


Giorgio Li Pira

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Address: [REDACTED]

WORK EXPERIENCE

 **UNIBO** – BOLOGNA, ITALY

PHD STUDENT – 01/01/2022 – 31/12/2024

Key Areas of Study:

- Application of Virtual Reality in Clinical Technologies
- Psychometric Evaluation of VR-based Assessments
- VR-based Therapeutic Interventions for Psychological Disorders
- Ethical Considerations in Implementing VR in Clinical Psychology

Research Objectives: The primary objectives of the Ph.D. research include examining the effectiveness, acceptability, and ethical implications of utilizing virtual reality as a tool in clinical psychology. This involves comprehensive exploration, experimentation, and evaluation of VR applications designed to enhance traditional clinical methodologies.

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Visiting Scholar: Under the supervision of Professor Rosa María Baños Rivera, I collaborated with the laboratory - IPsyTech- of the University of Valencia on a systematic literature review on the role of digital technologies in promoting empathy among healthcare professionals and students. I participated in the acquisition, analysis, and drafting of the work, which is currently submitted.

Additional Competences: My Ph.D. has allowed me to develop substantial expertise in the design and implementation of virtual environments using Unreal Engine and Unity.

 **UNIVERSITY OF PARMA** – PARMA

EXPERIMENTAL INTERNSHIP – 15/07/2021 – 01/01/2022

Experimental internship under the supervision of Professor Vera Ferrari at the Laboratory of Psychophysiology, University of Parma. The internship was designed to investigate the influence of emotional stimuli repetition on memory for natural scenes through the utilization of psychophysiological measures such as EEG, behavioral measures, and self-reports. During this internship, I developed programming skills for administering online experiments, particularly using PsychoPy, a tool based on the Python language. Additionally, I collaborated in the design of both behavioral and psychophysiological experiments, contributed to data collection using the BioSemi 68-channel EEG system, and conducted data analysis in MATLAB using Emegs and Fieldtrip toolboxes. The analysis focused on both event-related potentials (ERPs) and neural oscillations.

 **UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA** – GAINESVILLE

EXPERIMENTAL INTERNSHIP – 01/01/2020 – 01/06/2020

This internship, conducted under the supervision of Professor Margaret Bradley, focused on investigating the influence of emotional stimuli on cognitive processes, as well as attentional and motivational systems, using a combination of peripheral and central psychophysiological measures, behavioral assessments, and self-report data. I contributed to data collection through eye-tracking (pupillometry), skin conductance, and heart rate monitoring. Additionally, I had the opportunity to design and execute an experiment to explore the effects of repeated presentations (massed vs. distributed) of natural images on episodic memory, utilizing Qualtrics with custom JavaScript and Presentation software for stimulus delivery. This experience not only strengthened my ability to collaborate effectively within a research team but also enhanced my competence and independence in experimental design, data collection, and literature review.

 **UNIVERSITY OF PADUA** – PADUA, ITALY

EXPERIMENTAL INTERNSHIP – 10/03/2017 – 19/07/2018

During my experimental internship at the University of Padua, under the supervision of Professor Massimo Grassi, I was deeply involved in developing a speech-in-noise test using MATLAB and Reaper, an audio production software. My responsibilities included recruiting and managing experimental subjects, administering the test, and analyzing the

collected data. This project was a key part of my final thesis, titled "Differenze percettive tra musicisti e non musicisti in una prova di percezione di parlato in situazioni di rumore" (Perceptual Differences Between Musicians and NonMusicians in a Speech-in-Noise Perception Test).

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

08/11/2018 – 29/04/2021 Parma

MASTER DEGREE: PSYCHOBIOLOGY AND COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE University of Parma

Master Degree courses:

Clinical Neuropsychology

Social Neuroscience

Perception and Psychophysics

Advanced Dynamic Psychology

Internship - International Structure

Animal and Comparative Psychobiology

Psychobiology and Ethology

Psychophysiology of Cognitive Processes and Emotions

Data Analysis Techniques I

Data Analysis Techniques II

Cognition

Field of study Neurosciences | **Final grade** 110/110 cum laude

07/09/2015 – 25/09/2018 Padova

BACHELOR DEGREE: COGNITIVE AND PSYCHOBIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE University of Padua

Nicosia, Italy

SCIENTIFIC HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA ACHIEVED IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/2015 Liceo Scientifico Ettore Majorana

01/01/2022 – CURRENT Bologna, Italy

PHD University of Bologna

Field of study Psychology

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): **ITALIAN**

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
ENGLISH	C1	C2	B2	B2	B2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user - B1 and B2: Independent user - C1 and C2: Proficient user

SKILLS

Unreal Engine basics | Unity(Basics) | Experience in MATLAB, python, and R

PUBLICATIONS

2023

[The Use of Virtual Reality Interventions to Promote Positive Mental Health: Systematic Literature Review](#)

Ruini, C., Pira, G. L., Cordella, E., & Vescovelli, F. (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpm>.

2023

[Positive Affect Predicted Death Anxiety in Health Workers during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

Ruini, C., Li Pira, G., & Vescovelli, F. (2023). <https://doi.org/10.23880/pprij-16000364>

2024

[Positive mental health, depression and burnout in healthcare workers during the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Ruini, C., Pira, G. L., Cordella, E., & Vescovelli, F. (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpm.13099>

2024

[Utilizing Digital Technologies to Promote Well-being in University Students: The 'Digi-Well' Research Protocol](#)

Ruini, C., Vescovelli, F., Cesarano, V. P., de Angelis, G., de Marco, E. L., Galeazzi, G. M., Li Pira, G., Pingani, L., & Limone, P. (2024). <https://doi.org/10.3389/FPSYG.2024.1397870>

2024

[Validation of the Virtual Spatial Configuration Task \(VSCT\): A Novel Virtual Reality-Based Tool for Assessing Cognitive Map Formation Abilities.](#)

Umiltà, A. M., Pira, G. L., Gruttola, F. di, Russo, C., Ottoboni, G., & Tessari, A. (2024). <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/3DMSY>

2025

[Effectiveness of Home Positivity: A VR Program for Promoting Positive Mental Health. A Pilot Feasibility Study](#)

Li Pira, G., & Ruini, C. (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41042-025-00216-2>

● **CONFERENCES & SEMINARS**

15/09/2023 – 17/09/2023 Florence

XXIII National Congress Italian Psychological Association Clinical and Dynamic Section

Scientific lecture on The use of Virtual Reality according to the Positive Clinical Psychology perspective
(Chiara Ruini, Giorgio Li Pira)

11/09/2023 – 13/09/2023 Bologna

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL IN POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

I presented a seminar on the efficacy of our VR software (H.O.M.E) in treating depression and anxiety on a sample of young college students at the International Summer School in POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY: Understanding and Promoting Student Well-being and Resilience organized by the University of Bologna with the University of Pretoria.

25/05/2023 – 27/05/2023 Cagliari

Benessere psicologico, depressione e burnout negli operatori sanitari durante le pandemia. (Ruini C., Li Pira G., Cordella E. e Vescovelli F.), IV Congresso Nazionale Società Italiana di Psicologia della Salute

16/06/2023 – 17/06/2023 Torino

Tanatofobia e benessere psicologico negli operatori sanitari. (Ruini C., Colombo C., Li Pira G.); Giornate Nazionali di Psicologia Positiva XV Edizione

Saragoza, Spain

Congreso Nacional de Psicología Positiva

Poster presentation: Eficacia de H.O.M.E en el tratamiento de la angustia psicológica y la promoción del funcionamiento positivo. Li Pira y Ruini

● **ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS**

Organizational Skills from Multidisciplinary Research Collaboration

My engagement with diverse research groups and labs has sharpened crucial organizational abilities:

1. **Adaptability:** Flexibility in navigating different work cultures and methodologies.
2. **Time Management:** Precision in aligning schedules and meeting project deadlines.
3. **Clear Communication:** Articulating ideas effectively across diverse teams.
4. **Leadership:** Building teams and guiding collaborative efforts.
5. **Resource Optimization:** Maximizing available resources for project success.
6. **Conflict Resolution:** Navigating diverse viewpoints for constructive collaboration.

These experiences have equipped me to harmonize varied research environments, merge diverse perspectives, and steer cohesive efforts toward shared research objectives.