

Last updated: September, 2025

EDUCATION

2023 – 2027	<b>Ph.D. in Psychology</b> Thesis title: <i>Social learning in humans and machines</i> Advisors: Dr. Lei Zhang, Prof. Patricia L. Lockwood	UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
2017 – 2018	<b>M.Sc. in Brain Imaging</b> First-class honours. Thesis advisors: Dr. Claudia Danielmeier, Dr. Jan Derrfuss	UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
2013 – 2016	<b>B.Sc. in Biomedical Science</b> Upper second-class honours. Thesis advisors: Prof. Anne R. Lingford-Hughes, Dr Samuel P. Turton	IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

EMPLOYMENT

Dec 2023 –	<b>Post Graduate Teaching Assistant</b> School of Psychology, University of Birmingham Line Manager: Dr. Steven Frisson	UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
Jul 2024 – Sep 2025	<b>MR Scanner Operator</b> Centre for Human Brain Health, University of Birmingham Line Manager: Dr. Nina Salman	UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
Oct 2021 – Sep 2023	<b>CINN Operations Support</b> School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences, University of Reading Line Manager: Prof. Anastasia Christakou	UNIVERSITY OF READING
Apr 2021 – Oct 2021	<b>Junior Research Fellow</b> School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences, University of Reading Line Manager: Prof. Anastasia Christakou	UNIVERSITY OF READING

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2025	Google Cloud Research Credits Program (Google)	£150
2024	Graduate Student Bursary for UK Ethnic Minority Groups (BACN) <i>Nationally competitive (1 awarded per year)</i>	£300
	European Forum Alpbach Scholarship (Club Alpbach London) <i>Internationally competitive (5% acceptance rate)</i>	£2,500
2023	MRC AIM DTP Scholarship (MRC/University of Birmingham) <i>Internationally competitive</i>	£100,000
	LGBT+ Inclusion Initiative Fund (University of Reading)	£300

TEACHING

2023-	Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Cognitive Neuroscience, graduate course Module convenor: Dr. Magdalena Chechlac. Course website available <a href="#">here</a> .	UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
-------	---	--------------------------

Jan – Apr 2023 Introduction to Neuroscience Methods, undergraduate course UNIVERSITY OF READING  
Module convenor: Prof. Anastasia Christakou

## MENTORING AND OUTREACH

2024 – Student Mentor SOCIAL MOBILITY FOUNDATION  
STEM Ambassador STEM LEARNING  
Giving talks to local schools on neuroscience and psychology  
Project Access Mentor (Imperial/UCL/KCL) PROJECT ACCESS  
2023 – OHBM Mentoring Program OHBM  
Mentor: Dr. Marianna Kapsetaki (NKUA/Univ. of Crete). Mentee: Eleanor Benford (Univ. of Manchester)  
Jul 2022 in2STEM Project Lead IN2SCIENCE  
Lead organiser for the in2STEM summer program. Materials available [here](#).  
2022 – 2023 CINN Work Experience Placements UNIVERSITY OF READING  
Organised and ran multiple work experience placements for college students

## MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

2025 – Associate Member THE BRITISH NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
2024 – LLM HPC Research Group UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
ReproducibiliTea Board Member UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
Board Member CLUB ALPBACH LONDON  
2024 – 2025 Student Representative BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR COGNITIVE SCIENCE  
2023 – R User Group UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

## PAPERS

### Refereed Publications

2025

1. **Sohail, A.**, and Zhang, L. (2025). *Using large language models to facilitate academic work in the psychological sciences.* Current Psychology, 44(9), 7910–7918. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-025-07438-2>
2. **Sohail, A.**, Pancharatnam, R. A., and Kapsetaki, M.E. (2025). *Going With the Flow: Achieving Peak Performance in Surgery.* Journal of Surgical Education, 82(9), 103593. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsurg.2025.103593>
3. Rossetti, G. M. K., Dunster, J. L., **Sohail, A.**, Williams, B., Cox, K.M., Jewett, E., Benford, E., Lovegrove, J. A., Gibbins, J.M., and Christakou, A. (2025). *Evidence for direct control of neurovascular function by circulating platelets in healthy older adults.* The Journal of Physiology. <https://doi.org/10.1113/JP288405>

2024

1. **Sohail, A.**, and Zhang, L. *Informing the treatment of social anxiety disorder with computational and neuroimaging data.* Psychoradiology, 2024, kkae010. <https://doi.org/10.1093/psyrad/kkae010>

### Preprints/Under review

2025

1. **Sohail, A.**, Saulin, A.C., Karataş, K.F., Zhang, R., and Zhang, L. (2025). *Creating an engaging psychology-themed university placement for school students.* OSF. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/4mcga>
2. Lin, Z., and **Sohail, A.**, (2025). *Recalibrating Academic Expertise in the Age of Generative AI.* OSF. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/gj482>
3. **Sohail, A.** (2025). *Kierkegaardian anxiety in modern psychological research.* OSF. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/dy92q>

---

## OPEN SOURCE MATERIALS

---

2025

1. Zhang, L., and **Sohail, A.** (2025). *BayesCog: Bayesian statistics and hierarchical Bayesian modeling for psychological science*. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15869809>
2. **Sohail, A.**, Quinn, A. J., Carpenter, J. J., Hansen, P. C., and Chechacz, M. (2025). *MRI on BEAR (Birmingham Environment for Academic Research): Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Cognitive Neuroscience at the Centre for Human Brain Health*. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15804715>

---

## POSTERS

---

2022

Rossetti, G. M. K., Dunster, J. L., **Sohail, A.**, Williams, B., Cox, K. M., Jewett, E., Benford, E., Lovegrove, J. A., Gibbins, J. M., Christakou, A. (2022). *Preliminary findings from the HAVEN Study: Investigating Haemostatic function, vessel health and neurocognitive health*. Interpreting BOLD III, Oxford, UK.

2021

Rossetti, G. M. K., **Sohail, A.**, Bell, T., Christakou, A. (2021). *Differential haemodynamics responses in the human striatum during initial and reversal learning*. Interpreting BOLD. Online. Available: [here](#)

Williams, B., Lee, O., Vanags, P., **Sohail, A.**, Brady, D., FitzGibbon, L., Christakou, A. (2021). *Test-retest reliability of model parameter estimates in human reinforcement learning*. Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science. Online

2016

**Sohail, A.**, Myers, J. F. M., Mick, I., Clark, L., Bowden-Jones, H. M., Nutt, D. J., Lingford-Hughes, A. R., Turton, S. P. (2016). *Analysis of the reward system in Disordered Gamblers using MR and <sup>11</sup>C-carfentanil PET*. British Association for Psychopharmacology Summer Meeting, Brighton, UK.

---

## SKILLS

---

Programming – Python, R, MATLAB, bash, stan, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, HTML, JavaScript

Neuroimaging – FSL, SPM12, CONN, mricro, Trained MRI Operator (SIEMENS 3T PRISMA)

Research / Organisation – REDCap, SONA, Gorilla, Prolific, ioto8, Nutanix, git/Github, oTree, Heroku

---

## REFERENCES

---

**Dr. Lei Zhang**

Associate Professor  
School of Psychology  
University of Birmingham  
✉ [l.zhang.13@bham.ac.uk](mailto:l.zhang.13@bham.ac.uk)

**Professor Patricia L. Lockwood**

Professor of Decision Neuroscience  
School of Psychology  
University of Birmingham  
✉ [p.l.lockwood@bham.ac.uk](mailto:p.l.lockwood@bham.ac.uk)

**Professor Anastasia Christakou**

Professor of Neuroscience  
School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences  
University of Reading  
✉ [a.christakou@reading.ac.uk](mailto:a.christakou@reading.ac.uk)