

Alessandro “Ollie” D’Amico

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Awards and Fellowships

2025-2026	University of California President’s Dissertation Year Fellowship
2022-2024	Halicioğlu Data Science Institute Data Planet Fellowship
2022-2025	Sanford Institute for Empathy and Compassion Fellowship
2020-2025	San Diego Fellowship

Education

2020-2026	<u>Ph.D. Cognitive Science</u> UC San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA <i>Primary Advisor:</i> Virginia de Sa, Ph.D. <i>Secondary Advisors:</i> Marta Kutas, Ph.D. & Seana Coulson, Ph.D. <i>Advanced to Candidacy:</i> 20 October 2022 <i>Expected Graduation:</i> June 2026
2016-2018	<u>B.S. Cognitive Science with Specialization in Computation</u> UC San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA
2013-2016	<u>A.S. Chemistry (<i>not conferred</i>)</u> Grossmont College, El Cajon, California, USA

Research Experience

2024-2025	Chief Science Officer BCI Buddy
2020-2026	Doctoral Candidate / Doctoral Student (2020-2022) / Graduate Student Researcher de Sa Lab, Department of Cognitive Science University of California, San Diego Advisor: Virginia de Sa, Ph.D.
2018-2020	Project Coordinator / Lab Assistant (<i>January 2018 - September 2020</i>) de Sa Lab, Department of Cognitive Science & Halicioğlu Data Science Institute University of California, San Diego Supervisor: Virginia de Sa, Ph.D.
2015-2019	Project Coordinator / Research Assistant (<i>May 2015 - August 2019</i>) Center for Understanding and Treating Anxiety, Department of Psychology San Diego State University Supervisor: Nader Amir, Ph.D.

Teaching Experience

Course Development

- 2024 COGS 179: Electrophysiology of Cognition (Spring)
Department of Cognitive Science, UC San Diego
Created and deployed hands-on EEG lab for the course, supported by CDIIP & HDSI grants
- 2023 COGS 189: Brain Computer Interfaces (Winter)
Department of Cognitive Science, UC San Diego
Prototyped hands-on EEG lab for the course, supported by Department of Cognitive Science

Associate-In (Instructor of Record)

- 2025 COGS 189: Brain Computer Interfaces (Summer sessions 1 and 2)
Department of Cognitive Science, UC San Diego
- 2023 COGS 189: Brain Computer Interfaces (Winter)
Department of Cognitive Science, UC San Diego
(<https://github.com/desa-lab/cogs189wi23>)
(recorded lectures can be found on [YouTube](#))

Teaching Assistant

- 2025 COGS 108: Data Science in Practice (Spring, Prof. Jason Fleischer)
Department of Cognitive Science, UC San Diego
(<https://github.com/COGS108/Overview>)
- 2022 COGS 189: Brain Computer Interfaces (Winter, Prof. Virginia de Sa)
Department of Cognitive Science, UC San Diego
(Lectures hosted on YouTube)
(<https://github.com/desa-lab/cogs189wi22>)
- 2021 COGS 109: Modeling and Data Analysis (Spring, Prof. Eran Mukamel)
Department of Cognitive Science, UC San Diego
- 2021 COGS 189: Brain Computer Interfaces (Winter, Prof. Virginia de Sa)
Department of Cognitive Science, UC San Diego
(<https://github.com/desa-lab/cogs189wi21>)
- 2020 COGS 189: Brain Computer Interfaces (Winter, Prof. Virginia de Sa)
Department of Cognitive Science, UC San Diego
(<https://github.com/cogs189wi20/cogs189wi20>)
- 2019 COGS 189: Brain Computer Interfaces (Winter, Prof. Virginia de Sa)
Department of Cognitive Science, UC San Diego
(<https://github.com/cogs189wi19/cogs189wi19>)
- 2020-2026 Department of Cognitive Science Methods Training Assistant

Guest Lectures and Workshops Hosted

2025	COGS 108: Data Science in Practice; discussant on LLMs (Spring)
2025	UC Love Data Week (Winter)
2024	CogSci Ph.D. Bootcamp; Scientific Programming Workshop (Summer)
2023	CogSci Methods Training Assistant Workshop: Microcontrollers (Spring)
2023	Triton Neurotech EEG/P300 Collection Workshop (Winter)
2023	CogSci Ph.D. Bootcamp; Scientific Programming Workshop (Summer)
2022	Forefront of Neurotech Research (Fall)
2022	Triton Neurotech Neuroscience Workshop (Summer)
2022	CogSci Ph.D. Bootcamp; Scientific Programming Workshop (Summer)
2021	Forefront of Neurotech Research (Spring)
2021	CogSci Ph.D. Bootcamp; Scientific Programming Workshop (Summer)
2020	COGS 189: Brain Computer Interfaces (Winter, Prof. Virginia de Sa)
2019	COGS 179: Electrophysiology of Cognition (Fall, Prof. Seana Coulson)
2019	COGS 189: Brain Computer Interfaces (Winter, Prof. Virginia de Sa)

Grants Submitted (received in bold, pending in italics)

2025	<i>Sony Faculty Innovation Award</i>
2025	University of California President's Dissertation Year Fellowship
2023	CDIIP Course Development (COGS 179L/189L)
2022	HDSI Data Planet Fellowship
2022	Sony Faculty Innovation Award
2022	MathWorks Microgrant
2022	Microsoft Fellowship (UCSD nominee)
2022	Sanford Center for Empathy and Technology Seed Grant (EEG + Empathy)
2022	CDIIP Course Development (COGS 189L)
2022	Kavli Institute for Brain & Mind Innovative Research Grant

2021	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
2021	Sony Research Award Program
2021	Sanford Center for Empathy and Technology Seed Grant (EEG + Racial Empathy)
2021	CDIIP Course Development (COGS 89)
2021	Kavli Institute for Brain & Mind Innovative Research Grant
2020	Sanford Center for Empathy and Technology Seed Grant (CV + Pain)
2020	Sanford Center for Empathy and Technology Seed Grant (EEG + Racial Empathy)
2020	Sanford Center for Empathy and Compassion (EEG + Racial Empathy)

Publications

In Review

- 2025 **D'Amico, A.**, de Sa, V. R. (Pre-print released in February)
 Are Low-Cost EEG Systems Viable for Scaling Cognitive Neuroscience Research?. After a rejection from the *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, we are reworking the manuscript for submission to *NeuroImage*. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/udzy4_v1

Published

- 2024 **D'Amico, A. & Rizq, C.**, Truel, A. & Faybishenko, J., Suk Lee, M., Kim, J-H., Cauwenberghs, G. & de Sa, V. R. (July)
 Development and Characterization of Zinc Dry Electrodes for Wearable Electrophysiology. In *2024 46th Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society (EMBC)*.
- 2022 **D'Amico, A.**, de Sa, V. R. (July)
 Set Size Effects on the P3b in a BCI Speller. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (Vol. 44, No. 44, 3608-3614).
- 2021 **D'Amico, A.**, de Sa, V. R. (June)
 Parallel Spelling using P300 and Feedback Response. Poster presented at the 2021 meeting of the *BCI Society*, Virtual.
- 2019 **D'Amico, A.**, Ma, T., Wu, Z., de Sa, V. R. (December)
 Spelling in Parallel: A P300 and Feedback Based Approach. Poster presented at the 2019 *IEEE EMBS Symposium and Workshop*, San Diego, CA.
- 2019 Amir, N., **D'Amico, A.**, Meissel, E. (July)

Discussant. In Jeremy Pettit (Chair) Recent Developments in Attention Biases and Attention Bias Modification in Pediatric Anxiety. Symposium conducted at the 2019 9th *World Congress of Behavioural & Cognitive Therapies*, Berlin, DE

- 2018 Meissel, E., **D'Amico, A.**, McGhie, S., Montero, M., Amir, N. (April)
Specificity of an Adaptive Attention Control and Attention Bias Modification in Reducing Error Related Negativity. Symposium conducted at the 2018 Annual Convention for the *Anxiety and Depression Association of America*, Washington, D.C.
- 2018 McGhie, S., Meissel, E., **D'Amico, A.**, Amir, N. (April)
Examining the Relationship Between ERN in Adolescents and Their Mothers. Poster presented at the 2018 annual convention for the *Anxiety and Depression Association of America*, Washington, D.C.
- 2018 Nhan, L., Higgins, M., McGhie, S., **D'Amico, A.**, Meissel, E., Amir, N. (March).
Examining the Relationship Between Feedback Negativity and Depression using Time-Frequency Analysis. Poster presented at the 2018 annual Student Research Symposium, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA.
- 2017 Amir, N., Shyrock, I., **D'Amico, A.** (November)
Application of Novel Processing Stream to Tradition Probe Detection Task: Reliability and Validity in Clinical Practice. In N. Amir (Chair) Toward the Clinical Application of Cognitive Bias Modification: Addressing the Psychometric Properties of Measure. Symposium conducted at the 2017 Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, San Diego, CA.
- 2017 **D'Amico, A.**, Amir, N. (November)
Obtaining Single Trial Biomarkers for the Online Assessment and Modification of Threat Sensitivity as Treatment of Anxiety Disorders. Poster presented at the 2017 Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, San Diego, CA.
- 2017 **D'Amico, A.**, McGhie, S., Coronado, C., Wermes, R., Amir, N. (April)
Online Assessment and Modification of Threat Sensitivity as Treatment of Anxiety Disorders. Poster presented at the 2017 annual conference of Anxiety and Depression Association of America, San Francisco, CA.
- 2016 Amir, N., Carmona, A.R., McGhie, S., Montero, M., **D'Amico, A.**, Brown, I. (October)
Training attention toward positive information: Effects on Feedback Negativity. In N. Amir (Chair) Neuromarkers and Neuromodulation of Attention Bias Modification. Symposium conducted at the 2016 Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, New York, NY.
- 2016 McGhie, S., **D'Amico, A.**, Coronado, C., Amir, N. (October)
A Machine Learning Approach to Processing Errors. Poster presented at the 2016 annual convention for the *Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies*, New York, NY.

Demonstrations and Science Outreach

- 2025 Cognition at the Shore (November)
Presentation on the technological utility of knots and rope across ancient and contemporary cultures. San Diego, CA, USA
- 2024 Cognition at the Shore (May)
Presented on the origins, ubiquity, and research viability of games to the thrice annual colloquial series put on by the department of Cognitive Science at UCSD. San Diego, CA, USA
- 2023 PsychoPy Contributor Code Sprint (July)
Met with the creators of PsychoPy and other contributors to work on features for PsychoPy and PsychJS. I had previously contributed upgrades to one of the text rendering systems and went to the meet-up with the intent to continue. Nottingham, UK
- 2023 MathWorks Research & Curriculum Micro Symposium (May)
I worked on a project for MathWorks that explored interfacing between MATLAB and other languages. This project was motivated for teaching EEG processing. I presented my work which can be found [here](#). San Diego, CA, USA
- 2022 Triton Neurotech Banquet (May)
Demonstrated data collection pipeline of a novel EMG armband system utilizing penny electrodes and the OpenBCI Cyton. I am a graduate advisor of this organization and a project lead. The goal is to promote neurotechnology to the wide and diverse student body. San Diego, CA, USA
- 2019 最强大脑 “Superbrain” 2019 (March)
International competitor in China’s most popular TV show which is a battle of the brains. The primary purpose of this show is to promote math and science to the general population. Nanjing, CN
- 2018 Contextual Robotics Institute Forum: Healthcare Robotics (November)
Using a Brain Computer Interface to articulate a simple robot using alpha waves. Similar frameworks could be used to create neuroprosthetics and other useful tools. San Diego, CA, USA.
- 2018 9th Grade General Science, High Tech High Linda Vista (November)
Gave a lecture on introductory neuropsychology, specifically neuroimaging, focusing on fMRI, MEG and EEG. San Diego, CA, USA.
- 2018 Ed-Funders Conference (October)
Live demonstration of a Brain Computer Interface capable of being utilized for relaxation and concentration classification in order to facilitate more productive learning. San Diego, CA, USA.

Students Mentored

2025	Artemis Lopez
2024-2025	Joshua Caneday
2024-2026	Emma Chen
2023-2025	Cassia Rizq → <i>Electrical Engineer at Magic Leap</i>
2023-2024	Milka Waniak → <i>Ph.D. program at Stanford</i>
2023-2024	Aidan Truel → <i>Master's program at Universität Zürich</i>
2023-2024	Joelle Faybishenko → <i>Master's program at Universität Zürich</i>
2023	Yu-hsuan "Philip" Chi → <i>Master's program at UCSD</i>
2022-2023	Teng "Simon" Fei → <i>Ph.D. program at UCSD</i>
2021	Linfeng Hu
2021-2022	Colin Wageman
2020-2021	Xinmeng "Hermione" Xu → <i>Master's program at Duke</i>
2019-2020	Tianyu Ma → <i>Master's program at USC</i>
2019-2020	Zhijian Wu
2019-2021	Geeling Chau → <i>Ph.D. program at Caltech</i>
2019-2020	Ahmed Abdalsattar
2019	Zhengyu "George" Wu

Computational and Technical Skills

Languages	Python, GDScript, MATLAB, C, R, Object Pascal
Frameworks	ezbci (self-written EEG processing library), LSL, MNE, EEGLAB, ERPLAB, PsychoPy, Arduino
Other	Godot (game engine), OpenSCAD, Ableton Live, Audacity
GitHub	https://github.com/ollie-d
Thingiverse	https://www.thingiverse.com/ollie_d/designs
itch.io	https://ollie-d.itch.io