

Lisa Spiering

lisa.spiering@psy.ox.ac.uk
www.psy.ox.ac.uk/people/lisa-spiering

Department of Experimental Psychology
University of Oxford, UK
Life and Mind Building
South Parks Rd, Oxford OX1 3EL

EDUCATION

- 10|2020 – 06|2025 **DPhil in Experimental Psychology**
University of Oxford, UK
Supervisor: Dr Jacqueline Scholl
- 10|2018 – 09|2020 **MSc in Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience**
Free University Berlin, Germany
Grade: 1.2 (equivalent to Distinction, highest possible score: 1.0)
MSc thesis: *Attributing feedback to yourself or others: Development of a credit assignment task* (grade: 1.0, highest possible score)
Supervisors: Dr Jacqueline Scholl, Prof Dirk Ostwald
- 10|2014 – 09|2018 **BSc in Psychology**
Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany
Grade: 1.3 (equivalent to 1st, highest possible score: 1.0)
BSc thesis: *Disentangling Stimulus- and Saccade-Related Potentials during Face Perception: A Combined Eye-Tracking/EEG Analysis* (grade: 1.0, highest possible score)
Supervisors: Prof Olaf Dimigen, Prof Werner Sommer

RESEARCH POSITIONS

- 07|2025 – present **Postdoctoral Researcher**
Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford, UK
PI: Prof Matthew Rushworth
- 01|2025 – 06|2025 **Medical Research Council transition fellow**
Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford, UK
- 09|2023 – 12|2023 **PhD Research Intern**
Research & Development at Cambridge Cognition Ltd, UK
Host: Dr Francesca Cormack
- 05|2014 – 10|2019 **Part-time student research assistant**
Department of Psychology, Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany
PI: Prof Werner Sommer

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 6-months transition award “Using transcranial magnetic stimulation to understand the causal mechanisms underlying controllability learning” (£10.868, 2025)**
Medical Research Council / Oxford Doctoral Training Partnership
- Oxford-Radcliffe Medical Sciences Graduate School Scholarship (£98.930, 2020-2024)**
Highly competitive PhD scholarship by the Medical Research Council
- 3-months award to provide interdisciplinary training with industry (£4.500, 2023)**
Medical Research Council / Oxford Doctoral Training Partnership; to support a PhD research internship in the Research & Development team at Cambridge Cognition Ltd.
- 6-months transition award from DPhil to first post-DPhil position (£10.562, 2023, forgone)**
Medical Research Council / Oxford Doctoral Training Partnership
- Conference travel grant for female researchers (300€, 2019)**
Department of Psychology, Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany
- Erasmus+ grant (6.660€, 2019-2020)**
EU’s student mobility grant for one year research stay (MSc thesis) at the University of Oxford
- Traineeship abroad grant (390€, 2019)**
German national traineeship grant (“AuslandsBAföG”) to support research visit in Oxford

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Spiering L**, Trier H, O'Reilly J, Kolling N, Wittmann M, Rushworth M, & Scholl J. Active disambiguation guides inferring controllability and cause in social interactions. Nature communications. 2025. doi: 10.1038/s41467-025-67853-8
Supporting code and data: github.com/lisaspiering/cause-controllability
Preprint on bioRxiv, doi: 10.1101/2024.10.01.615833
2. Wittmann MK, Lin Y, Pan D, Braun MN, Dickson C, **Spiering L**, et al. Basis functions for complex social decisions in dorsomedial frontal cortex. Nature. 2025. doi:10.1038/s41586-025-08705-9
3. Trier H, O'Reilly J, **Spiering L**, Ma S, Kolling N, Rushworth M, & Scholl J. Emotions and individual differences shape foraging under threat. Nature Mental Health. 2025. doi: 10.1038/s44220-025-00393-8
4. **Spiering L**, Dimigen O. (Micro)saccade-related potentials during face recognition: A study combining EEG, eye-tracking, and deconvolution modeling. Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics. 2024. doi: 10.3758/s13414-024-02846-1
Supporting code and data: osf.io/e2rtp
Preprint on bioRxiv, doi: 10.1101/2023.06.16.545272

Google scholar (18th March 2026) – citations: 60, h-index: 3, i10-index: 3

SUPERVISION AND TEACHING

Supervision

Ms Amelia Stevens (MSci in Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford, 11|2025 – present)

Lectures and tutorials

Lecturer in “Behavioural Decision-Making” module (Oxford Prospects Programme, 2026)

Tutor in “Experimental Design and Methods” course (2nd year of BA/MSci in Experimental Psychology and BA/MSci in Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics, University of Oxford, 2025 – present)

Tutor in “Introduction into the analysis of neurocognitive data using MATLAB” seminar (MSc in Psychology, Humboldt-University Berlin, 2016 – 2019)

Lab inductions on “How to conduct concurrent EEG/eye-tracking experiments” to new MSc, BSc students and interns in the Biological Psychology lab (Humboldt-University Berlin, 2016 – 2019)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Conference & invited talks

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 11 2025 | Language, Communication and Interaction Seminar, Osnabrueck, Germany (host: Prof Lilian Weber) |
| 06 2025 | Psychology and the brain conference (PuG, symposium: “Decoding Credit Assignment: Insights into the Neural and Computational Mechanisms of Causal Inference”, chaired by Prof Franz Wurm and me), Würzburg, Germany |
| 10 2024 | Annual conference of the Society for Psychophysiological Research (SPR, symposium: “Agency in action: Neurophysiological and computational insights into the relationship between sense of agency and goal-directed task performance”), Prague, Czech Republic |
| 10 2024 | Cortex Club, Oxford, UK (host: Peter Doohan; recording available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fatqAYSiUrw) |
| 07 2024 | RIKEN Center for Brain Sciences (CBS), Tokyo, Japan (host: Dr Kentaro Miyamoto) |
| 07 2024 | Neuro2024 (symposium: “Social behaviour”), Fukuoka, Japan |

- 07|2024 Tinsley Experimental Psychology seminar, Oxford, UK (host: Dr Johannes Algermissen)
- 07|2024 DPhil seminar at the Department of Experimental Psychology, Oxford, UK
- 05|2023 NeuroFrance conference (symposium: “Ecological approaches towards emotions, decision making and learning in brain and behaviour”, hosts: Prof Nils Kolling and Dr Jacqueline Scholl), Lyon, France
- 05|2023 Ecological Cognition and Computation meeting, Lyon, France (host: Prof Nils Kolling)
- 01|2019 Colloquium of the Department of Psychology, Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany (host: Prof Olaf Dimigen)

Conference posters

- 07|2025 Computational Psychiatry Conference (CPC), Tübingen, Germany
- 07|2023 Computational Psychiatry Conference (CPC), Dublin, Ireland
- 07|2023 Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience (CCN), Oxford, UK
- 07|2022 FENS Forum 2022, Paris, France
- 08|2019 European Conference on Eye Movements (ECEM), Alicante, Spain

Scientific event organisation

- 2025 – present **Primary organiser** of the “Decision and action” meeting series (Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford, UK)
- 10|2024 **Organiser and co-chair of symposium** “Decoding Credit Assignment: Insights into the Neural and Computational Mechanisms of Causal Inference” at the Psychology and the brain conference (PuG, Würzburg, Germany)
- 03|2022 **Member of the local organising committee** of the Computational Properties of Prefrontal Cortex conference (CPPC, University of Oxford, UK)
- 05|2019 **Co-organiser** of MSc research project symposium – *event with 15 neuroscience researchers presenting prospective research projects to 30 MSc students* (Berlin School of Mind and Brain, Germany)

Outreach, open science and academic service

- 2024 – present **Member of Early Career Researcher (ECR) committee** – *representing the ECR community and its interests in the department* (Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford)
- 2024 – 2025 **Coordinator** of informal research-exchange events – *to strengthen cross-group collaboration and departmental community* (University of Oxford)
- 2022 – 2023 **Open Science Ambassador** – *promoting the use of open science practices in the neuroimaging community* (Wellcome Centre for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Oxford)
- 11|2022 **Hosted** a high school student in the Rushworth lab – *to foster interest in science among high school students*
- 07|2019 **Blog post** for ‘Brainy Thursdays’ about research on neuroeconomics – *to make recent neuroscientific research accessible to the general public*
- 2016 – 2017 **Demonstrator** on combined EEG/eye-tracking experiments during the “Long Night of Science” – *to make research more accessible to the general public* (Department of Psychology, Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany)

Ad hoc reviewing for scientific journals

Brain Topography, Cortex, Imaging Neuroscience, Royal Society Open Science, Translational Psychiatry