

LUKAS J. GUNSCHERA

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EDUCATION

University of Cambridge – MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit PhD, Medical Science	From Oct 2023 <i>Cambridge, UK</i>
University of Amsterdam Master of Science, Psychological Research (cum laude)	Sep 2020 – Sep 2022 <i>Amsterdam, The Netherlands</i>
Radboud University Bachelor of Science (Honours), Psychology (cum laude)	Sep 2017 – Sep 2020 <i>Nijmegen, The Netherlands</i>

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

University of Cambridge – MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit Postgraduate Research Assistant (full time)	Oct 2022 – Oct 2023 <i>Cambridge, UK</i>
Research spanning computational, longitudinal, psychopharmacological, and experimental approaches to probe the mechanisms of problematic social media use. <i>Supervision: Amy Orben.</i>	
University of Oxford Research Assistant (part time)	Nov 2021 – Nov 2022 <i>Oxford, UK</i>
Research on selective attention and learning deficits in psychopathic individuals and potential downstream consequences. <i>Supervision: Elaine Fox & Robin Murphy.</i>	
University of Amsterdam Teaching Assistant (part time)	Sep 2021 – Oct 2022 <i>Amsterdam, The Netherlands</i>
University of Amsterdam Research Assistant (part time)	Feb 2021 – Dec 2022 <i>Amsterdam, The Netherlands</i>
Worked in multiple research groups and was involved in all aspects of the research process. Notable contributions include co-leading a large longitudinal collaboration. <i>Supervision: Bruno Verschuere & Sanne de Wit.</i>	

VISITING POSITIONS AND PLACEMENTS

University of Rotterdam Visiting PhD Student	Jun 2024 – Jun 2024 <i>Rotterdam, The Netherlands</i>
University of Oxford Visiting Researcher	Oct 2019 – Nov 2019 <i>Oxford, UK</i>
Radboud University Honours Programme & Interdisciplinary Honours Programme	Jan 2018 – Sep 2020 <i>Nijmegen, The Netherlands</i>

PUBLICATIONS

**** = shared senior authorship, * = equal contribution**

Turner, G., **Gunschera, L.J.**, Subrahmanya, S., Salecha, A., Eichstaedt, J.C., Palminteri, S., & Orben, A. (2026). A computational model of reward learning and habits on social media. *Nature Communications*

Ferguson, A. M., Richards, M., **Gunschera, L. J.**, Mutak, A., Modecki, K., Goldberg, R. E., & Orben, A. (2026). Development and validation of a comprehensive digital parenting scale. *Computers in Human Behavior Reports*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chbr.2026.101098>

Gunschera, L.J., Dutton, K., Fox, E., Temple-McCune, A., & Murphy, R. (2024). Overburdening associations: The dependency of psychopathy-related acquisitional learning deficits on processing load. *Personality and Individual Differences*. doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2024.112705

Van der Cruyssen, I., Ben-Shakhar, G., Pertzov, Y., Guy, N., Cabooter, Q., **Gunschera, L.J.**, Verschuere, B. (2024). *Behavioural Research Methods*. doi.org/10.3758/s13428-023-02221-2

Gunschera, L.J., Verschuere, B., Murphy, R., Temple-McCune, A., Dutton, K., & Fox, E. (2023). No impaired integration in psychopathy: Evidence from an illusory conjunction paradigm. *Personality Disorders: Theory, Research, and Treatment*. doi.org/10.1037/per0000619

Gunschera, L.J., Brazil, I.A., & Driessen, J.M.A. (2022). Social economic decision-making and psychopathy: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioural Reviews*. [10.1016/j.neubiorev.2022.104966](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neubiorev.2022.104966)

UNDER REVIEW AND PREPRINTS

Gunschera, L.J., Adjallah, A., Fokas, I., Mackie, G., Hickman Dunne, J., Roe, A., Davies, J., Nord, C.** , Panayiotou, M.** , Orben, A.** (under review). Aligning how we measure and support social media addiction with young people's lived experiences? *PsyArxiv*. doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/wahf5_v1

Gunschera, L.J.*, Orben, A.* , Fokas, I.* , ... Purba, A.K.** , Orben A.** , (under review). Addressing the absence of robust causal evidence linking social media to population-level adolescent mental health declines.

Gunschera, L.J., Mehrhof, S.Z., Veith, C., Ong, E., Davidson, B.C., Vuorre, M., Nord**, C.L., Orben, A**. (under review). Does social media use show established neurocognitive signatures of addiction? *PsyArxiv*. osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/2eqs8

Panayiotou, M., Banwell, E., Black, L., Hickman Dunne, J., Davies, J., Hamilton, S., Davidson, B., **Gunschera, L.J.** (under review). From motivation to experience: Rethinking the complex psychological processes of adolescent social media engagement.

Davidson, B.C., Turner, G., **Gunschera, L.J.**, Orben, A. (under review). Social media reward sensitivity and depressive symptoms over time. *PsyArxiv*. doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/8e3ar_v1

Davidson, B.C., Turner, G., Palminteri, S., Tomova, L., Eichstaedt, J.C., Salecha, A., Subrahmanya, S., Orben, A.** , **Gunschera, L.J.**** (under review). Prolonged social isolation is associated with increased behavioural sensitivity to 'likes' on social media. *PsyArxiv*. doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/65tdz_v1.

Turner, G., Valdez, C., **Gunschera, L.J.***, Valdez, C., Anderson, I.* , Brufal, Z.* , Dillmann, S.* , Fassi, L.* , Monarca, I.* , Ramirez, O.P.* , Tentori, M., Orben., A. (under review). Relating smartphone 'app-journeys' to mental health: A novel network analysis approach. *PsyArxiv*. doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/uytfr_v1

Gunschera, L.J., Achterberg, M., Speyer, L.G., Wise, T. , Orben, A. (under review). Towards identifying cognitive phenotypes of risk and resilience for social media and mental health. *PsyArxiv*. osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/bgqyj.

de Wit, S., Bieleke, M., Fletcher, P.C., Horstmann, A., Schueler., J., Brinkhof, L.P., **Gunschera, L.J.**, Murre, J.M.J. (under review). How long does it take to form a habit?: A multi-centre replication. *PCI Registered Reports Stage 1 acceptance*. <https://rr.peercommunityin.org/PCIRegisteredReports/articles/rec?id=210>

AWARDS AND TRAVEL FUNDING

UKRI Medical Research Council Studentship (£180,000)	Oct 2023 – Sep 2027
Cambridge Philosophical Society, Travel Grant (£280)	Sep 2026
Charles Slater Fund (£1,200)	Aug 2026
Guarantors of Brain, Travel Grant (£800)	Jul 2026
Cambridge Philosophical Society, Travel Grant (£500)	Apr 2026
Cambridge Philosophical Society, Travel Grant (£500)	May 2025
Wolfson College, Travel & Research Award (£400)	May 2025
British Association for Psychopharmacology, Bursary (£400)	May 2025
Wolfson College, Travel & Research Award (£400)	May 2024
American Psychological Association, Editor's Choice Award	Mar 2023
Thesis Award, Netherlands Institute of Psychologists (£400)	Mar 2023

TEACHING AND LECTURES

Open Science: A beginners guide	From 2024
Cambridge Access to Mental Health & Psychology Programme	Online
Robust Statistics, Improving Scientific Practices	From 2024
University of Cambridge, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit	Cambridge, UK
Computational Reproducibility, Improving Scientific Practices	From 2024
University of Cambridge, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit	Cambridge, UK
PBS3 Social and Developmental Psychology	2024
University of Cambridge, Girton College	Cambridge, UK
Meta-Analysis	2022
University of Amsterdam	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Scientific Writing and Presenting	2022

SUPERVISION AND TRAINING RECORD**Research Assistants and Interns (5)**

Gerald Akuarista (University of Cambridge)	From 2026
Jamil Adjallah (University of Cambridge)	2025 – 2026
Ioanna Fokas (University of Cambridge)	2024 – 2026
Brandon Davidson (University of Cambridge)	2024 – 2026
Emily Poort (University of Amsterdam)	2022
Gustaw Opielka (University of Amsterdam)	2022

Graduate Students (1)

Clelia Veith (Technical University of Munich)	2025 – 2026
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Undergraduate Students (3)

Ruxandra Ursache (University of Cambridge)	2025 – 2026
James D'Silva (University of Cambridge)	2025 – 2026
Ethan Ong (University of Cambridge)	2024 – 2025

EVIDENCE FOR POLICY**Written Evidence**

Davidson, B.D., Fassi, L., Fokas, I., **Gunschera, L.J.**, Orben, A., Turner, G. (2025). Neuroscience and digital childhoods inquiry. *UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology*.
<https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/165731/default/>

Orben, A., Purba, A.K., Fokas, I., **Gunschera, L.J.** et al. (2025). Feasibility Study of Methods and Data to Understand the Impact of Smartphones and Social Media on Children and Young People. *UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology*. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/understand-the-impact-of-smartphones-and-social-media-on-children-and-young-people/understand-the-impact-of-smartphones-and-social-media-on-children-and-young-people-executive-summary>

Gunschera, L.J., Orben, A., Turner, G. (2024). Addressing Gaps in Digital Media Research: Pathways for Future Science and Policy. *European Joint Research Commission Report*.
<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC143343>

Orben, A., **Gunschera, L.J.**, Turner, G. (2023). Written evidence for Initiative to protect youth mental health, safety, and privacy online. *National Telecommunications and Information Administration*. NTIA-2023-0008-0001

Oral Evidence

Addressing gaps in digital media research: Pathways for future science and policy, European Commission, Mar 2025, *Online*

Roundtable on Call for Evidence on Researchers' access to information from regulated online services, Ofcom, Nov 2024, London, UK

INVITED TALKS AND SYMPOSIA

Problematic social media use in ADHD: A comparison on and off dopaminergic medication	Aug 2026 <i>Istanbul, Turkey</i>
International Conference on Behavioural Addictions	
Dopamine hits? Using methylphenidate to probe the mechanisms of problematic social media use	Jul 2026 <i>Birmingham, UK</i>
British Association for Psychopharmacology Summer Meeting	
Does social media use show established neurocognitive signatures of addiction?	Jul 2026 <i>Online</i>
Solitude lab seminar series	
Rethinking social media addiction: The importance of mechanisms of diagnosis and treatment	Jul 2026 <i>Manchester, UK</i>
Royal College of Psychiatrists: Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry annual conference	
Adolescents in the wild web: bringing order to chaos through research	Sep 2025 <i>Manchester, UK</i>
Royal College of Psychiatrists: Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Annual Conference (Symposium)	
Cognitive phenotypes of risk and resilience for the relationship between	Sep 2024

social media and mental health
Gillan Lab, Trinity College Dublin

Online

Cognitive processes linking social media and mental health
CERES, Jacobs Foundation

Sep 2024
Newport Beach, USA

Cognitive phenotypes of social media risk and resilience
SO-REBEL and SYNC research groups, University of Rotterdam

Jun 2024
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

A shared responsibility: Improving causal literacy across the scientific pipeline
Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science (Workshop)

Jun 2023
Padova, Italy

No impaired integration in psychopathy
Personality disorder and addiction conference

Mar 2023
Utrecht, The Netherlands

Do psychopaths suffer from impaired information integration?
Netherlands Institute of Psychologists

Feb 2023
Online

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Notes on Science
Co-Founder

2024 – 2026
Cambridge, UK

Cambridge Access to Mental Health & Psychology Programme
Supervisor & Lecturer

2024 – 2026
Cambridge, UK

Pint of Science
Organising Member

2024
Cambridge, UK

Open Science Day MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit
Co-Organiser

Mar 2024
Cambridge, UK

Podcasts: The Naked Scientists: *Social media designed to be addictive, jury finds*. <https://tidyurl.xyz/DHDA>;
Cognitations: *Social media and mental health: The cognitive turn*. <https://tidyurl.xyz/YFsi>.

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit Open Science Committee, Chair

From 2025

MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit Open Science Committee, Member

From 2022

Cambridge Journal of Science and Policy, Editor

2023 – 2025

Student Initiative for Open Science, Member

2021 – 2022

University of Amsterdam, Student Delegate

2020 – 2022

Open Science: Data and code from all experiments (except where prohibited for sensitivity or legal reasons) are available at <https://osf.io/user/4ysqz>, <https://zenodo.org>, and <https://github.com/lukasgunschera>. Most studies are preregistered on the OSF or Prospero.

Journal Reviewer: Nature, Nature Human Behaviour, Comprehensive Psychiatry, Journal of Behavioural Addictions, Peer Community in Registered Reports, Royal Society Open Science, Motivation and Emotion, Plos One

Society Membership: International Society for the Study of Behavioural Addictions (From 2026), Society for the Study of Addiction (From 2025), British Psychological Society (From 2025), British Association for Psychopharmacology (From 2024), Cambridge Philosophical Society (From 2023), Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science (2023–2024), Psychonomic Society (2022–2024), Society for Applied Research in Memory & Cognition (2022–2024)

SKILLS

Programming R, Stan, Git, jsPsych, SQL, MPLUS, Python, Docker, Inquisit, Lotus

Data acquisition Electroencephalography, electrodermal, electrocardiography, respiration, eye-tracking, ecological momentary assessment

Formal Analyses Bayesian inference, computational modelling, multilevel modelling, longitudinal modelling, structural equation modelling, meta-analysis

For references, please contact:

Professor Amy Orben, Programme Leader, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge, [amy.orben\[at\]mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:amy.orben[at]mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk)

Professor Camilla Nord, Programme Leader, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of

