

SEBASTIAN DERI

sebastian.der@gmail.com | sebastianderi.com

Education & Standardized Testing

Bachelor of Science, May 2013

Cornell University, ILR School,
Interdisciplinary Training in: *Psych., Econ., Soc., Stats.*
Minor: *Law & Society*
Highest Honors, Graduated 3rd in Class (GPA: 4.09)

Master of Science, May 2016

Cornell University, ILR School
Concentration: *Organizational Behavior*,
Minor: *Cognitive Studies*
(GPA: 4.04)

Doctorate of Philosophy, May 2020 (expected)

Cornell University
Arts & Sciences, Discipline: *Psychology*
Minor: *Information Science*
Committee: Tom Gilovich, Michael Macy,
Melissa Ferguson, Khena Swallow

GRE October 2015

170/170 Verbal (99th percentile)
166/170 Quantitative (92nd percentile)
5.5/6 Analytical Writing (98th percentile)

Work Experience

Quantitative UX Researcher, Facebook (Menlo Park, CA) June to September 2018

- *Conducted research on mobile app, and user well-being*
- *Designed, launched, and analyzed multinational survey of 14,000+ FB users in US, India, Indonesia, Brazil, Japan, Nigeria, France*
- *Custom SQL queries (& completed Intro+Intermediate SQL training)*
- *Received return offer at the end of internship*

Data Science Research Intern, Nokia Bell Labs (Cambridge UK) June to September 2017

- *Worked in computational social science group (led by Daniele Quercia, Luca Aiello, and Miriam Redi (now at Wikimedia))*
- *Doing research on three main projects:*
 - *hybrid human-computer lie detection*
 - *categorizing online social relationships*
 - *using social media images to predict emotion & well-being*

Ongoing Research Projects

- Human-Computer Hybrid Lie Detection
 - Leading research project on text-based lie detection—comparing human v. NLP & machine learning lie detection methods. Also examining combined human + computer methods (i.e. “hybrid lie detection”)
 - Project in collaboration with Daniele Quercia and Luca Aiello from Nokia Bell Labs (Cambridge, UK) and Eva Sharma (Georgia Tech and Northeastern University)
- “Turing Test for Kids”
 - Developed exhibit prototype for Ithaca Sciencecenter. Exhibit was a “Turing Test” for kids, whereby kids speak to giant “robot” through telephone-like receiver. Responses either given by chatbot or human (always through text-to-speech device), and children have to guess whether they are speaking to “human” or “robot”/“computer”
- Political Polarization Cascades (NSF Grant Project)
 - Ongoing research project, using experimental methods to examine the existence of “political influence cascades”—whereby arbitrary first-movers exert a disproportionate affect on political opinions of like-minded political followers (i.e. Republicans to Republicans and Democrats to Democrats), and whether this might not be related to political polarization

Published Papers

Davidai, S., & Deri, S. (2019). The second pugilist’s plight: Why people believe they are above average, but are not especially happy about it. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. (Accepted)

Deri, S., Stein, D., & Bohns, V. (2019). With a little help from my friends (and strangers): Closeness as a moderator of the underestimation-of-compliance effect. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*. 82, 6-15.

Deri, S., Rappaz, J., Aiello, L., Quercia, D. (2018) Coloring in the Links: Capturing Social Ties as They are Perceived. *Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing*. 2; 43.

Deri, S., Davidai, S., & Gilovich, T. (2017). Home alone: Why people believe others’ social lives are richer than their own. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 113(6), 858.

Deri, S., & Zitek, E. M. (2017). Did You Reject Me for Someone Else? Rejections That Are Comparative Feel Worse. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 43(12), 1675-1685.

Presentations

- Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Annual Convention, 2019
Speaker at Social Comparisons in the 21st Century: New Questions, New Insights (other presenters: Shai Davidai, Ashley Whillans, David Levari) February 2019
(upcoming)
Portland, OR
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Annual Convention, 2018
Chair of Symposium on Computational Social Psychology (presenters: Michal Koslinski, Morteza Dehghani, Daniele Querica, Sebastian Deri) March 2018
Atlanta, GA
- Psychology of Technology Conference
Presenting research on social comparison attitudes from social media November 2017
Berkeley, CA
- CODE@MIT 2017 (Conference on Digital Experimentation)
Two min. data-blitz talk on human, computer, & hybrid (human-computer) judgments of deception October 2017
Cambridge, MA
- Nokia Bell Labs, Summer Spritz Pecha Kuna Talk Series
Gave a talk on interdisciplinary project between social scientists and computer scientists, examining computer-aided decision making and building web-based platforms to infer offline July & August 2017
Cambridge, UK
- Five Colleges Conference, Annual Conference
Gave talk on research about people's relative assessments of their social lives at Five Colleges Conference (local social psychology conference among: Yale, NYU, Princeton, Cornell, and Columbia) May 2017
New York, NY
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Annual Convention
Presented research demonstrating that while people believe they are above average, they do not consider the average person a relevant standard of comparison (rather they hold themselves to a higher bar) January 2017
San Antonio, TX
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Annual Convention
Presented poster at Judgment and Decision Making pre-conference on collaborative work with Tom Gilovich and Shai Davidai on self-other differences in perceptions of our own and others' social lives January 2016
San Diego, CA
- Association for Psychological Science, 27th Annual Convention
Presented poster summarizing research with Professor Zitek on the effect of different types of rejection May 2015
New York, NY
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology, 15th Annual Convention, 2014
Poster summarizing results of Senior Honors Thesis accepted to general conference ("Divine Inhibition: How Thoughts of God Stifle Creativity") February 2014
Austin, TX
- Academy of Management, Annual Meeting
Gave talk on Senior Honors Thesis at symposium on Social Deviance (Symposium Title: "To Conform or Deviate"), talk related to creativity and religion (Senior Honors Thesis) August 2014
Philadelphia, PA

Awards

NSF Research Grant (2 years; \$335,000) <i>Co-wrote grant with Professor Michael Macy, and sociology and information science graduate students Alex Ruch, and Natalie Tong, proposing experiment to examine whether political polarization are in part caused by arbitrary preference cascades (proposal# 1756822)</i>	March 2018
SPSP Travel Grant (\$500)	September 2017
Department of Defense NDSEG Fellowship (\$38,000 x 4 years + tuition) <i>National graduate fellowship awarded by Department of Defense, to U.S. citizens to encourage training in science and engineering disciplines (award rate: < 6% of applicants)</i>	April 2017
Cornell University Sage Fellowship (\$30,000 x 2 years + tuition)	April 2016
Full scholarship for PhD in psychology (stipend x 5 years + tuition) <i>Cornell University, Yale University, Princeton University, Columbia University, University of Chicago (Behavioral Science), University of Michigan, University of Virginia</i>	Spring 2016
Cornell Graduate School & ILR School Travel Grant (\$500)	Fall: 2014, 2016, 2017
Martin T. Wells Social Statistics Summer Fellowship (\$3,200)	Summer 2011
Cornell Daily Sun, Best New Columnist Award	Spring 2011
National AP Scholar	Spring 2009

Service & Community Engagement

<i>Program Committee (i.e. reviewer),</i> The Web Conference, Track: Web & Society	May 2019 (upcoming) San Francisco, CA
<i>Program Committee (i.e. reviewer),</i> European Symposium Series on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science, Topic: Bias and Discrimination	December 2018 Cologne, Germany
<i>Moderator,</i> Professional Development Session on New Methods (“Crisis or Opportunity? Student Perspectives on Evolving Methodological Standards” at Annual SPSP 2018	Spring 2018 Atlanta, GA
<i>Chair,</i> Symposium (“Computational Social Psychology: Old Question, New Methods”) at Annual SPSP 2018	Spring 2018 Atlanta, GA
<i>Program Committee (i.e. reviewer),</i> European Symposium Series on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science, Topic: Inequality and Imbalance	Fall 2017 London, UK
<i>Organizer (Assistant),</i> Five Colleges Conference, 2017	Spring 2017 New York, NY
<i>Co-Chair,</i> Cornell Psychology Dept. Social Activities Committee (Ithaca, NY)	Fall 2016 Ithaca, New York

Teaching Experience

Organizational Behavior

Fall 2014; Spring 2015

(TA under Professors Emily Zitek, and Olga Khessina)

Taught 50 minute sections once a week for entire semester, led discussions on case studies, and various topics such as social conformity, motivation and cognitive biases; Fall semester overall teaching quality rating: 4.5/5; Spring semester overall teaching quality rating: 4.6/5

Social Psychology

Summer 2013

(TA under Professor Tom Gilovich)

Taught 50 minute section 5 times a week for intensive 4 week summer course. Was given the freedom to develop my own syllabus for the part of the course that I taught (the syllabus I developed included hands on demonstrations such as Wason's "Guess the Rule", and interactive demonstrations of psychological phenomena like overconfidence or illusory correlations; Rated 6.7/7 on overall teaching quality, and on an anonymous feedback form 100% of students in my section said they would select me again as their TA

Statistics

Fall 2012

(TA under Professor Paul Velleman)

Was a TA for the first part of the semester. Led 50 minute discussions every week on introductory statistical topics. Graded homeworks and statistical analyses assignments

Skills (Programming Languages, Statistical Software, Research Packages)

- R (Intermediate to Advanced, depending on topic)
 - particularly familiar with: ggplot + "tidyverse"
- PHP (Intermediate)
- HTML (Intermediate)
- CSS (Above Novice)
- SQL (Intermediate)
- Python (Novice, but familiar)
- SPSS (Advanced)
- Java (Intermediate, but out of practice)
- MATLAB (Novice, and out of practice)
- Experimental Psychology Specific Software
 - Qualtrics (Advanced)
 - Amazon MTurk (Advanced)
 - TurkPrime (Advanced)
 - Figure Eight (formerly "CrowdFlower") (Intermediate)
 - Medialab (Novice)
 - DirectRT (Novice)
 - Superlab (Novice)

Relevant Coursework

- CS 2800 (Discrete Structures/Discrete Math) (took Pass/Fail: Pass)
- CS 2110 (Object Oriented Programming and Data Structures) (took Pass/Fail: Pass)
- INFO 2300 (Intermediate Programming for the Web) (took Pass/Fail: Pass)
- CS 1110 (Intro Programming) (took Pass/Fail: Pass)
- INFO 1100 (Intro Programming for the Web) (A+)
- MATH 2310 (Linear Algebra with Applications) (A)
- Statistics I (A+)
- Statistical Methods II (A+)
- Social Science Research Methods (A+)
- Data Analysis in Practice (A+)
- Statistical Sampling (A-)
- Calculus II (A)
- Linear Algebra (A)
- Microeconomics (A+)
- Macroeconomics (A+)
- Labor Economics (A+)

Extracurricular

Cornell Daily Sun Opinion Columnist; Cornell Daily Sun 129th Editorial Board Member; Cornell Moot Court (President); Cornell Mock Trial (Team Captain, Witness, Attorney); Cornell EARS (Psychological Counseling Service Trainee); Cornell International Friendship Program (Fellow, Host)

Miscellanea

Fluent in Hungarian + First Generation U.S. Citizen, Published in Huffington Post and the *Situationist* (Harvard Law Blog); Mediocre juggler and Rubik's cube solver (best time: 79 seconds); Intramural Basketball; Data Collector for Burning Man Census Camp

References

Dr. Michael Macy

Cornell University
Goldwin Smith Professor of Arts and Sciences,
Director of the Social Dynamics Laboratory
Department of Sociology
Department of Information Science
Areas: Sociology, Computational Social Science
Email: mwm14@cornell.edu
Phone: 607-255-4269

Dr. Tom Gilovich

Cornell University
Irene Blecker Rosenfeld Chair of Psychology
Director of Behavior Economics and Decision
Research Center
Department of Psychology
Areas: Psychology, Cognitive Science
Email: tom.gilovich@cornell.edu
Phone: 607-255-6432

Dr. Daniele Quercia

Nokia Bell Labs, Cambridge, UK
Director
Computational Social Science Group
Email: daniele.quercia@gmail.com
Website: researchswinger.org

Dr. Saeideh Bakshi

Quantitative UX Researcher
Google (2018 to Present)
Facebook (2016 to 2018)
Yahoo (2013 to 2016)
Email: saeede83@gmail.com
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/saeideh-bakhshi-68a3676>