

Roberta Cessa

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A driven and enthusiastic second year PhD student in Psychological Sciences with a keen interest in psychophysics and the contribution of visual perceptual abnormalities to diagnosis and characterization of psychosis.

Education

PhD Student in Psychological Sciences

October 2023 – present

Bertamini Visual Perception Lab, University of Padua, Padua, Italy

- Implementing psychophysical experiments using programming languages and tools such as Python, PsychoPy, HTML, JavaScript and CSS.
- Conducting both lab-based and online experiments (Jatos, Prolific, Pavlovio).
- Tracking eye movements with eye-tracking systems (EyeLink and Gazepoint).
- Performing advanced data analysis using R Studio.
- Large presentation and dissemination activity.
- **March 2024:** visiting period at the Laboratory of Psychophysics (LPSY), École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), under the supervision of Professor Michael Herzog.
- **November 2025 – present:** Visiting period at the Vision and Psychosis Lab, University of Rochester (Rochester, NY, USA), under the supervision of Prof. Brian Keane, sponsored by the Fulbright Visiting Student Researcher Program for Italian researchers

Master of Science in Cognitive Neuroscience and Clinical Neuropsychology

October 2021 – September 2023

University of Padua, Padua, Italy

- **GPA** 4.0
- **Thesis:** Comparing crowding and foveal feedback mechanisms using a Vernier task
- **Honors:** Graduated with honors (110 *cum laude*/110)

Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Psychology and Psychobiology

October 2018 – July 2021

University of Padua, Padua, Italy

- **GPA** 3.93
- **Thesis:** Feedback signal to foveal cortex for peripheral object recognition
- **Honors:** Graduated with honors (110 *cum laude*/110)

Teaching and tutoring experiences

Teaching assistantship in the English-taught undergraduate course of Basic Concepts of Psychology (Module A and Module B)

October 2024 – February 2025

Department of General Psychology, University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Delivered weekly interactive lectures with live demonstrations and data analysis, managed student communications and exam materials, and supervised lab work and presentations, totaling 30 hours of teaching per semester.

Tutor Buddy for international PhD students

[October 2024 – present](#)

University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Helping non-Italian PhD students in Padova adjust to the new country by assisting them with issues concerning residency permit and visa, bank accounts, housing, and healthcare.

Informative-teaching tutor of the School of Psychology

[October 2022 – September 2024](#)

University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Supported first-year and international psychology students by providing academic guidance, organizing seminars, and assisting with study resources, course planning, and understanding the Italian university system.

Freelance English teacher

[Occasional work since August 2022](#)

Online

Offering tailored English lessons to Italian speakers, with an emphasis on conversational skills and oral production, while also addressing grammar topics as needed.

Tutor Buddy for international students

[September 2021 – February 2022](#)

University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Provided ongoing support to international students in Padua, assisting with administrative, immigration, and healthcare procedures to help them adjust to university life.

Research training and scientific affiliations

Research intern at the Laboratory of psychophysics (LPSY)

[August 2022 – October 2022](#)

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

Designed and led a Master's project on low-level vision mechanisms (crowding and foveal feedback), independently managing data collection with over 40 participants using eye-tracking and behavioral tasks, and gained proficiency in EEG setup and testing.

Undergraduate research intern at the Visual Perception Lab

[December 2020 – May 2021](#)

University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Designed and ran a psychophysical experiment on peripheral vision using PsychoPy and JATOS, contributing to participant recruitment, data interpretation, and manuscript preparation.

Student member of the Consortium for Vision and Oculomics in Psychiatry (CVOP)

[Since April 2024](#)

Ambassador of MyPhDMentor in Padova

[Since September 2025](#)

PhD Student Representative on the Department and Executive Board

Prized and awards

- **Fulbright Visiting Student Researcher** – Awardee of one of the five annual Fulbright scholarships for Italian researchers, funding a research period at the University of Rochester (USA, Nov 2025 – Jun 2026).
- **INPS Scholarship** – “Scholarships reserved for university degree courses and postgraduate specialization courses” – Issued by the Italian government for the academic year 2022/2023.
- **INPS Scholarship** – “Scholarships reserved for university degree courses and postgraduate specialization courses” – Issued by the Italian government for the academic year 2021/2022.

Scientific publications and conference presentations

Peer-reviewed papers and pre-registered reports

1. Contemori, G., Oletto, C. M., **Cessa, R.**, Marini, E., Ronconi, L., Battaglini, L., & Bertamini, M. (2022). Investigating the role of the foveal cortex in peripheral object discrimination. *Scientific reports*, 12(1), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-23720-w>
2. Oletto, C.M., Contemori, G., Battaglini, L., **Cessa, R.**, and Bertamini, M. (2024). Disrupting foveal cortex impairs shape discrimination of peripheral low-level stimuli. *Under review in Helyion*
3. **Cessa, R.**, Contemori, G., Battaglini, L., Cenk, E., & Bertamini, M. (2025). Stochastic resonance and internal noise in schizotypal traits: a random dot kinematograms paradigm. In principle acceptance of Version 2 by Peer Community in Registered Reports. <https://osf.io/nvydj>
4. **Cessa, R.**, Ghiani, A., Cenk, E., & Bertamini, M. (2025). Systematic review of perceptual organization in schizophrenia and schizotypy: A focus on contour integration, perceptual binding and figure-ground segmentation. *Under review in Schizophrenia Research*
5. Morea, M., **Cessa, R.**, Herzog, M., & Bertamini, M. Delayed Foveal and Parafoveal Masks Disrupt Peripheral Target Processing. *Under review in Cognition*

Oral and poster presentations

1. Gelao, M., **Cessa, R.**, Gora, B., Demirkapi, D., Battaglini, L., Contemori, G., & Bertamini, M. (2025, October 2–4). Symmetry perception deficits in schizotypy: Evidence for early disruption in visual regularity processing. Paper presented at the Behavioural Neuroscience Conference, Agropoli, Italy. Talk
2. Badurova, L., Moro, C., **Cessa, R.**, Morea, M., Herzog, M., & Bertamini, M. (2025, October 2–4). Spatial precision of foveal feedback in peripheral discrimination with varying flankers' distances. Behavioural Neuroscience Conference; Agropoli, Italy. Poster.
3. **Cessa, R.**, Gora, B., Demirkapi, D., Gelao, M., Battaglini, L., Contemori, G., & Bertamini, M. (2025, August 24–29). *Modulation of symmetry perception by schizotypal traits: Evidence for stochastic resonance*. European Conference on Visual Perception (ECVP); Mainz, Germany. Poster.
4. **Cessa, R.**, Morea, M., Herzog, M., Bertamini, M. (2024, August 25-29). Foveal feedback effects in an offset discrimination task with flanker interference. European Conference on Visual Perception (ECVP); Aberdeen, Scotland. Poster
5. **Cessa, R.**, Morea, M., Herzog, M., Bertamini, M. (2023, November 17-18). Comparing Crowding and Foveal Feedback mechanisms using a Vernier task. Padova Open Neuroscience Symposium 2023 (PONS); Padova, Italy. Poster
6. Morea, M., **Cessa, R.**, Herzog, M., Bertamini, M. (2023, May 19-24). Delayed foveal noise affects performance in a vernier offset discrimination task. Vision Science Society (VSS). St. Pete's Beach, Florida. Poster <https://doi.org/10.1167/jov.23.9.4745>
7. Contemori, G., Oletto, C. M., **Cessa, R.**, & Bertamini, M. (2022, September 27-30). Investigating role and timing of foveal retinotopic cortex in peripheral discrimination: a psychophysical study. XXX Congresso dell'Associazione Italiana di Psicologia (AIP). Padova, Italy. Talk
8. Oletto, C.M, **Cessa, R.**, Battaglini, L. (2022, September 27-30). Foveal retinotopic cortex in peripheral non-shape discrimination tasks: comparing magno and parvocellular system. XXX Congresso dell'Associazione Italiana di Psicologia (AIP), Padova, Italy. Mini talk

9. Contemori, G., Oletto, C.M., **Cessa, R.**, Battaglini, L., and Bertamini, M. (2022, August 28 – September 1). Foveal feedback and the discrimination of peripheral objects: timing and role. ECPV 2022, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. Talk <https://doi.org/10.1177/03010066221141167>
10. Oletto, C.M., Contemori, G., Battaglini, L., **Cessa, R.**, and Bertamini, M. (2022, August 28 – September 1). Foveal Feedback is Specific to the Parvocellular System but not to Shape Related Tasks. ECPV 2022, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. *Poster* <https://doi.org/10.1177/03010066221141167>

Skills

Programming



Supervising students in research



Academic writing



Data analysis



Behavioral data collection



Research project design



- English language (IELTS 8.0)
- Interpersonal communication
- Adaptability to new environments
- Mentoring and students guidance
- International mediation
- Managing diverse and multi-disciplinary projects

November 14, 2025