

# Aamir Sohail

Centre for Human Brain Health/School of Psychology, University of Birmingham, UK

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## Education

- **Medical Research Council (MRC) AIM DTP – PhD Psychology** Sep, 2023 – Present  
**The University of Birmingham**  
Thesis Advisors: Dr Lei Zhang & Dr Patricia Lockwood (Birmingham)  
Professor Mark Haselgrove (Nottingham), Dr Jessica McFadyen (Alena)  
Thesis title: ‘Neurocomputational mechanisms of self-referencing in social anxiety’
- **Master of Science (MSc) – Distinction** Sep, 2017 – Sep, 2018  
**The University of Nottingham**  
**Program: Brain Imaging**  
Thesis Advisors: Dr Claudia Danielmeier, Dr Jan Derrfuss  
Thesis title: ‘A psychophysiological interactions analysis investigating the neuromodulatory role of the basal forebrain with the processing of unexpected events’
- **Bachelor of Science (BSc) – 2:1** Sep, 2013 – Jun, 2016  
**Imperial College London**  
**Program: Biomedical Science**  
Thesis Advisors: Professor Anne Lingford-Hughes, Dr Sam Turton  
Thesis title: ‘Analysis of the reward system in Disordered Gamblers using MR and 11C-carfentanil PET’

## Employment History

- **CINN Operations Support** Feb, 2022 – Sep, 2023  
**Centre for Integrative Neuroscience and Neurodynamics (CINN)**  
**School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences (SPCLS)**  
**University of Reading**  
Line Manager: Professor Anastasia Christakou
- **CINN Assistant** (CINN, SPCLS, University of Reading) Nov, 2021 – Feb, 2022
- **Junior Research Fellow** (CINN, SPCLS, University of Reading) Apr, 2021 – Nov, 2021

## Research Experience

### University of Reading - Projects

- **Investigating the relationships between HAemostatic function, Vessel health, and Neurovascular health (HAVEN)** Apr, 2021 – Present  
Dr Gabriella Rossetti, Prof Jon Gibbins, Prof Julie Lovegrove, Prof Anastasia Christakou
- **The effect of aging on functional connectivity and episodic memory performance** Jan, 2023 - Present  
Dr Gabriella Rossetti, Prof Anastasia Christakou
- **Metacognitive influences on personality and behaviour** Jul, 2022 - Present  
Prof Anastasia Christakou, Dr Todd Hare (Zurich), Dr Douglas Lee (Tel Aviv)
- **Reliability of Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy Measures of Brain Metabolites** Sep, 2022 - Present  
Dr Brendan Williams, Dr Gabriella Rossetti, Dr Shan Shen, Prof Anastasia Christakou
- **Voxel-based statistical analysis of PCC/precuneus arteriolar vessel density** Feb, 2022  
Solo project under HAVEN
- **Deconvolution of serial reversal learning task data** May, 2021 – Sep, 2021  
Dr Gabriella Rossetti, Prof Anastasia Christakou

- **Reliability of model parameter estimates in reinforcement learning** Apr, 2021 – Jun, 2021  
Dr Brendan Williams, Dr Lily FitzGibbon, Dr Daniel Brady, Prof Anastasia Christakou

## Funding/Competitive Scholarships

- **MRC AIM DTP PhD Scholarship (University of Birmingham ~ £90,000)** Sep, 2023 – Sep, 2027  
Competitive four-year funded program (6.6% acceptance rate – 19/286 applicants)
- **HONDA funding initiative (University of Reading ~ £x)** Jul, 2022 – Sep, 2023  
As lead researcher under PI Anastasia Christakou
- **LGBT+ Inclusion Initiative Fund (University of Reading ~ up to £1,000)** Jun, 2023  
Lead applicant with undergraduate student Eleanor Benford

## Relevant skills, teaching, administrative duties, and extracurricular interests

### Skills

- **Programming** – Python (nideconv, SciPy), R, MATLAB (Psychtoolbox), bash
- **Software** – FSL, SPM12, ITK-SNAP, mricron, SPSS, pyBIDSconv, CONN
- **Online research services** – REDCap, SONA, Gorilla, Prolific, 10to8, Nutanix, git/GitHub
- **Trained operator of 3T Siemens Prisma** – ad hoc data collection for multiple studies
  - Aided training of multiple students/staff to AP status + writing MR acquisition protocols

### Teaching/Mentoring

- **Course Demonstrator** (Introduction to Neuroscience Methods module, 1<sup>st</sup> year undergraduates)
  - January-March 2023 – Brain structure/function, MR physics, psychopharmacology, neuroethics
- **Neuroscience skills (R, FSL)** – to HAVEN undergraduate placement students
- **Work Experience Placements** – organised and delivered eight placements for college students

### Administrative duties/extracurricular interests

- **Web design** – Managing the CINN website (WordPress) with a Research Communications team
- **Organising conferences** – CINN Haemodynamics Symposium, Reading Emotions, UoR ECR Conference
- **‘Neurocuriosities’** – Independently planned, researched, and wrote a book (582 pages, 260,000 words)

## Publications and Posters

### 2022

- **Sohail, A.,** Fernández Medina, K., Weaver A., Christakou A. Future thinking: Opportunities and Challenges (in prep)
- Rossetti, GMK., **The HAVEN Study Researchers.,** Lovegrove JA., Gibbins JM., Christakou A. Preliminary findings from the HAVEN Study: Investigating Haemostatic function, vessel health and neurocognitive health (Selected for oral abstract presentation and poster presentation at Interpreting BOLD III, 2022, by G.M.K.R, Winner of the “People’s Choice” presentation award.)

### 2021

- Rossetti, GMK., **Sohail, A.,** Bell, T., Christakou, A. Differential haemodynamic responses in the human striatum during initial and reversal learning. (Selected for poster presentation by A.S., G.M.K.R. and A.C. at Interpreting BOLD Online, 2021)
- Williams, B., Lee, O., Vanags, P., **Sohail, A.,** Brady, D., FitzGibbon, L., Christakou, A. Test-retest reliability of model parameter estimates in human reinforcement learning. (Selected for poster presentation by O.L. and P.V. at the Society for the Improvement of Psychological Sciences, 2021)

## 2016

- **Sohail, A.**, Myers JFM., Mick I., Clark L., Bowden-Jones HM., Nutt DJ., Lingford-Hughes AR., Turton SP. Analysis of the reward system in Disordered Gamblers using MR and 11C-carfentanil PET. **(Selected for poster presentation by A.S. at the British Association for Psychopharmacology Summer Meeting, 2016)**

## Talks

### 2023

- Jewell, S.L., & **Sohail, A.** 'Diversity and graduate recruitment - imploring a bio/psychological framework'. Neuromethods – 4/5/23. Centre for Integrative Neuroscience and Neurodynamics, University of Reading.
- **Sohail, A.** 'Improving future-oriented decisions through metacognitive coaching: a proposed study'. Early Career Researcher Conference 2023 – 31/3/23. School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences, University of Reading.

### 2021

- Rossetti, GMK., & **Sohail, A.** 'Striatal haemodynamic modulation during reversal learning.' Neuromethods – 23/9/21. Centre for Integrative Neuroscience and Neurodynamics, University of Reading.

## Referees

- **Professor Anastasia Christakou**  
Professor of Neuroscience  
University of Reading  
[a.christakou@reading.ac.uk](mailto:a.christakou@reading.ac.uk)



- **Dr Gabriella Rossetti**  
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