

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)
- **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, 1st 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, G.M.K., **The HAVEN Study Researchers.,** Lovegrove J.A., Gibbins J.M., 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, G.M.K., **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

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. 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, G.M.K., & **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
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- **Dr Gabriella Rossetti**
Research Fellow
University of Reading
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