

RITA HIRA

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PROFILE

BSc Psychology graduate and MSc Neuroscience student with prior clinical and research experience, within both the NHS Mental Health Service and Academia. I have a strong understanding of clinical disorders and forensic issues within a research capacity. My main areas of interest are in building neurocomputational models to understand how clinical disorders form, so that diagnosis and treatment can be improved. In addition to exploring how such models can be developed into technology based clinical tools. I am currently developing breadth of research skills through various projects, work experience and internships. Now seeking a PhD position, with the intention to start a strong career in producing high-quality research in modelling clinical disorders.

KEY SKILLS

- R & R Studio
- MATLAB
- Basic Python
- SPSS
- Statistical Analysis
- Data & Process Modelling
- Designing experimental procedures
- Qualtrics Survey Tool
- Recruitment: Prolific & SONA
- Psychological assessments: SDQ, TSCC & Becks
- Basic CBT & Mindfulness
- Supporting and writing for publication and conference
- Project Management

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Broadmoor Hospital Research Assistant

October 2020 to September 2021

Supporting research at the hospital to better understand and treat patients with severe clinical disorders (schizophrenia and personality disorders). Developing expertise within the fields of Forensic, Clinical and Neuroscience research and to promote WLT as a research active organisation:

- Recruiting and screen participants with severe schizophrenia and personality disorders, for according to the guidelines and protocols (considering limitations with ability to consent).
- Conducting face to face assessment interviews using structured questionnaires, for baseline and follow up assessments.
- Conducting and teaching statistical tests (T tests, ANOVA, Hierarchical Regression models) as appropriate.
- Writing papers for publication (pending April-September 2021) and board reports.
- Develop literature reviews to identify possible avenues to present at conferences and identify future research (adverse childhood experiences, trauma, therapeutic alliance, environmental influences, and restorative justice).
- Form Wellcome Trust grant proposals for £500,000 to support new ways of gathering research data.
- Evaluating and supporting future research projects in collaboration with external universities and PhD students.
- Completing ethics approval of future research projects.
- Preparation of posters for conference presentations, attendance of conferences to present findings of studies.

City, University of London

September 2019 to Present

Research Assistant Internship & Studentship

Dissertation Project: Academic Lead - Dr. Andreas Jarvstad

Research purpose: Exploring how relative and absolute forms of cognitive value encoding can occur adaptively to cause both irrational and optimal decisions (*Predicted: distinction with named publication due April 2021*).

Key Activities:

- Supporting the academic lead to design and test experimental procedures both online and in person.
- Recruiting participants through internal University processes (SONA).
- Day to day running of the research procedure (manage ethics forms, logging data, expenses, etc).
- Instructing participants on the experimental process and ensuring the data gathered is accurate.
- Analysis using MATLAB - E.g., Representational Dissimilarity Analysis and modelling absolute and relative values.
- Support writing final publications.

Internship: Academic Lead - Dr. Andreas Kappes (The Other Lab Group)

Research purpose: Using the Dictator Game paradigm to explore if social decision-making with respect to charitable donations for refugees can be improved using creative writing techniques.

Key Activities:

- Synthesising literature and identifying relevant established research.
- Developing research materials based on a dictator game paradigm (survey questions and vignettes).
- Raising ethics forms and following the ethics approval process.
- Using survey tools to build questionnaires (Qualtrics) and recruit online participants (Prolific).
- Statistically analysing data (SPSS, R, MATLAB) and summarising/presenting research results to groups.

South London & Maudsley NHS, AIM Service & PPI Team

January 2019 to December 2019

Honorary Psychology & Research Assistant

Supported both the AIM Service (within the Children's Mental Health Service) and the Patient & Public Involvement (PPI) team in a range of research and some clinical work.

AIM Service/ Children's Mental Health Services

Summary: Supported the Lead Psychologist to develop and built the newly established AIM service. The majority of my daily activities was research focused, with the aim of monitoring the effectiveness of the current treatment and conducting literature reviews on the best support for service users. This heavily relied on data management and analytic skills. My other responsibilities related to clinical work, where I built trusting relationships with high-risk service users, to support them through difficult issues and observe Psychological therapies/assessments.

Key Activities:

- Created and maintained the client/research literature information database.
- Completed literature reviews to identify suitable treatment options and gaps in services.
- Used data to support writing proposals, grants and in visual information packs.
- Analysed qualitative and quantitative data using thematic analysis and statistical packages (SPSS, Matlab).
- Developed surveys and conducted interviews with service users and multidisciplinary teams to form complex reports and formulations.
- Conducted and scored psychological assessments (TSCC, SDQ, RCADS & CGAS) for service users and carers.
- Maintained a service user data to record information and clinical outcomes.
- Supported running the information exchange forum to advise multidisciplinary teams on complex sexual abuse cases.
- Proactively implemented systems which automatically collated and analysed client information for reports. Heavily reducing administrative time.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

City, University of London

September 2019 to Present

MSc Social, Clinical & Cognitive Neuroscience (expected results: Distinction)

Developing knowledge on how different brain functions contribute to cognition, mediate social interaction, and determine mental health, well-being and psychiatric illness.

Final Dissertation Project: Adaptively learning absolute values.

- Writing for future publication, computational modelling, designing an experimental procedure.

The Open University

September 2014 to August 2018

BSc (Hons) Psychology (2:1)

Studying independently to explore how research contributes to debates on forensic science, mental health, relationships, child development, neuroscience, etc.

Final Dissertation Project: Discursive Analysis on Moral Development in Ambiguous Cases of Sexual Abuse.

- Conducted interviews, completed thematic analysis on transcripts and write an empirical report on my findings.