

## Sofia Pelica | *Curriculum Vitae*

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### Education

#### PhD (Promovenda) in Social Psychology: Human Behaviour and Infectious Diseases

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands. May 2023 – Present.

Supervisor: Professor J.M. Tybur.

#### MSc in Social and Organizational Psychology

Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal. September 2020 – December 2022.

**Awarded Best Student by the Portuguese Government (DGES). Ranked in the top 0.01% of 14,000 students at Iscte for the 2021/2022 academic year.**

Grade: 19 out of 20. Highest-ranked student in this program's graduating class. Ranked first at the entrance of this program in 2020.

Research-based Thesis (graded 20 out of 20): *Adaptive Memory in Contamination Contexts: Emotionality as a Proximate Mechanism*. This research required electrocardiogram (ECG) and electrodermal activity (EDA) measures. The analysis was conducted autonomously using R and Python.

#### BSc in Psychology

Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal. September 2017 – June 2020.

Grade: 17 out of 20. Equivalent to *First-Class Honours* in the United Kingdom grading system.

Iscte is Portugal's leading university in Psychology, according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Most of the courses in this program had curricular components that required teamwork.

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### Publications

Ruggeri, K., Symone Tutuska, O., ..., **Pelica, S.**, ... & Ashcroft-Jones, S. (2023). The psychology and policy of overcoming economic inequality. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 46, e174. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X23001103>

Ruggeri, K., Ashcroft-Jones, S., ..., **Pelica, S.**, ... & Stock, F. (2023). The persistence of cognitive biases in financial decisions across economic groups. *Scientific Reports*, 13(1), 10329. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-36339-2>

**Pelica, S.**, Aguiar, T., Frade, S., Guerra, R. & Prada, M. (2024). Are you what you emoji? How skin tone emojis and profile pictures shape attention and social inference processing. *Telematics and Informatics*, 95, 102207. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tele.2024.102207>

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### Research Experience

#### jSchool Organizing Team Member

Junior Researcher Programme (JRP) partnered with Columbia University and the University of Cambridge. December 2022 – Present, United Kingdom.

#### Visiting Researcher

Policy Research Group, University of Cambridge. August 2024, United Kingdom.

Project: People in 25 countries prefer to control their own online environments rather governments.

- Primarily responsible for data preprocessing and codification in Qualtrics. Assisted with analysis and project administration.
- Oriented Bachelor and Master's students during the project in writing R code for analysis and preprocessing.
- Recruited more than 500 volunteers from the Portuguese population.

**Junior Researcher, Project Manager**

JRP. July 2021 – December 2022, United Kingdom.

Project: *Does Tax Choice Increase Tax Compliance? A Cross-Cultural Study.*

- Recruited more than 460 volunteers from the Portuguese population.
- Conducted data cleaning and wrangling with R.
- Contributed to the writing of the research paper.
- Applied Open Science practices.

**Graduate Research Assistant**

CIS – Center for Psychological Research and Social Intervention. May 2022 – October 2022, Portugal.

- Conducted more than 90 semi-structured interviews with children between 3 and 5 years old in an intervention project related to emotion regulation.

**Project Collaborator, Team Manager**

JDMLab – Judgement and Decision-Making Lab. April 2022 – September 2022, Italy.

- Translated and implemented the Mental Accounting scale into Qualtrics as part of an international project.
- Elaborated JavaScript code for Qualtrics.
- Managed the team representing Portugal and recruited more than 90 volunteers from this population.

**Research Intern**

JRP. July 2022 – August 2022, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.

First Project: *The psychology and policy of overcoming economic inequality.*

Second Project: *Poor but not by choice(s): The persistence of cognitive biases across economic groups.*

- Recruited more than 350 volunteers from the Portuguese population.
- Conducted R analysis and data wrangling.
- Contributed to the writing of the research papers.
- Worked with a multinational, multidisciplinary team.
- Applied Open Science practices.

**Curricular Research Intern**

LAPSO – Laboratory of Social and Organizational Psychology. September 2021 – May 2022, Portugal.

Project: *What can an Emoji tell me? An eye-tracking study about inferring processes regarding social identity.*

- Worked on a research project as the first author.
- Collected and analysed data from ECG, EDA, and Eye tracking.
- Applied Open Science practices.

**Graduate Research Assistant**

CICANT – Center for Research in Applied Communication, Culture, and New Technologies.

September 2021 – September 2022, Portugal.

Project: *Love-Hate: interactions between social media users and influencers in hyperconnected times.*

- Conducted a literature review about cyberbullying.
- Analysed quantitative and qualitative data with SPSS and MAXQDA.

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**

CIS – Center for Psychological Research and Social Intervention. April 2019 – December 2019, Portugal.

- Collected data from ECG and EDA in the survival processing paradigm.

- Managed lab sessions and collected behavioural data through collaborative memory tasks.

**Teaching experience**

PsychoPy for Online Studies (2022). Workshop for an international audience at LAPSO, Portugal.

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## Communication experience

**International Convention of Psychological Science (2023)**, Association for Psychological Science, Belgium.  
**Pelica, S.**, Garrido, M., Saraiva, M., & Pandeirada, J. (March 9–11, 2023). *Adaptive Memory in Contamination Context: Emotionality as a Proximate Mechanism*. [Poster presentation].

**JRP Conference (2022)**, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.  
 Silvia, F., Mariani\*, S., Mitra\*, M. L., **Pelica\*, S.**, Pyrkowski\*, M., Toma\*, S. (August 19–20, 2022). *Does Tax Choice Increase Tax Compliance? A Cross-Cultural Study*. [Conference presentation]. \* Shared position.

**XI National Symposium on Research in Psychology (2022)**, UTAD – University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Portugal.  
**Pelica\*, S.**, Aguiar\*, T., Frade, S., Guerra, R., & Prada, M. (June 20–22, 2022). *The Role of Skin-Tone Emojis in Impression Formation*. [Conference presentation]. \* Shared position.

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## Skills

### Computational Skills

*Programming Languages:* R, Python, minimal JavaScript, minimal Matlab.

*Computational Tools & Software:* RStudio, ShinyApp, Jupyter Lab, PsychoPy, Git, Qualtrics, SPSS, JASP, Jamovi.

### Statistical Skills

Analysis of variance (e.g., general linear models for fixed factors, repeated measures, multivariate analysis of variance), bootstrapped t-test, equivalence tests, cluster analysis (K-Means clustering, DBSCAN), correlation, distribution fitting, multivariate analysis (e.g., principal component analysis, factor analysis), multilevel model and regression (e.g., multiple regression, mediation analysis, mixed-effect model, meta-regression), and power and sample size analysis.

### Other Skills

*Painting:* 4 years of training in fine arts.

*Film:* 2 years of work experience as an assistant director.

*Customer service:* +1 year of work experience as a waitress.

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## Additional Training

- Multilevel Analysis in R, FLAMES Summer School at Hasselt University.
  - Power and Sample Size for Multilevel and Longitudinal Study Designs, University of Florida.
  - Introduction to Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis, Johns Hopkins University.
  - Introduction to EEG: acquisition, processing, and analysis of the EEG signal, LAPSO.
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## Community Engagement

**Volunteer at the International Convention of Psychological Science (2023)**. Association for Psychological Science.

**Volunteer at the XVII Ph.D. Meeting in Psychology (2022)**. Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon.

**Member of the Pedagogical Commission (2017 – 2020)**. Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon.

**Class Representative (2017 – 2019)**. Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon.