

OMRAN K. SAFI

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EDUCATION

Master of Arts in Cognitive Psychology University of British Columbia	2021-23
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology University of British Columbia Specializing in Cognitive Psychology	2020
High School Diploma Point Grey Secondary Graduated with honors	2015

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student (MA) Memory and Imagination Lab – University of British Columbia	2021-23
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigating recall of elapsed time for emotional and non-emotional contexts• Investigating duration memory for emotional and non-emotional imagined future events• Investigating duration memory for emotional events using virtual reality• Developing and validating a novel set of emotional stimuli for use in virtual reality	
Research Assistant Memory and Imagination Lab – University of British Columbia	2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigating the relationship between emotion and temporal memory• Examining relationship between emotional arousal and temporal proximity judgements• Developing a study aiming to examine how emotion affects temporal judgements in episodic future thought	
Tracking Independent Information Signals Across Brain Regions Motivated Cognition Lab – University of British Columbia Supervisors: Dr. James Kryklywy and Dr. Rebecca Todd	2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project focused on methodological innovation for neuroimaging analysis• Analysis of emotional and sensory communication information in the brain• Statistical analyses and graphical representation using R• Matrix manipulations in MATLAB• Neuroimaging processing and displaying done in AFNI• RSA script in Python	

Senior Thesis*

2020

Behavioral Sustainability Lab - University of British Columbia

Motivated Cognition Lab – University of British Columbia

Supervisors: Dr. Jiaying Zhao and Dr. Rebecca Todd

*Data collection disrupted due to Covid-19

- Examining the affective responses produced by VR induced overview effect and its effect on climate change attitudes
- Produced novel idea of examining relationship between the overview effect and climate attitudes
- Conducted literature review
- Created study design and protocol
- Completed and obtained ethics approval (UBC BREB)
- Rendered stimulus in Unity – 3D Model of Earth
- Collect, record, and analyze subject data
 - Heart Rate, Galvanic Skin Response, and Questionnaires

Behavioral Sustainability Lab

2019-Present

University of British Columbia

- Worked on my senior thesis examining the consequences of the overview on climate change attitudes
- Completed and obtained ethics (UBC BREB)
- Dynamic model of Earth created in Unity
- Coded aspects of the environment in C# (atmosphere, cloud movement, earth rotation)
- Coded player movement scripts in C#
- Coded Oculus Rift headset and Oculus controller integration in C#
- Prepared surveys in Qualtrics measuring several psychological variables (PANAS-X, AWE-S, INS, Climate Concern)
- Learned use of Empatica E4 wristband to collect physiological data (Heart Rate & GSR)
- Learned to use QRSTool, an open source software, to analyze physiological data

Behavioral Reward Affect & Impulsivity Neuroscience (BRAIN) Lab 2019 - 2020

University of British Columbia

- Project focusing on using the MUSE (portable EEG headband) to assess implicit craving in clinical populations with concurrent stimulant use and mental disorders
- Project aiming to use the MUSE headband to identify a novel biomarker for craving and relapse
- Worked on ethics applications for new studies and add-ons for ongoing studies
- Presented poster at Psychiatry Research Day

- Worked on study investigating the influence of physiological arousal on reward
- Head research assistant for experiment examining attentional biases and emotion
- Received supervision for senior thesis
- Learned proper EEG usage – electrode handling and running participants
- Learned EEG preprocessing and data analysis (EEGLAB & ERPLAB)
- Worked on project aiming to find a novel analysis technique for fMRI data
- Learned to use Analysis of Functional NeuroImages (AFNI) – an open source environment for processing and displaying fMRI data

PUBLICATIONS

Paper - Safi, O. K., Shi, Y., Madan, C. R., Lin, T., & Palombo, D. J. (2023). The effects of emotion on retrospective duration memory using virtual reality. *Psychological Research*, 1-13.

Paper - Petrucci, A.S, McCall, C, Schofield, G, Wardell, V, Safi O.K, & Palombo, DJ (in press). The relationship between environmentally induced emotion and memory for a naturalistic experience. *Cognition and Emotion*.

Paper – Balance, B.C., Tuen, Y., Petrucci, A.S, Orwig, W., Safi, O.K., Madan, C. R., Palombo, D. J. (2022). Imagining Emotional Events Benefits Future-Oriented Decisions. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17470218221086637>

Paper – Safi, O. K., Tommasi, M., Sun, B., Thornley, J., Dodani, A. (2020). Carbon Footprint Information Promotes Sustainable Food Choices. UBC SEEDS. <https://open.library.ubc.ca/cIRcle/collections/undergraduateresearch/18861/items/1.0392724>

GUEST LECTURES, INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

Presentation (2024) – Of What and When; Memory Content and Recalled Duration (UBC Cognitive Area Workshop)

Presentation (2023) – Investigating the Effects of Emotion on Temporal Duration Memory Using Naturalistic Virtual Reality (UBC Cognitive Area Workshop)

Invited Talk (2023) – Bridging the Gap; Studying the Effects of Emotion on Memory for Time Using Virtual Reality. (Virtual Reality as a tool for Cognition, Behaviour, and Health)

Presentation (2023) – Immersive Affective Dilation: Investigating Temporal Duration Memory Using Virtual Reality (UBC Psychfest 2023)

Invited Talk (2023) – The Sweet Spot of Memory (UBC Neuroscience 201 Course)

Guest Lecture (2023) – Conducting Cognitive Science Research (UBC Psychology 309 Course)

Invited Talk (2020) – Tracking Independent Information Signals Across Regions of Interest (Memory for Events Lab, University of Alberta)

Presentation (2020) – Carbon Footprint Information Promotes Sustainable Food Choices. Northwest Cognition and Memory (NOWCAM) Conference.

Presentation (2020) – Tracking Independent Information Signals Across Regions of Interest. (UBC Cognitive Area Workshop)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Talk (2024) – Palombo, D.J*, **Safi, O.K**, Cocquyt, C., Wardell, V. The Temporal Tapestry of Emotional Memory: Untangling the Threads. *Cognitive Neuroscience Society*. *Presenting author

Poster – **Safi, OK**, Shi, E., Madan, C. R., Palombo, DJ (2023). Immersive affective dilation: Investigating temporal-duration for emotional events using virtual reality. *International Conference on Learning and Memory*.

Poster – **Safi, OK**, Shi, Y., Lin, L., Madan, C. R., Palombo, DJ (2023). A Novel Virtual Reality Paradigm for Inducing Emotion. *Society for Affective Science Annual Conference*.

Poster – Yu, T., **Safi, OK**, Kryklywy, J, H., C. R., Palombo, DJ (2023). Creating a Database of Affective Stimuli for Virtual Reality Research. *UBC Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference*.

Poster – **Safi, OK**, Kryklywy, JH, Todd, RM, Palombo, DJ (2022). Investigating the effects of emotion on temporal duration memory using naturalistic virtual reality. *Society for Affective Science Annual Conference*.

Poster – **Safi, OK**, Bontkes, O, Palombo, DJ (2022). Assessing the perceptual characteristics of emotional and non-emotional simulations using Natural Language Processing. *Northwest Cognition and Memory (NOWCAM) Conference*.

Poster – Yiran, S, **Safi, OK**, Palombo, DJ (2022). Transfer of Valence in Virtual Reality. *UBC Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference*.

Poster – **Safi, O.K.**, Li, A.C., Cheng, A.F., Schuetz, C.G. (2020). Assessing Cue-Induced Craving in Individuals with Methamphetamine Addiction Through Portable EEG Technology. *Department of Psychiatry 2020 Virtual Research Day*.

Poster – Safi, O.K., (2020). Climate Change, Affect, and The Overview Effect. *UBC Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference.*

*Poster accepted but conference cancelled due to Covid-19

SCHOLARLY REVIEW

Ad Hoc Reviewer – Cognition (December 2021). Assisted supervisor with review

Ad Hoc Reviewer – Behavior Research Methods (March 2022). Assisted supervisor with review

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of British Columbia 2023/24
Teaching Assistant
Course: Psych 309 – Cognitive Processes

University of British Columbia 2023/24
Teaching Assistant
Course: Psych 311 – Psychology of Sport

University of British Columbia 2022/23
Teaching Assistant
Course: Psych 333 – Memory: Historical, Clinical and Cognitive Perspectives

University of British Columbia 2022/23
Teaching Assistant
Course: Psych 309 – Cognitive Processes

University of British Columbia 2022/23
Teaching Assistant
Course: Psych 333* – Memory: Historical, Clinical and Cognitive Perspectives
* Teaching Assistant for two sections

University of British Columbia 2021/22
Teaching Assistant
Course: Psych 102 - Introduction to Developmental, Social, Personality,
and Clinical Psychology

University of British Columbia 2021/22
Teaching Assistant
Course: Psych 307 - Cultural Psychology

University of British Columbia
Teaching Assistant
Course: Psych 309 – Cognitive Processes

2021/22

SUPERVISION AND MENTORING

Theodore Yu, Directed Studies	2022/23
Akash Grewall, Directed Studies	2022/23
Jasneet Sabrao, Research Assistant	2022/23
Christy Wong, Research Assistant	2022/23

SKILLS

Programming Languages: C, C#, Python, R, HTML/CSS, Java Script

Statistical Programs: R, SPSS, JASP, G-Power, Jamovi

Experimental Technology: PsychoPy, QRSTool, Afni (Neuroimaging), MATLAB, EEGLAB & ERPLAB, Qualtrics

Web Frameworks: WordPress, Weebly, Squarespace

Visual/Audio Programs: Unity, Meshroom, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Audacity

Natural Languages: English, Dari, Farsi, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish

CERTIFICATIONS

VCH Privacy and Confidentiality Vancouver Coastal Health	2019
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Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans Tri-Council Policy Statement 2: CORE	2016
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MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Spark Society: Member (2022 - Present)

Society for Affective Science: Member (2021 - Present)

Cognitive Science Society: Member (2020 - Present)

Cognitive Systems Society: Member (2017-2020), Executive (2018-2020)

UBC Psychology Students Association: Member (2019-2020)

UBC Arts Undergraduate Society: Departmental Representative (2018/2019)

AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Four Year Doctoral Fellowship** 2023/24
University of British Columbia
- Amount: \$18,200/year for 4 years
- Graduate Fellowship** 2023/24
University of British Columbia, Department of Psychology
- Amount: \$2,500
- President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award** 2023/24
University of British Columbia
- Amount: \$1,215
- Graduate Student Travel Award** 2023
University of British Columbia, Department of Psychology
- Amount: \$650
- Graduate Student Travel Award** 2023
University of British Columbia, School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
- Amount: \$500
- Faculty of Arts Graduate Award** 2022
University of British Columbia, Department of Psychology
- In recognition of academic achievement
 - Amount: \$13,500
- Faculty of Arts Graduate Award** 2021
University of British Columbia, Department of Psychology
- In recognition of academic achievement
 - Amount: \$15,000
- Visiting Philosopher** 2018
University of Pittsburgh, Department of Philosophy
- Worked with other visiting academics on a wide range of issue in philosophy of science
 - Areas discussed included laws of nature, thought experiments, scientific controversy, confirmation theory, ethical issues in science, and modern technologies
 - Funding provided by Pittsburgh University's Center for Philosophy of Science
- Grant** 2018/2019
Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS)
- Wrote grant application and secured a club operation grant from the AUS

- Amount: \$1000

Cognitive Systems Podcast (CogsCast) 2017 - 2020
Official Podcast of UBC CSS

- Cofounder and host
- Podcast discussing and examining various topics of interest in Cognitive Science
- Topics include, but are not limited to, consciousness, intelligence, psychedelics, and emerging technologies

Vice President Media 2019 - 2020
Cognitive Systems Society (CSS)

- Responsible for the Cognitive Systems Podcast (CogsCast)
- Responsible for improvement and maintenance of the CSS website
- Responsible for monthly newsletter
- Involved in planning and running academic events throughout the year

Vice President Arts External 2018 - 2019
Cognitive Systems Society (CSS)

- Cognitive Systems representative to the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS)
- Established a working relationship between the AUS and the CSS
- Successfully secured AUS club grant
- Involved in planning and running events for the CSS and AUS

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Graduate Student Representative 2023/24

UBC Psychology Climate Action Committee
 Worked alongside faculty members to create a climate action plan aimed to lower department emissions in line with the broader goals of the university.

Graduate Student Representative 2023

UBC Psychology Search Committee
 Evaluated applications for joint faculty position across Psychology and Computer Science departments.

Cognitive Area Representative 2022/23

UBC Psychology Graduate Student Council

Peer Mentor 2022-24

UBC Psychology Diversity Membership Program
 Provide professional development support and mentorship for students from historically underrepresented and/or diverse backgrounds

Poster Judge 2022

UBC Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference

Evaluated research posters at the department of psychology annual undergraduate research conference

Volunteer at Technical Career Fair 2020

University of British Columbia

An annual fair held in January at the University of British Columbia that provides students the opportunity to meet with industry employers

Planning Committee Member 2018

Life Sciences Research Night – Undergraduate Research Opportunities

An annual event held at the University of British Columbia that aims to educate and inspire undergraduate students about research and how to get into research

Imagine Day Orientation Leader 2017

University of British Columbia

Provided orientation to incoming undergraduate students and provide ongoing support throughout their first year of university

Peer Mentor 2011 – 2015

Best Buddies Canada

Paired with a student with an intellectual and/or developmental disability

Participated in activities throughout the year – coffee, movies, skating, basketball, etc.