

AGNESE ZAZIO

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Details

Nationality Italian
Date of birth 14/07/1989
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agnese.zazio@cognitiveneuroscience.it

Current Position

- 2019-today* Post-doc researcher at the Lab. of Neurophysiology, Cognitive Neuroscience Section, IRCCS Saint John of God Clinical Research Centre (Brescia, Italy).
Research interests: neural oscillations, plasticity and cortical reactivity by means of non-invasive recordings (M/EEG) and brain stimulation techniques (TMS, tES), also combined (TMS-EEG).
- 2019-today* Teaching assistant. Fundamental Psychology Exam (dr. D. Villani and dr. C. Repetto), Catholic University of the Sacred Heart (Brescia, Italy).

Education

- 2015 – 2018* PhD student in Psychology, Linguistics and Cognitive Neuroscience - Mind, Brain and Behavior. University of Milano-Bicocca in collaboration with IRCCS Saint John of God Clinical Research Centre (Brescia, Italy).
Thesis: *Impact of ongoing alpha oscillations on visual perception and neurophysiological response: an integration with a psychophysical approach.*
Supervisor: prof. C. Miniussi; *co-advisor:* dr. M. Bortoletto
- 2014* Psychology professional qualification. University of Padova (Italy).
- 2011-2013* Master in Psychology-Neuroscience. Degree: 110/110 with honors. University of Trento (Italy), Psychology and Cognitive Science Department.
Experimental thesis: *Consequences of reduced representational distinctiveness and of temporal instability on reading accuracy in patients with dysgraphia due to orthographic short-term memory damage: A new case and a literature review.*
Supervisor: prof. G. Miceli
- 2008-2011* Bachelor in Cognitive Psychology and Psychobiology. Degree: 110/110 with honors. University of Padova (Italy), Faculty of Psychology.
Experimental thesis: *Encoding of numerical and quantitative information in a discrimination task: a comparison between homogeneous and heterogeneous stimuli in domestic chicks (Gallus gallus).*
Supervisors: prof. L. Regolin and dr. R. Rugani

Previous research activity

- 2018 Visiting PhD Student. Salzburg Brain Dynamics Lab, Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, University of Salzburg (Austria). Supervisor: prof. N. Weisz
- 2015-2018 PhD Student. University of Milano-Bicocca in collaboration with IRCCS Saint John of God Clinical Research Centre (Brescia, Italy).
- 2014 – 2015 Research Assistant. Lab. of Neurophysiology, Cognitive Neuroscience Section, IRCCS Saint John of God Clinical Research Centre (Brescia, Italy).
- 2014 Graduate student. Lab. of Neurophysiology, Cognitive Neuroscience Section, IRCCS Saint John of God Clinical Research Centre (Brescia, Italy).

Honors and Awards

- 2015 PhD Scholarship 2015-2018 (University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy).
- 2015 Merit Prize, 2014 edition (University of Trento, Italy).
- 2011 Scholarship *European Campus of Excellence in Neuroscience*.

Internships

- 2014 Post-lauream (6 months). Lab. of Neurophysiology, Cognitive Neuroscience Section, IRCCS Saint John of God Clinical Research Centre (Brescia, Italy).
Application of non-invasive brain stimulation techniques (tES; TMS); acquisition and analysis of electrophysiological signals. Supervisor: prof. C. Miniussi
- 2012 – 2014 Post-lauream (6 months). Center for Neurocognitive Rehabilitation (CeRiN), Center for Mind/Brain Sciences (CIMeC), University of Trento (Italy).
Clinical neuropsychological assessment in adult patients with cognitive impairment due to brain damage. Supervisor: dr. G. Cazzolli
- 2012 – 2013 Pre-lauream. Center for Neurocognitive Rehabilitation (CeRiN), Center for Mind/Brain Sciences (CIMeC), University of Trento (Italy).
Clinical neuropsychological assessment in adult patients with cognitive impairment due to brain damage. Supervisor: prof. G. Miceli
- 2010 – 2011 Pre-lauream. Lab. of Comparative Animal Psychology, University of Padova (Italy).
Conducting experiments investigating cardinality in domestic chicks (*Gallus gallus*). Supervisors: prof. L. Regolin and dr. R. Rugani

Attended courses, schools and workshops

- 08-12.04.2019 Course: Donders MEG/EEG Toolkit: advanced data analysis and source modelling of EEG and MEG data. Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour, Nijmegen (The Netherlands).
- 18-23.05.2018 Summer school and workshop: 6th Science Factory TMS-EEG. Aalto University School of Science, Espoo (Finland).
- 18-19.01.2018 Workshop: Perturbing and Enhancing Perception and Action with Oscillatory Neural Stimulation (PEPA ON stimulation). Cambridge University (UK).
- 11.09.2017 Workshop: Workshop on Rhythms in the Brain (WoRB). Glasgow University (UK).
- 14-18.08.2017 Summer school: Math and Matlab for Neuroscientists. Radboud University, Nijmegen (The Netherlands).
- 27.06-02.07.2016 Summer school in methodology: Meta-analysis and results reproducibility: Theoretical aspects and applications in R. University Residential Center of Bertinoro (Italy), Italian Psychology Association (AIP).
- A.Y. 2015-2016 PhD courses (most relevant): English - advanced (60 hrs), Statistics (26 hrs), E-prime (24 hrs), R (24 hrs), Instrumental techniques (8 hrs), Open Access, Grant Writing, Scientific paper drafting and reviewing.
- 04-25.09.2011 Summer school: The Fate of the Memory Trace – Learning, Remembering and Forgetting from Molecules to Behavior. European Campus of Excellence in Neuroscience, Ruhr University Bochum (Germany).

Languages

<i>Italian</i>	Native
<i>English</i>	Fluent
<i>German</i>	Beginner

Expertise

- Application of non-invasive brain stimulation techniques (TMS, tES).
- EEG and TMS-EEG acquisition and analysis (ERPs, TEPs, time-frequency); software: BrainVision, Matlab (Fieldtrip, EEGLAB).
- Neuronavigation; software: Softaxic.
- Programming experimental paradigms; software: Presentation, E-prime.
- Statistical analysis; software: Statistica, R, SPSS.
- Neuropsychological evaluation

Scientific production

Posters presented in international congresses

Guidali G., **Zazio A.**, Maddaluno O., Miniussi C., Bolognini N. (2018). Modulating the response of the primary somatosensory cortex with a novel Paired Associative Stimulation protocol. *Annual congress of Milan Center for Neuroscience (NeuroMI)*, Milan, 21-23 November.

Guidali G., **Zazio A.**, Maddaluno O., Miniussi C., Bolognini N. (2018). Primary somatosensory cortex and Hebbian associative learning: a novel cross-modal Paired Associative Stimulation (PAS) protocol. *Hand, Brain and Technology: The Somatosensory System*, Ascona (Switzerland), 26-31 August.

Zazio A., Bortoletto M., Miniussi C. (2018). Ongoing alpha oscillations, visual perception and neural mechanisms: a formal model. *Salzburg Mind and Brain Annual Meeting (SAMBA)*, Salzburg (Austria), 12-13 July.

Zazio A., Veniero D., Bortoletto M., Miniussi C., Ruzzoli M. (2018). Perceptual and physiological consequences of dark adaptation: a TMS-EEG study. *6th Science Factory TMS-EEG*, Espoo (Finland), 18-23 May.

Zazio A., Bortoletto M., Miniussi C. (2018). Ongoing oscillations: *how do they affect perception?* *Perturbing and Enhancing Perception and Action using Oscillatory Neural Stimulation – PEPA ON Stimulation*, Cambridge (UK), 18-19 January.

Zazio A., Ruzzoli M., Veniero D., Bortoletto M., Miniussi C. (2017). Perceptual and physiological consequences of dark adaptation: a TMS-EEG study. *Cognitive Science Arena*, Brixen (Italy), 17-8 February.

Zazio A., Bortoletto M., Fertonani A., Pirulli C., Miniussi C. (2016). tES effects on a visual orientation discrimination task: noise induction in a non-linear system. *6^o International Congress on Transcranial Brain Stimulation*, Göttingen (Germany), 7-10 September. Abstract publication: *Clinical Neurophysiology*, 128(3), 111-112.

Zazio A., Capasso R., Miceli G. (2013). Consequences of reduced representational distinctiveness and of temporal instability on reading accuracy in patients with dysgraphia due to orthographic short-term memory damage: A new case and a literature review. *51^o Annual Meeting - Academy of Aphasia* Lucern (Switzerland), 20-22 October. Abstract publication: *Procedia – Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 94, 209-210.

Posters presented in national congresses

Maddaluno O., Guidali G., **Zazio A.**, Miniussi C., Bolognini N. (2018). Tactile acuity as an index of plasticity induced by a novel cross-modal PAS protocol. *Annual Congress of Italian Society of Psychophysiology (SIPF)*, Torino, 15-17 November.

Zazio A., Ruzzoli M., Veniero D., Miniussi C., Bortoletto M. (2016). Perceptual and physiological consequences of dark adaptation: a TMS-EEG study. *Annual Congress of Italian Society of Psychophysiology (SIPF)*, Milan, 27-29 October. Abstract publication: *Neuropsychological Trends*, 20, 190-191.

Oral presentations

Zazio A., Maddaluno O., Guidali G., Bolognini N., Miniussi C. (2018). Investigating cross-modal properties of the primary somatosensory cortex by means of a novel cross-modal Paired Associative Stimulation protocol. *Annual Congress of Italian Society of Psychophysiology (SIPF)*, Torino, 15-17 November.

Zazio A., Bortoletto M., Miniussi, C. (2018). Ongoing alpha oscillations, visual perception and neural mechanisms: a formal model. *Young Scientist Symposium*, Salzburg (Austria), 11 July.

Zazio A., Maddaluno O., Guidali G., Miniussi C., Bolognini N. (2018). Cross-modal properties of the primary somatosensory cortex: a by-product of Hebbian association learning. *Cognitive Science Arena*, Brixen, 23-24 February.

Zazio A., Bortoletto M., Miniussi, C. (2017). Ongoing oscillations and performance: investigating the underlying neurophysiological mechanisms. *Bicocca Research Day*, Milan, 18 September.

Peer-reviewed publications

Zazio A., Bortoletto M., Ruzzoli M., Miniussi C., Veniero D. (2019). Perceptual and physiological consequences of dark adaptation: a TMS-EEG study. *Brain Topography*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10548-019-00715-x>

Zazio A.*, Guidali G.*, Maddaluno O., Miniussi C., Bolognini N. (*under review*). Hebbian associative plasticity in the visuo-tactile domain: a cross-modal Paired Associative Stimulation protocol.

Zazio A., Miniussi C., Bortoletto M. (*in preparation*). Modelling the effects of ongoing alpha activity on visual perception: the oscillation-based probability of response model.

Bortoletto, M., Nguyen, T., **Zazio, A.**, Cunnington, R. (*in preparation*). Understanding preparation for voluntary movement: the role of phasic arousal.

* these authors contributed equally to this work.

Ad-hoc reviewer for international scientific journals

Scientific Reports; Brain Topography.