

# OLIVIA HILL-COUSINS

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(LinkedIn)

PhD Moral Mind/Brain and AI Ethics  
Researcher  
Exeter, England, United Kingdom

A PhD candidate at the University of Exeter, with a strong psychology theoretical and, further developing, research background. I am interested in working towards a career in research, developing advanced statistical and methodological techniques, whilst maintaining my interest in moral cognition and AI.

## EDUCATION

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**PhD** University of Exeter, Psychology **2023 – Present, End Date: 2027**

Thesis (Working Title): “AI on Trial: Do We Judge AI and Human Moral Action in the Same Way Cognitively?”

EPSRC funded scholarship examining judgements of human versus AI’s moral decisions/acts.

Supervisors: Dr Joseph Sweetman, Dr Edmond Awad, Dr Cassandra Lowe, Dr Alexander Shaw and Dr Joanne Smith (All based in the University of Exeter).

**BSc** University of Exeter, Psychology with Study Abroad\* **2019-2023**  
(First Class)

Thesis: ““Do Psychopaths Know Right From Wrong? The Role of Boldness, Disinhibition and Meanness in Psychopaths’ Moral Judgements””

Tutor: Dr Joseph Sweetman

Modules included in Clinical Neuroscience (Brains, Drugs and Psychiatry), Applied Social Psychology (Health, Environment and Society), Processes of Human Memory, Contemporary Issues in Psychology and Methods and Statistics. Additional credits were earned for Professional Development Experience, in recognition of internship contributions.

\* Universiteit Maastricht, Psychology and Neuroscience **2021-2022**  
(First Class) – Study Abroad Year of BSc from University of Exeter

Modules included Politics of Decision Making, Consciousness, Cognitive Enhancement, Child Neuropsychology, Adult Neuropsychology, Methods of Cognitive Neuroscience with Practical: Excel for Scientists & Practical: fMRI data analysis, Motivation and Emotion, Action with Practical: Neuronal Basis of Decision Making, and Positive Psychology.

**A-Levels** Twynham School Sixth Form **2016 - 2019**

Psychology (A), Biology (A), Chemistry (B) & Extended Project Qualification (A\*)

**GCSEs** Bournemouth School for Girls **2011-2016**

11 GCSEs including English Language and Literature, and Mathematics, in addition to MOS Course (Microsoft Office Specialist) passed in Outlook, Excel, PowerPoint and Word.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

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<b>EPSRC DTP Studentship</b>	2023
<b>Nominations for “Educator of the Year” Exeter Student Guild Teaching Awards</b>	2023/24
<b>The Exeter Award</b>	2023

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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<b>Lead Organiser of ReproducibiliTEA Exeter Journal Club</b> University of Exeter	2024-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leading and organising sessions for researchers on open science and reproducibility</li><li>• Providing resources to assist researchers with adhering to open science and reproducibility practices</li><li>• Networking with researchers with specialisation/experience with particular practices to provide sessions explaining and demonstrating these practices</li><li>• As part of my role as lead coordinator of ReproducibiliTEA, I have started collaboration with the department’s Athena Swan team to help provide data on this journal club as a university-wide initiative for PGRs.</li></ul>	

<b>BSc Dissertation</b> University of Exeter	2023
<b>Position, Lab or Advisor name</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final-year project on the role of the triarchic conceptualisation of psychopathy at a multi-faceted level; delving into whether psychopaths can discern right from wrong, and make moral judgements.</li><li>• Achieved an 82 (First-Class) for both the written dissertation and accompanying presentation.</li></ul>	

<b>Research Intern</b> University of Exeter	2021 to 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assisted with the ongoing program of behavioural and neurophysiological research on the moral mind/brain.</li><li>• Worked with the line manager to create stimuli for behavioural, EEG and fMRI research into the moral mind/brain.</li><li>• Recruited, tested, and analysed experimental data, online data collection and complex statistical techniques including linear mixed effects modelling in both classic and Bayesian frameworks.</li></ul>	

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**University of Exeter** 2023 to Present

**Postgraduate Teaching Assistant, Psychology**

- Leading tutorial sessions (including lecture and practical components) for undergraduate students
- Supervised masters dissertations on an Advanced EEG Study
- Facilitate learning in undergraduate and master's level research practicals and statistics, providing personalised explanations of complex concepts to enhance student understanding
- Student assessments

**Masters students supervised**

Gauravi Rajiv Patil, 2024

Rida Kamal Saeed, 2024

Shatabdee Parajuli, 2024

Xinyi Yang, 2024

Dissertation Title: "Understanding the Neurophysiology Supporting Moral Cognitive Processes with EEG"

**University of Exeter,** 2023-Present

**EEG Workshop Lead, Psychology**

- Have run several EEG workshops for students at various education levels.
  - Exeter College Psychology Class (17-18 year olds) Cohort (thus gearing content to A-level psychology level)
  - BSc Undergraduate Students (Psychology)
  - MSc Conversion Students (Psychology)
  - MSc of Research Methods (Psychology)
- Involved demonstrating how to use the complex equipment involved in EEG experiments, as well supporting students in trialing some of the equipment
- Outcome of this workshop (for BSc-MSc Students) enabled them to similarly run participants through the EEG experiment, and for the MSc Conversion students specifically, write up their masters' dissertation on this complex EEG experiment

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## PROFESSIONAL EVENTS (INVITED OR ORGANISED)

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**EASP Summer School Member,** Member of the EASP Summer School 2025: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Moral Psychology Work Stream, Kent, July 20-30 2025

**Co-Organiser for ECR Conference,** "Share, Connect, Grow: Psychology Research Conference", Early Career Researcher (ECR) Conference, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

**Invited Panel Member,** "You, Me, And AI: Developing a Considered and Resilient Mindset for an Ever-Changing World" (Academic Staff Panel Discussion alongside David Walker and Dr Tyler Brunet), AI Upskilling for Digital Innovation and Employability, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025.

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

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### **PsychoPy Workshop**

Led by PsychoPy Founders

Description: This built on my foundational knowledge of Python from my completion of a 10-week program “Introduction to Python and Apps” with Code First Girls that I participated in the summer before starting my PhD. I have since continually developed my ability to use this tool. In alignment with my commitment to open science, this is the first open science tool (from my understanding) for creating behavioural and neurophysiological experiments. Its novelty and restricted funding given the open science nature means that only certain (more common) experimental design features can be created within the GUI interface. To develop my own studies, I have developed the ability to code advanced experiments and/or features requiring complex code components in PsychoPy.

## SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

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### **Skills**

- Coding behavioural and advanced EEG experiments in PsychoPy (Using Python & JavaScript coding languages)
- Data simulation, simulation-based power analyses, & statistical analysis using R
- Advanced multi-level meta-analytic methods
- Open science research
- MATLAB
- Coding in R, Python and LaTeX
- Coding in HTML and CSS to support reproducible workflows with R and Github

### **Certifications**

- Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (LTHE)
- Introduction to Python and Apps (Code First Girls)
- Introduction to Python Programming Course (Dataquest.io)
- MATLAB Onramp (MathWorks)
- MATLAB Fundamentals (MathWorks)
- Machine Learning Onramp (MathWorks)
- Power BI for Beginners (Simplilearn)

