed to the writing of the research paper.
- Managed a multinational team.
- Applied Open Science practices.

Graduate Research Assistant

CIS – Center for Psychological Research and Social Intervention. May 2022 – October 2022, Portugal.

- Conducted more than 90 semi-structured interviews with children between 3 and 5 years old in an intervention project related to emotion regulation.

Project Collaborator, Team Manager

JDMLab – Judgement and Decision-Making Lab. April 2022 – September 2022, Italy.

- Translated and implemented the Mental Accounting scale into Qualtrics as part of an international project.
- Elaborated JavaScript code for Qualtrics.
- Managed the team representing Portugal and recruited more than 90 individuals from this population.

Policy Research JRP Intern

Policy Research Group, University of Cambridge. July 2022 – August 2022, United Kingdom.

First Project: *The psychology and policy of overcoming economic inequality*.

Second Project: *Poor but not by choice(s): The persistence of cognitive biases across economic groups*.

- Recruited more than 350 individuals from the Portuguese population.
- Conducted R analysis and data wrangling.
- Contributed to the writing of the research papers.
- Worked with a multinational, multidisciplinary team.
- Applied Open Science practices.

Curricular Research Intern

LAPSO – Laboratory of Social and Organizational Psychology. September 2021 – May 2022, Portugal.

Project: *What can an Emoji tell me? An eye-tracking study about inferring processes regarding social identity*.

- Worked on a research project as the first author.
- Collected and analyzed data from ECG, EDA, and Eye tracking.
- Applied Open Science practices.

Graduate Research Assistant

CICANT – Center for Research in Applied Communication, Culture, and New Technologies.

September 2021 – September 2022, Portugal.

Project: *Love-Hate: interactions between social media users and influencers in hyperconnected times*.

- Conducted a literature review about cyberbullying.
- Analyzed quantitative and qualitative data with SPSS and MAXQDA.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

CIS – Center for Psychological Research and Social Intervention. April 2019 – December 2019, Portugal.

- Collected data from ECG and EDA in the survival processing paradigm.
- Managed lab sessions and collected behavioral data through collaborative memory tasks.

Teaching experience

PsychoPy for Online Studies (2022). Workshop for an international audience at LAPSO, Portugal.

Communication experience

Pelica, S., Garrido, M., Saraiva, M., & Pandeirada, J. (2023, March 9-11). *Adaptive memory in contamination context: Emotionality as a proximate mechanism*. [Poster presentation]. International Convention of Psychological Science, Belgium.

Silvia, F., Mariani*, S., Mitra*, M. L., **Pelica*, S.**, Pyrkowski*, M., Toma*, S. (2022, August 19-20). *Does tax choice increase tax compliance? A cross-cultural study*. [Conference presentation]. JRP Conference, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. * Shared position.

Pelica, S.*, Aguiar, T.*, Frade, S., Guerra, R., & Prada, M. (2022, June 20-23). *O Papel dos Emojis com Tons de Pele na Formação de Impressões [The Role of Skin-Tone Emojis in Impression Formation]*. [Conference presentation]. XI Simpósio Nacional de Investigação em Psicologia [XI National Symposium on Research in Psychology], Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal. * Shared position.

Skills

Computational Skills

Programming Languages: R, Python, minimal JavaScript, minimal Matlab.

Computational Tools & Software: RStudio, Jupyter Lab, PsychoPy, Git, Qualtrics, SPSS, JASP, Jamovi.

Statistical Skills

Analysis of variance (e.g., general linear models for fixed factors, repeated measures, multivariate analysis of variance), bootstrapped t-test, equivalence tests, cluster analysis (K-Means clustering, DBSCAN), correlation, distribution fitting, multivariate analysis (e.g., principal component analysis, factor analysis), multilevel model and regression (e.g., multiple regression, mediation analysis, mixed-effect model, meta-regression), and power and sample size analysis.

Other Skills

Painting: 4 years of training in fine arts.

Film: 2 years of work experience as an assistant director.

Customer service: +1 year of work experience as a waitress.

Additional Training

- Multilevel Analysis in R, FLAMES Summer School at Hasselt University.
- Power and Sample Size for Multilevel and Longitudinal Study Designs, University of Florida.
- Introduction to Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis, Johns Hopkins University.
- Introduction to EEG: acquisition, processing, and analysis of the EEG signal, LAPSO.

Community Engagement

Volunteer at the International Convention of Psychological Science (2023). Association for Psychological Science.

Volunteer at the XVII Ph.D. Meeting in Psychology (2022). Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon.

Member of the Pedagogical Commission (2017 – 2020). Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon.

Class Representative (2017 – 2019). Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon.

Contact information for references

Professor Kai Ruggeri, kai.ruggeri@columbia.edu

Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Columbia University.

Professor Kai and I have collaborated for over a year. Since 2021, I have been part of the Junior Researcher Programme (JRP) — a hub for international collaborative research projects in psychology and health policy. In this context, Professor Kai, in his capacity as Director of the JRP, provided research directions to my team. I also conducted research with him at the Policy Research Group at the University of Cambridge. Currently, I continue to collaborate with Professor Kai as a member of the team that coordinates and aids JRP's research efforts.

Professor Margarida Garrido, margarida.garrido@iscte-iul.pt

Associate Professor in the Department of Social and Organizational Psychology at Iscte.

I began working with Professor Margarida as an undergraduate assistant on her research in 2019, which entailed administering memory manipulation tasks to participants and assessing their cardiovascular and electrodermal activity. Professor Margarida was also my advisor for my master's thesis and curricular internship at LAPSO. Currently, I continue to collaborate with Professor Margarida on several research projects about adaptive memory.