



# SILVIA ZANCHI

Date of birth: 27/12/1994

Nationality: Italian

*I am a Psychologist, with a strong interest in studying how humans perceive the world and how they interact with it. My neuroscientific background and research experience in multidisciplinary groups guide me into the investigation of spatial perception and sensory impairments.*



## Education and working experience

**July 2025-Present: Italian Institute of Technology, Genoa, Italy**

Senior technician at the Unit of Visually Impaired People

**July 2023-June 2025: Italian Institute of Technology, Genoa, Italy**

PostDoc at the Unit of Visually Impaired People

**February 2023-June 2023: Italian Institute of Technology, Genoa, Italy**

Ph.D. Student Fellow at the Unit of Visually Impaired People

**23 June 2023** - PhD in Bioengineering and Robotics with Excellence

Doctoral thesis: «Perceptual compasses: spatial navigation in multisensory environments»

**2019-January 2023: University of Genoa, Italy**

Ph.D. Student in Bioengineering and Robotics

**March 2022-July 2022, October 2022: Birkbeck, University of London, UK**

Visiting PhD student in the Vestibular Neuroscience Lab at Department of Psychological Sciences

**2018-2019: University of Turin, Italy**

Traineeship within the Cognition, Motion and Neuroscience (CMON) lab at the Italian Institute of Technology, Genova.

**2016-2018: University of Turin, Italy**

MSc in Body and Mind Sciences

110/110 cum laude

Final thesis in Psychology of action on: «Joint actions: kinematic analysis of a social interaction»

**2013-2016: University of Genoa, Italy**

BSc in Psychological Sciences and Techniques

110/110 cum laude

Final thesis in Psychometrics and Theory of the tests on: «Cognitive styles and sexual objectification»



## Doctoral courses (organized by University of Genoa)

Paper writing

Grant writing

Theatrical techniques for Scientific Presentation

Ethics and Bioethics in Bioengineering and Robotics

Advanced EEG analysis

Perceptual Systems

Psychophysics Methods

Research Oriented Structural and Functional Neuroimaging



## Awards

IRIS (Indicatore di Rendimento Interfacoltà Studenti) award (2015) for the best academic performance

Experimental Psychology Society Study Visiting Grant, 2022

Student sponsorship for participation in the 27th biennial ELGRA Symposium, 2022



## Skills

**Research:** Experimental design, programming (Matlab, R) , data analysis (R, SPSS, JASP, Matlab), user experience evaluation

**Behavioral methods:** Psychophysics, kinematics, motion, and balance platform

**(Neuro)physiological techniques:** basic use of TMS and EMG, basic use of EEG, Galvanic Vestibular Stimulation

## Live disseminations

Speaker and poster presenter in world-wide conferences:

| Conference  | Presentation modality                                      | Where                                  | When                         |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| Vestibular-Oriented Research Meeting                              | Poster   | Online                                 | 2021                         |
| Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society conference            | Oral presentation  | Online                                 | 2021                         |
| International Conference on Spatial Cognition                     | Talk   | Online                                 | 2021                         |
| Congresso Associazione Italiana di Psicologia – sez. Sperimentale | Symposium, mini-talk, talk, mini-talk, Symposium organizer | Online, Lecce, Padova, Lucca           | 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 |
| European Conference on Visual Perception                          | Poster, Talk   | Online, Nijmegen (NL)                  | 2021, 2022                   |
| International Multisensory Research Forum                         | Poster, Symposium  | Ulm (GER), Reno (NV, USA), Durham (UK) | 2022, 2024, 2025             |
| Experimental Psychology Society Meeting                           | Talk   | London (UK)                            | 2023                         |
| Vision Society  | Talk   | St Pete Beach (FL, USA)                | 2023                         |
| Cognitive Science Arena   | Talk   | Bressanone                             | 2025                         |



## Selected scientific publications

- **Zanchi, S.**, Cappagli, G., Gori, M., & Cuturi, L. F. (2025). Development of the Ability to Integrate Egocentric and Allocentric Coordinates in a Blindfolded Navigation Task. *Journal of Cognition and Development*, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15248372.2025.2560865>
- Montagnani, E. \*, **Zanchi, S. \***, & Gori, M. (2024). Exploring the role of Auditory Stimuli in Manipulating Center of Mass Sway. *Gait & Posture*, 113, 157.
- Shafique, S., Setti, W., Campus, C., **Zanchi, S.**, Del Bue, A., & Gori, M. (2024). How path integration abilities of blind people change in different exploration conditions. *Frontiers in Neuroscience*, 18, 1375225.
- **Zanchi, S.**, Cuturi, L. F., Sandini, G., Gori, M., & Ferrè, E. R. (2023). Spatial Sensory References for Vestibular Self-Motion Perception. *Multisensory Research*, 1(aop), 1-14.
- **Zanchi, S.**, Cuturi, L. F., Sandini, G., Gori, M., & Ferrè, E. R. (2023). "Vestibular contribution to spatial encoding", *European Journal of Neuroscience*.
- **Zanchi, S.**, Cuturi, L.F., Sandini G., Gori M. (2022a), "Interindividual differences influence multisensory processing during spatial navigation", *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*, 48(2), 174.
- **Zanchi, S.**, Cuturi, L.F., Sandini G., Gori M. (2022b), "How much I moved: Robust biases in the self-rotation perception", *Attention, Perception and Psychophysics*, 1-14.



## Teaching experience

2025 – Psychology traineeship tutor

2024, 2025 – 5 and 10 hours of Laboratory – "Teaching laboratory for visual disabilities" (DISFOR, Unige, Genoa, Italy)

2023, 2024, 2025 - Contribute to the teaching of 6 hours of classes of "Psychology of Perception and Action course" in Robotics Engineering (DIBRIS, Unige, Genoa)

From 2022 to present- Supervising first-year and second-year Ph.D. students

2022 - University tutor in Experimental and Statistical Methods in Psychology (DISFOR, Unige, Genoa, Italy)

2022 - University tutor in Psychometrics and Theory of the tests (DISFOR, Unige, Genoa, Italy)

From 2021 to present - «Cultore della materia» in Psychometrics and Theory of the tests (DISFOR, Unige, Genoa, Italy)



Theatre improv teacher

Beginner painter

Curiosity-driven



Italian (Mother tongue)

English (Advanced)

French (Basic)