

# GABRIELE VERCELLI

## Current Position

- PhD student (38<sup>th</sup> cycle) in Psychology and Social Neuroscience, curriculum Cognitive, Social and Affective Neuroscience (CoSAN), Department of Psychology, "La Sapienza" University of Rome (Supervisor: Prof. Ilaria Bufalari).
- Research fellow at the Department of Psychology of Developmental and Socialization Processes, "La Sapienza" University of Rome. Project: "**The contribution of interoceptive signals to bodily Self representation in neurotypicals and in patients with Anorexia Nervosa**" (Supervisor: Prof. Ilaria Bufalari).

## Education

September 2019 - December 2021: **MSc Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychological Rehabilitation**

*Sapienza University of Rome*

Degree: **110/110 cum Laude**

Final Project (Supervisor: Prof. Ilaria Bufalari): "*Characterizing the relationship between interoception and dissociative experiences using behavioral measures and questionnaires.*"

September 2016 - July 2019: **BSc Scienze e Tecniche Psicologiche**

*Università degli Studi di Firenze*

Degree: **110/110 cum Laude**

Final Project (supervisor: prof Tommaso Pizzorusso): "*Possible pathophysiological aspects of depression: serotonin role in the modulation of neural plasticity*"

## Research Experience

### Post-lauream Internship

**September 2022 – March 2023**

Mental Health Centre (ASL Roma 1) - UOSD Disturbi Comportamento Alimentare (DCA)

Tutor: Doctor Stefania Ferrari

Acquired skills:

- Knowledge and administration of diagnostic evaluation tools (psychometric and psychodiagnostic questionnaires)
- Participation as an observer in the patients' admission process and in clinical interviews

## **Post-lauream Internship**

**March 2022 – September 2022**

Department of Psychology of Developmental and Socialization Processes, "La Sapienza" University of Rome

Tutor: Prof. Mauro Giacomantonio

- Correlational and causal approaches to investigate the relationship between interoception and dissociation in neurotypical controls and clinical populations (in particular eating disorders)
- Recording and analysis of electrophysiological signals in clinical (patients with Anorexia Nervosa) and healthy populations
- Data analysis of a behavioral experiment that tested how body representation affects cognitive control in Anorexia Nervosa

## **Research fellowship**

**February 2023 – February 2024**

Department of Psychology, "La Sapienza" University of Rome.

Project: "**The contribution of exteroceptive and interoceptive signals to alterations in the sense of self**" (Supervisor: Prof. Salvatore Maria Aglioti).

## **Scholarships**

Academic year 2019-2020: "**Wanted The Best**" Scholarship for Meritorious Students from Italian and International Universities funded by Università "La Sapienza"

Academic year 2020-2021: **Student-collaboration Scholarship** funded by Università "La Sapienza" for Meritorious Students at Social and Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Medicine and Psychology

## Scientific Activity

- Research project “**Altered processing of conflicting body representations in women with restrictive anorexia nervosa**” (research project funded by “GIOVANI RICERCATORI 2011-2012 Prof. GR-2011-02351798”). The project aimed to investigate body representation in patients with Anorexia Nervosa (AN) through behavioral techniques (Flanker Task) and neuroimaging (EEG). (Tutor: Professor Ilaria Bufalari)  
**Role:** participants recruitment and analysis of behavioral and EEG data.  
This project resulted in the following article being published: “Fusco G., Ciccarone S., Petrucci M., Cozzani B., **Vercelli G.**, Cotugno A., Bufalari I. Altered processing of conflicting body representations in women with restrictive anorexia nervosa. Psychol Res. 2023 Sep;87(6):1696-1709”.
- Research project “**The role of internal bodily signals in the modulation of dissociative experiences in a neurotypical population. Behavioral, electroencephalographic, and vagal stimulation studies**”. (Tutor: Prof. Ilaria Bufalari).  
**Role:** Ideation, implementation of the experimental design, data collection, statistical analyses and writing of the manuscript.  
The aim of the project is to investigate the relationship between experimentally induced alterations in the sense of Self and interoception (interoceptive sensibility and accuracy) in neurotypical participants. This topic is investigated through behavioural (self-report questionnaires and experimental tasks) and electrophysiological measures (electrocardiogram). The Mirror Gazing Task is used to induce illusions in the sense of bodily-Self and alterations in self-recognition. This project resulted in a manuscript being under preparation (Vercelli G., Ciccarone S., Porciello G., Bufalari I. Interoception and Dissociative Experiences: Unveiling the Relationship Between Bodily Awareness and Altered Sense of Self) and in poster (XXX Congresso SIPF; 5<sup>th</sup> BRNet Conference; XXIX Congresso AIP – Sezione Sperimentale) and oral (XXXI Congresso SIPF) presentations.
- Research project “**Systematic review on the relationship between interoception and dissociation in neurotypical controls and clinical populations**”. (Tutor: Prof. Marco Sperduti and Prof. Ilaria Bufalari).  
**Role:** Bibliographic search on the electronic databases of PubMed, Scopus and ISI Web of Science in order to retrieve relevant articles and materials on the domain of interoception and dissociation and writing of the manuscript.

This project resulted in the following manuscript being under preparation: **Vercelli G.**, Rai A., Bufalari I., Sperduti M. Systematic review on the relationship between interoception and dissociation in neurotypical controls and clinical populations.

## Publications

Fusco G., Ciccarone S., Petrucci M., Cozzani B., **Vercelli G.**, Cotugno A., Bufalari I. Altered processing of conflicting body representations in women with restrictive anorexia nervosa. *Psychol Res.* 2023 Sep;87(6):1696-1709.

**Vercelli G.**, Rai A., Bufalari I., Sperduti M. Systematic review on the relationship between interoception and dissociation in neurotypical controls and clinical populations – in preparation

**Vercelli G.**, Ciccarone S., Porciello G., Bufalari I. Interoception and Dissociative Experiences: Unveiling the Relationship Between Bodily Awareness and Altered Sense of Self. – in preparation

## Oral and Poster Presentation

**2022 – Vercelli G.**, Ciccarone S., Porciello G. e Bufalari I. “Interoceptive sensitivity not accuracy correlates with state and trait dissociation”. **Poster Presentation.** XXX Congresso Nazionale della Società Italiana di Psicofisiologia e Neuroscienze Cognitive (SIPF). 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022, Udine, Italy

**2022 –** Porciello G., Provenzano L., **Vercelli G.**, Vabba A., Monti A., Bufalari I. and Panasiti M.S. “The relevance of the interoceptive bodily self in psychopathology and well-being”. **Oral Presentation** within the symposium: The bodily self: from its development to its influence in social contexts and mental health organized within the XXX Congresso AIP. 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> September, Padua, Italy

**2023 - Vercelli G.**, Ciccarone S., Porciello G. e Bufalari I. “Interoception and Dissociative Experiences: Unveiling the Relationship Between Bodily Awareness and Altered Sense of Self”. **Poster Presentation.** 5th Body Representation Network Conference. 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

**2023 - Vercelli G.**, Ciccarone S., Porciello G. e Bufalari I. “Interoception and Dissociative Experiences: Unveiling the Relationship Between Bodily Awareness and Altered Sense of Self”. **Poster Presentation.** XXIX Congresso AIP – Sezione Sperimentale. 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Lucca, Italy

**2023 - Vercelli G.**, Ciccarone S., Porciello G. e Bufalari I. "Interoception and Dissociative Experiences: Unveiling the Relationship Between Bodily Awareness and Altered Sense of Self". **Oral Presentation.** XXXI Congresso Nazionale della Società Italiana di Psicofisiologia e Neuroscienze Cognitive (SIPF). 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Siena, Italy

## Workshops

- "Electrograstrogram: Theoretical and Practical Implications" held by prof. Ignacio Rebollo, 3-4th November, Rome
- "Behavioral Tasks & Event-Related Potentials" organized by Gianluigi Rubino BRAIN PRODUCTS ITALIA S.R.L., 19th May 2023, Rome

## Seminars

- "Interacting components of body perception" organized by the Body Representation Network and presented by Prof. Chris Dijkerman, 7th December 2022
- Annual Italian Reproducibility Network - ITRN Meeting - Friday 24th February 2023, Via dei Marsi 78, 00185 Rome
- "Psychobiology in eating disorders" held by Prof. Stephan Zipfel, 26th April 2023, Università "La Sapienza" di Roma.
- Webinar "Methods for EEG Source Estimation" organized by BRAIN PRODUCTS ITALIA S.R.L., 26th May 2023
- "Toward a responsible use of AI and neurotechnology" by Prof. Pim Haselager, 26th May 2023, Rome
- "Exploring the Interplay: Embodiment and the Experience of Pain" by Prof. Bigna Lenggenhager, 2nd October 2023, Rome
- Symposium: "Body, Brain, and Moral Decision Making", 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Università "La Sapienza" di Roma
- "Warfare, weather and wealth: decoding the hidden evolutionary forces behind cultural differences in leadership" held by prof. Mark van Vugt, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024, Università "La Sapienza" di Roma.

## Technical Skills

- Planning and implementation of psychological experimental designs
- Preparation and administration of experimental stimuli (E-Prime Software)
- ECG montage, recording and analyses (LabChart and Kubios)

- Good knowledge of Statistica, Jasp and Jamovi
- Basic knowledge of EEG montage, recording and analysis (BrainVision Analyzer)

## **Language Skills**

German: B2 level (Goethe Institut e.V. certificate)

Spanish: B2 level (Instituto Cervantes certificate)

English: C1 level (Cambridge ESOL Exams certificate)

Italian: native proficiency

Roma, January 2024