

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Dr Leonora Vagnoni

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### EMPLOYMENT

01/2024 – present **Lecturer**, John Cabot University, Rome, IT  
Department of Psychology

09/2023 – 12/2024 **Consultant**, Innovative Learning Pathways, Future Education Modena, IT

01/2020 – 12/2023 **Lecturer**, Bournemouth University, Bournemouth, UK  
Department of Psychology  
Faculty of Science and Technology

04/2018 – 12/2019 **Lecturer**, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK  
School of Psychology and Sport Science  
Faculty of Science and Engineering

09/2017 – 03/2018 **Postdoctoral Collaborator**, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia, IIT, Genoa  
Robotics Brain & Cognitive Science Department  
Team Leader Dr Luca Brayda

10/2015 - 08/2017 **Postdoctoral Research Associate**, University College London, UCL  
Department of Clinical, Educational & Health Psychology  
Supervisor Prof Aikaterini Fotopoulou, project: Embodied Minds and Mentalised Bodies: The Bodily Self

### FUNDINGS AND AWARDS

2019 **European Congress of Psychology Grants Scheme**

2012 – 2015 **Economic and Social Research Council, ESRC PhD Studentship**, Bloomsbury Doctoral Training Centre

2013-2014 **Bloomsbury Doctoral Training Centre Research Grant** “Emotion and Space Perception in Driving”

### EDUCATION

09/2012 – 09/2015 **ESRC Funded PhD**  
“The relationship between space perception and emotion investigated through the visual looming effect”  
Supervisor: Prof Matthew Longo  
Exam Board: Dr José van Velzen, Dr Jaclyn Billington  
Department of Psychological Sciences – Birkbeck, University of London

10/2007 – 02/2010 **Master's Degree** in Neuropsychology and Functional Recovery during the life-span.  
**Final mark 110/110 summa cum laude (1st in the UK system)**  
Faculty of Psychology – University of Bologna, Italy

10/2004 – 07/2007 **Bachelor's Degree** in Psychology of behavior and social relationships.  
**Final mark 110/110 summa cum laude (1st in the UK system)**  
Faculty of Psychology – University of Bologna, Italy

### QUALIFICATIONS

PhD | PGCERT | Fellow of the HEA

### TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

2024-25 John Cabot University: Psychobiology, Affective Neuroscience, Cognitive Psychology, Illusions of the Mind: Sensation and Perception

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2020 Bournemouth University: Work and Organizational Psychology, Emotion, Mental Health and Affective Neuroscience, Cultural Psychology, Research Methods 2

2017 – 2019 Anglia Ruskin University: Module leader of Language and Thought, Fundamentals of Cognitive Psychology, Becoming a Researcher-Designing Research-, Becoming a Researcher-Using Data-, Learning, Memory, Perception, Research Techniques for Psychology, Language and Thought and Quantitative Research Methods.

2015 –2017 University College London: MATLAB course organizer “Introduction to MATLAB for experimental psychologists”

course for PhD Students, University College London, UCL

2015 “Understanding the new statistics: Metanalysis” part of a course on practical skills at Birkbeck, University of London

2013 “How emotion modulates perception” Invited Lecture, Birkbeck Psychology Society, Birkbeck, University of London

### ADVANCED TRAINING COURSES DELIVERED AS CONSULTANT

2023 - 2024: Consultant for Future Education Modena – Designing and developing innovative training programs focused on educational neuroscience (PNRR-funded projects); analyzing the training needs of each institution/school, using AI to design courses.

2024: School of Learning (MIUR accredited course) – The first school in Italy focused on learning and cognitive neuroscience for schools and professionals. Talent development program aimed at improving teachers’ skills through targeted training and assessment methods.

2024: Innovation Curriculum “Neuroscience in the Classroom for Effective Teaching” 2023: Participation in the CLOSER Project (Closing the Gap Between Smart Learning and Emergency Remote Teaching) funded by Erasmus+

2023: Participation in the International Bridges Project, Erasmus+ Building a Better Tomorrow: Inspiring Minds through Digital Education

### PUBLICATIONS

Enmalm, A., Boehme, R., **Vagnoni, E.**, Falk, P., & Fotopoulou, A. (2025). Predictability and agency shape self-touch perception. Retrieved from [osf.io/3v6bz](https://osf.io/3v6bz)

Jenkinson, P. M., Koukoutsakis, A., Panagiotopoulou, E., **Vagnoni, E.**, Demartini, B., Nistico, V., ... & Fotopoulou, A. (2023). Body appearance values modulate risk aversion in eating restriction. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 152(12), 3418.

Von Mohr, M., Silva, P. C., **Vagnoni, E.**, Bracher, A., Bertoni, T., Serino, A., ... & Fotopoulou, A. (2023). My social comfort zone: Attachment anxiety shapes peripersonal and interpersonal space. *IScience*, 26(2).

**Vagnoni, E.**, Lingard, L., Munro, S., Longo, M. R. (2020). Semantic modulation of time-to-collision judgments. *Neuropsychologia* (147).

**Vagnoni, E.**, & Longo, M. R. (2019) Peripersonal space: Its functions, plasticity, and neural basis. In T. Cheng, O. Deroy, C. Spence (Eds), *Spatial Senses: Philosophy of Perception in an Age of Science* (pp. 199-225). New York, NY:Routledge.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Lewis, J., Tajadura-Jiménez, A., Cardini, F. (2018). Listening to a conversation with aggressive content expands the interpersonal space. *PLoS ONE* 13(3).

**Vagnoni, E.**, Andreadisou, V., Lourenco, S. F., & Longo, M. R. (2017). Action ability modulates time-to-collision judgments. *Experimental Brain Research*, 235, 2729-2739.

Longo, M. R., Trippier, S., **Vagnoni, E.**, & Lourenco, S. F. (2015). Right hemisphere control of visuospatial attention in near space. *Neuropsychologia*, 70, 350-357.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Lourenco, S. F., & Longo, M. R. (2015). Threat modulates neural responses to looming visual stimuli. *European Journal of Neuroscience*, 42, 2190-2202.

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Jensen, M., **Vagnoni, E.**, Overgaard, M., Haggard, P. (2013). Experience of action depends on intention, not body movement: An experiment on memory for *mens rea*. *Neuropsychologia*, 51, 122-127.

Ferrè, E. R., **Vagnoni, E.**, Haggard, P. (2013). Vestibular contributions to bodily awareness. *Neuropsychologia*, 51, 1445–1452.

Ferrè, E. R., **Vagnoni, E.**, Haggard, P. (2013). Galvanic vestibular stimulation influences randomness of number generation. *Experimental Brain Research*, 224, 233-241.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Lourenco, S. F., & Longo, M. R. (2012). Threat modulates perception of looming visual stimuli. *Current Biology*, 22, R826-R827.

### CONTRIBUTION AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

#### TALKS

**Vagnoni, E.**, Von Mohr, M., Serino, A., Fotopoulou, A., "The influence of Attachment Style on the differentiation between Peripersonal and Extrapersonal Space" part of the organized symposium 'The representation of the body' European Congress of Psychology, Moscow, Russia, July, 2019.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Fotopoulou, A., "The role of the CT-optimal system of the touch giver in the Social Softness Illusion" part of the organized symposium: The role of touch in shaping the relation between the Self and Other. *Congress of the International Neuropsychoanalysis Society*, London, July 2017.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Serino, A., Fotopoulou, A., "The influence of CT-optimal touch on the peripersonal space representation" *Aegina Summer School*, Social Cognition: From interactions to Intersubjectivity, Greece, June 2016.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Lourenco, S.F., Longo, M.R. "Threat Modulates Neural Responses to Looming Visual Stimuli" Senses Research Day, *Rethinking the Senses*, Senate House, University of London, United Kingdom, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Lourenco, S.F., Longo, M.R. "The Influence of our Motor Capabilities on Time-to-Collision Judgments" Senses Research Day, *Rethinking the Senses*, Senate House, University of London, United Kingdom, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Longo, M.R. "How Control over a Situation Influences Sensitivity to Looming Objects: The case of driving" *Making an Impact event*, Institute of Education, University of London, United Kingdom, 20<sup>th</sup>, May 2013.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Lourenco, S.F., Longo, M.R. "Threat Modulates Perception of Looming Visual Stimuli" *International Multisensory Research Forum (IMRF)*, University of Oxford, United Kingdom , 19<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012.

#### POSTERS

Nataletti S., Vagnoni E., Leo F., Cocchi E., Scafà L., Lumachi S., Giuliani L., Brayda L. "Enhancement of speech-in-noise perception in children with autism spectrum disorder using an assistive listening device" *Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting*, Boston, March 23-26<sup>th</sup> 2019.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Lewis, J., Tajadura-Jiménez, A., Cardini, F. "Listening to a conversation with aggressive content expands the interpersonal space" *International Multisensory Research Forum (IMRF)*, University of Toronto, Canada, 14–17th, June, 2018.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Lourenco, S.F., Longo, M.R. "Threat Modulates Neural Responses to Looming Visual Stimuli" *International Multisensory Research Forum (IMRF)*, Palazzo dei Congressi Pisa, Italy, 13-16<sup>th</sup>, June 2015.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Lourenco, S.F., Longo, M.R. "Threat Modulates Neural Responses to Looming Visual Stimuli" *European Conference on Visual Perception (ECVP)*, Belgrade, Serbia, 24-28<sup>th</sup>, August 2014.

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**Vagnoni, E.**, Lourenco, S.F., Longo, M.R. "The Influence of our Motor Capabilities on Time-to-Collision Judgments" *International Multisensory Research Forum* (IMRF), University of van Tilburg, Netherlands, 11-14<sup>th</sup>, June 2014.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Kelly, R., Richards, A., Longo, M. R. "The Influence of Perceived Motion on Emotional Evaluation" *BPS Cognitive and Developmental Sections*, University of Reading, United Kingdom, 4-6<sup>th</sup>, September 2013.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Longo, M.R. "Threat Modulates the Neural Responses to Looming Stimuli" *BNA2013, British Neuroscience Association's, Exploring and Celebrating Neuroscience*, The Barbican Centre, London, United Kingdom, 7-10<sup>th</sup>, April 2013.

**Vagnoni, E.**, Lourenco, S.F., Longo, M.R. "Threat Modulates Perception of Looming Visual Stimuli" *Neural Interactions and Affect Basic & Clinical Perspectives*, University of Reading, United Kingdom, 16-17<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

### ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Supervised the tutoring scheme for 450 second-year students at Bournemouth University, including creating personal development paths, strengths assessments, self-discovery, and career choice guidance.

#### PhD students

Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia, IIT: Sara Nataletti | University College of London, UCL: Elena Panagiotopoulou

#### Research Assistants

University College of London, UCL: Susan Ammiri, Karina Dolgilevica | Birkbeck, University of London: Alexandra Vormberg, Rosa Morcom, Jerri Miller, Rachel Kelly, Krisztina Nemeskery, Brice Bourgeois, Sonia Medina

#### MSc Students

Anglia Ruskin University: Kelly Franklin, Dorne Warner, Bryony Trace, Varshini Harisha, Irem Ozkol | University College of London, UCL: Patrick Fasthén

#### BSc Students

Bournemouth University: James Graves, Soumaya Choudhry, Victoria Emery, Ashleigh Walsh, Deacon Clements | Anglia Ruskin University: Oliver Jordan, Violet Jones, Amiyrah Joseph, Penny Howman, Haleema Haffadh, Lucia Meseguer-Gomez | University College of London, UCL: Kamilla Dombai, Zuzanna Slonina | Birkbeck, University of London: Sara Trippier, Karina Dolgilevica, Bernice Hanrahan, Vasiliki Andreanidou, Lee Lingard, Shanette Munro, Ranesa Carridice

### AD-HOC REVIEWING

Scientific Reports, Acta Psychologica, Neuroscience of Consciousness, NeuroImage, Psychonomic Bulletin & Review, Neuropsychologia

### NEUROIMAGING TECHNIQUES AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), Electroencephalography (EEG) ERPs analysis and Oscillatory Analysis; Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS); Galvanic Vestibular Stimulation (GVS); YAP laser for nociceptive stimulation; Analysis of physiological signals (electromyography, motor-evoked potentials); Neuronavigation systems for MRI-guided TMS

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## **LANGUAGES**

**Italian:** Native

**English:** Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) Cambridge University ESOL; Pre-Sessional English Course at Birkbeck, University of London; English Course for Academic Purposes at UCL Centre for Languages & International Education CLIE)

## **COMPUTER SKILLS**

Programming: MATLAB, (Cogent Graphics, Cogent 2000, EEGLAB, Statistical Parametric Mapping SPM); ExpyVR, software for designing and running virtual reality experiments; E-Prime PST

Statistical Analysis: SPSS, R, GPower, JASP, STATISTICA

Project Management Tools: Trello, Slack

Learning Management Systems: Canvas, Brightspace, Moodle

Productivity Platform: Office 365 (Microsoft Teams, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneDrive)

Scientific Application: Biopac Student Lab (EMG analysis); SoftAxic Optic 1.2 (3D brain neuronavigation); MRIcro; Eye-Tracker ASL6000, Fixation Plotting, reading software, Inquisit by Millisecond

Graphics: Adobe Photoshop CS5; ImageJ Image Processing and Analysis in Java; AbrosoftFantaMorph

Video-editing: Wondershare PPT2DVD; Windows Movie Maker

Neuropsychological Tests: Administration and scoring of main neuropsychological tests and questionnaires to evaluation and diagnosis, specifically: MMSE, Stroop, BatteriaComputerizzata per l'Esamedell'Attenzione –TEA-, PASAT, B.A.D.A. batteria per l'analisi dei deficit afasici.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2017 Visiting Scholar, University of Cambridge, UK, Department of Engineering, hosted by: Prof Ben Seymour, Dr Flavia Mancini

02/2016 - 03/2016 Lab visit, École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) hosted by Prof Andrea Serino

01/2012 – 04/2012 Internship, Supervisor Prof Patrick Haggard

Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London UCL

11/2011 – 09/2012 Visiting student, Supervisor Prof Matthew Longo  
Birkbeck University of London

07/2010 – 07/2011 Post-lauream apprenticeship in experimental neuropsychology for professional qualifying examination, Supervisor Prof Giuseppe di Pellegrino

Centre for Studies and Research in Cognitive Neuroscience (CsrNC), Italy.

02/2010 – 07/2010 Post-lauream apprenticeship in clinical neuropsychology, Supervisor Prof Giuseppe di Pellegrino Centre for Studies and Research in Cognitive Neuroscience (CsrNC), Italy.

02/2007 – 06/2007 Post-lauream apprenticeship, Supervisor Prof Vincenzo Natale  
Faculty of Psychology – University of Bologna - Cronolab Cesena, Italy.

## **WORKSHOPS AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

2019 Learning and Teaching (Higher Education) Post Graduate Certificate

2019 Coaching for Success. Personal Development Tutor

2018 Introduction to Good Clinical Practice eLearning (Secondary Care)

2018 Condensed Residential Course for Beginners Research Funding Observatory, Anglia Ruskin University

2018 Safety course (MRI physics, MRI and PET/MR safety issues)

Wolfson Brain Imaging Centre, University of Cambridge

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2017 R Workshop and Bayes for Beginners, Doing Bayesian data analysis in psychology and the social sciences Nottingham Trent University  
2015 Sensation of Movement University of London  
2013 Matlab for Psychologists, Course Director: Dr. Antonia Hamilton School of Psychology, University of Nottingham  
2012 Navigation and Spatial Memory in Terrestrial Species Centre for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience (CDCN) University College London, London.

### **COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

2024: Brain Awareness Week, John Cabot University  
2023: Emotion and Learning, Learning Festival, Future Education Modena  
2021: Bournemouth University Open days  
2019: Anglia Ruskin University Open Day  
2017 ExpeRience: Midsummer night of science co-organization of drop-in activities on body image. Public Event at the Royal Institution, London  
2016 Ri Lates: "Touch and Go" co-organization of drop-in activities on affective touch  
Public Event at the Royal Institution, London  
2013 Birkbeck University Open Day "The influence of emotion on perception" practical demonstrations of lab experiments.

### **MEDIA COVERAGE OF MY RESEARCH**

BBC radio Cambridgeshire(25May, 2018) Dr. Cardini was interviewed for a piece on our study 'Listening to an aggressive conversation expands our interpersonal space'.

Neuroscience News(27 May, 2018) wrote a piece on the Eleonora, Flavia and Ana's study 'Listening to a conversation with aggressive content expands the interpersonal space'

Investigación Y Ciencia (30 May, 2018) wrote a piece on the study 'Listening to a conversation with aggressive content expands the interpersonal space'

Daily Mail (October 22, 2012) wrote a piece on my study published in the journal Current Biology about how threat alters the way we perceive objects that are 'looming' directly towards us.

RedOrbit (October 29, 2012) wrote a piece on my Current Biology paper.

Science Daily (October 22, 2012) also wrote a piece about my looming study.

### **ACADEMIC REFERENCES**

Prof Matthew Longo  
Department of Psychological Sciences, Birkbeck, University of London  
Tel: 020 7631 6214  
[mattrlongo@gmail.com](mailto:mattrlongo@gmail.com)

Dr Flavia Cardini  
Department of Psychology, Anglia Ruskin, Cambridge  
Tel: 01223692346  
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