

# Vencislav Popov

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## Education

- 2015 - present    Ph.D., Psychology, Carnegie Mellon University  
Area: Cognitive neuroscience, Adviser: Lynne M. Reder  
Committee: John Anderson, Marlene Behrmann, Marc Coutanche
- 2013 - 2015    B.A., Psychology, New Bulgarian University  
GPA: 6.00 out of 6.00 maximum, expected graduation date: June, 2015
- 2011 - 2013    B.A., Psychology, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridsky"  
GPA: 6.00 out of 6.00 maximum, transferred to NBU before completion

## Research and work experience

- 01.2015 - 08.2015    Research assistant, Bulgarian Addictions Institute  
Directors: Jasmin Vassileva, Ph.D., & Georgi Vasilev, M.D.  
  
I was mainly responsible for data analysis on an international research project funded by grant 2R01DA021421 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) - USA, that aims to explore how different personality and neurocognitive aspects of impulsivity can affect and be affected by drug addiction.
- 03.2013 - 12.2014    Researcher, Experimental Psychology Lab, NBU  
Director: Assist. Prof. Penka Hristova  
  
I planned, designed and executed behavioral experiments on analogy-making, constructive memory, concepts and categorization and language comprehension. Other activities included generating stimuli, data analysis, creating e-prime scripts, preparing manuscripts and weekly presentations during seminars.
- 09.2013 - 09.2014    Lab coordinator, Experimental psychology laboratory, NBU  
Director: Assist. Prof. Penka Hristova  
  
I was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the lab: preparing schedules, organizing several courses for student participation in experiments for course credit, training of students to run experiments, coordinating the lab resources, etc.

## Research interests

Neural mechanisms of memory formation, consolidation and retrieval. Representation of semantic knowledge in the brain. Computational modeling of neural and psychological mechanisms. Other topics:

brain-computer interfaces, relational reasoning, concepts and categorization, problem-solving, cognitive modeling, connectionism, philosophy of science

## Publications

### *Peer-reviewed publications*

- 2015 **Popov, V.** & Hristova, P. (2015). Unintentional and efficient relational priming. *Memory & Cognition*, 46(6), 866-878.

Reder, L. M., Liu, X. L., Keinath, A., **Popov, V.** (2015). Building knowledge requires bricks, not sand: The critical role of familiar constituents in learning. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*. Advance online publication

**Popov, V.**, Bozgunov, K., Vasilev, G., & Vassileva, J. (In press). Psychometric Characteristics of the Bulgarian Version of Levensons Self-report Psychopathy Scale. *Bulgarian Journal of Psychology*. (In Bulgarian)

**Popov, V.**, Psederska, E., Peneva, E., Bozgunov, K., Vasilev, G., Nedelchev, D., & Vassileva, J. (In press). Psychometric Characteristics of the Bulgarian Version of the Toronto Alexithymia Scale (TAS-20). *Psychological Research*. (In Bulgarian)

### *Peer-reviewed conference proceedings*

- 2015 **Popov, V.** (2015). A spreading-activation model of associates retrieval in a discrete free association task. In N. Taatgen, M. van Vugt, J. Borst, & K. Mehlhorn (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Cognitive Modeling*. Groenigen: Rijksuniversiteit Groenigen

- 2014 **Popov, V.** & Hristova, P. (2014). Automatic analogical reasoning underlies structural priming in comprehension of ambiguous sentences. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1192-1197). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

**Popov, V.** & Petkov, G. (2014). The level of processing affects the magnitude of induced retrograde amnesia. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2787-2792). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

### *Published abstracts*

- 2015 **Popov, V.**, Hristova, P. & Anders, R. (2015). Retrieval of relational information during associative recognition. In *Abstracts of the 56th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*. Chicago, IL

Reder, L. M., Liu, X. L., Keinath, A. & **Popov, V.** (2015). Building knowledge requires bricks, not sand: The critical role of familiar constituents in learning. In *Abstracts of the 56th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*. Chicago, IL

- 2014 **Popov, V.** & Hristova, P. (2014). Unconscious, unintended and efficient analogies in lexical decision under dual-task conditions. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Popov, V.** & Hristova, P. (2014). Priming thematic structure during sentence comprehension in the absence of syntactic repetition. In *Abstracts of the VI. Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science*. Dubrovnik, Croatia.
- Popov, V.** (2014). Malleability of the basic level effect in categorical induction for biological categories. In *Abstracts of the VI. Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science*. Dubrovnik, Croatia.
- 2013 **Popov, V.** (2013). Fixation on Failure: Failing to Solve a Problem Hinders Subsequent Problem-Solving Ability. In M. Knauff, M. Pauen, N. Sebanz, & I. Wachsmuth (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (p. 4080). Austin, TX: CSS.

### *Works in progress*

- Popov, V.**, Hristova, P., & Anders, R. (in preparation). Retrieval of relational information during associative recognition.
- Popov, V.**, Petkov, G. (in preparation). Induced retrograde amnesia depends on the level of processing.
- Popov, V.**, Petkova, E., Bozgunov, K., Vasilev, G., & Vassileva, J. (in preparation). A Bulgarian Adaptation of Buss and Perry's Aggression Questionnaire. *(In Bulgarian)*

### Conference presentations

- 2015 Retrieval of relational information during associative recognition. *Poster presented at Psychonomic Society's 56th Annual Meeting*. Chicago, Illinois
- Retrieval of relational information during associative recognition. *Poster presented at the Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition Annual Retreat*. Pittsburgh, PA.
- A spreading-activation model of associates retrieval in a discrete free association task. *Poster presented at the 13th International Conference on Cognitive Modeling*. Groenigen, Germany
- Unintentional relational priming. *Oral presentation at the Annual Conference of the Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology*. Kazanlak, Bulgaria
- 2014 Priming of relations: Unintended, unconscious and efficient. *Oral presentation during the European Campus of Excellence Summer School in Memory and Mind: Perspectives from Philosophy and Neuroscience*. Germany, Bochum: Ruhr University Bochum
- Automatic analogical reasoning underlies structural priming in comprehension of ambiguous sentences. *Oral presentation at the 36th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Quebec City, Canada.
- The level of processing affects the magnitude of induced retrograde amnesia. *Poster presented at the 36th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Quebec City, Canada.

Unconscious, unintended and efficient analogies in lexical decision under dual-task conditions. *Poster presented at the 36th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Quebec City, Canada.

Malleability of the basic level effect in categorical induction for biological categories. *Poster presented at the VI. Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science*. Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Priming thematic structure during sentence comprehension in the absence of syntactic repetition. *Poster presented at the VI. Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science*. Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Retrograde amnesia as a function of the level of processing. *Oral presentation at the Annual Conference of the Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology*. Belmeken, Bulgaria: NBU

Automatic analogies in language comprehension. *Oral presentation at the Annual Conference of the Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology*. Belmeken, Bulgaria: NBU

- 2013 Fixation on Failure: Failing to Solve a Problem Hinders Subsequent Problem-Solving Ability. *Poster presented at the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Research plan: Demonstrating automatic analogies in structural ambiguity comprehension. *Oral presentation at a participant symposium during the 20th International Summer School in Cognitive Science*. Sofia, Bulgaria: New Bulgarian University

Experiencing failure increases problem-solving time in current performance. *Oral presentation at the Annual Conference of the Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology*. Ribaritz, Bulgaria: NBU

## Professional activities

### *Memberships*

Psychonomic Society, student member - 2015

Cognitive Science Society (CSS), student member - 2013, 2014

Central European Cognitive Science Association (CECOG), member - 2014, 2015

### *Ad hoc Reviewer*

Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology

Cognitive Science Society Conference

## Scholarships and Awards

- 2015 - 2016    Presidential Fellowship in the Life Sciences  
Richard King Mellon Foundation
- 2014 - 2015    Full academic scholarship  
New Bulgarian University
- 2014           Scholarship for attending “European Campus of Excellence Summer School”  
Stiftung Mercator
- 2013 - 2015    Fifteen research excellency awards  
“Student scholarships”, European Union
- 2012 - 2015    Academic excellence scholarships  
“Student scholarships”, European Union
- 2012 - 2013    Full academic scholarship  
Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridsky”

## Additional education and professional training

European Campus of Excellence Summer School, Memory and Mind: Perspectives from Philosophy and Neuroscience. Germany, Bochum: Ruhr University Bochum, 7-21 September (2014)  
 20th International Summer School in Cognitive Science. Sofia, Bulgaria: NBU (2013)  
 19th International Summer School in Cognitive Science. Sofia, Bulgaria: NBU (2012)  
 Winter School in Cognitive Science. Belmeken, Bulgaria: NBU (2014)  
 Winter School in Cognitive Science. Ribaritza, Bulgaria: NBU (2013)  
 Weekly Graduate Seminar in Memory and Analogy. Sofia, Bulgaria: NBU (2013-2014)

## Other information

### *Technical competencies*

Data analysis, modeling and visualization with R (lme4, ggplot, R2jags, rube, RMarkdown, etc)  
 Matlab (SPM12)  
 SPSS, LaTeX, Advanced MS OFFICE skills  
 E-prime 2.0, OpenSesame, Python  
 Basic knowledge in PHP, HTML, MYSQL, Photoshop

### *Language competencies*

Bulgarian (mother tongue) | English (116/120 TOEFL) | German (A2 in the European Framework)

*Graduate record examination (GRE)*

VR: 167/170; 97 percentile rank; QR: 170/170; 98 percentile rank, AW: 5.0/6.0; 93 percentile rank