Elisabeth Julie Vargo, PhD

Summary

Psychologist and educator. Research methods expert and trainer advocating for rigorous, authentic, and transparent research processes. Excellent science communicator, public speaker, and collaborator.

Education

PHD IN PSYCHOLOGY (DISCIPLINES ALLIED TO MEDICINE) | 3/2016 | KINGSTON UNIVERSITY LONDON

- Fully funded studentship (£50,000) in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Computing
- Thesis Title: "Exploring Contemporary Drug use through Mixed Methodologies"

MASTER OF SCIENCE | 9/2025 | UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

- Education for Sustainable Development (online)

RESEARCH MASTER OF SCIENCE (LAUREA SPECIALISTICA)| 03/2011 | SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME

- Clinical and Community Psychology; Grade: 110/110 with honours.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE (LAUREA TRIENNALE) | 07/2007 | SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME

- Organizational and Occupational Psychology

Work Experience

SCIENTIFIC EXPERT | 10/2023 TO PRESENT

- The Independent Research Ethics Committee (IREC)
- The UKRI-funded project "Making Replications Count" (from 2026)

SENIOR LECTURER AND DIRECTOR OF STUDIES| NEW YORK COLLEGE GREECE (HYBRID) | 10/2023 TO PRESENT

- Senior lecturer for the *Contemporary Issues in Psychology* and *Research Methods I* and *II* undergraduate modules (BSc in Counselling Psychology, University of Greater Manchester)
- Dissertation supervisor for PhD students (University of Greater Manchester)

RESEARCH COLLABORATOR | CENTER FOR OPEN SCIENCE (REMOTE) | FROM 01/2020 TO PRESENT

Researcher in a behavioral science mass-replication project (DARPA SCORE)

- Reviewing preregistration protocols of study designs (DARPA SCORE and RPHB)
- Conducting reproducibility, replicability and generalizability studies of research published in top-tier journals
- Dissemination of findings on *Nature*

ONLINE ACADEMIC COACH & INSTRUCTOR | 11/2021 TO 4/2024

- **Scholars Professional Editing Group LLC**
  - Mentor PhD students in their dissertation and research work
- **American College of Greece**
  - Dissertation supervisor for undergraduate and postgraduate students

E-LEARNING SENIOR LECTURER | INTERACTIVE CORPORATE, S.R.O (REMOTE) | 09/2020 TO 11/2021

- *Historical and Conceptual Issues in Psychology*, *Social Psychology* (module leader), *Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods* for Brunel University's online MSc in Psychology.
- Review and improve module and final assessment content.

RESEARCH FELLOW | UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO, FACULTY OF LAW | 08/2018 TO 08/2020

Research activities for FormID (Centre for academic staff training and innovation in teaching)

- Qualitative investigation and production of literature on innovative teaching strategies in higher education
- Exploring teaching methods for Higher Education in a second language (teaching in English to non-native speakers)
- Co-managing training seminars for teaching staff and enabling Erasmus + grant applications

RESEARCH FELLOW | UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH, FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH | 03/2018 TO 05/2020

- Literature review on simulation-based training for undergraduate nursing courses.
- Focus groups with senior nurses exploring solutions for nurse retention.
- Meta-analysis to explore relationship between gestational diabetes and Vitamin D deficiency.
- Analysis of data from facial super-recognizer populations to identify genetic correlations (SPSS, R).

RESEARCH CONSULTANT | 05/2017 TO 03/2018

- **Ad Hoc Global** (71-75 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2H 9JQ)
  - Qualitative UX Research for Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education UK)
- **Global Drug Survey** (124-128 City Rd, London EC1V 2NJ)
  - Translating (to Italian) and piloting of the Global Drug Survey 2018; Analysis of data
- **University of Birmingham** (School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences)
  - Design of psychological response-time measures (IAT) within a World Anti-Doping Agency funded project

RESEARCHER AND LECTURER | KINGSTON UNIVERSITY LONDON | 02/2013 TO 02/2017

- Qualitative and quantitative research design, participant recruitment, data collection, interpretation and dissemination of results exploring recreational and functional substance use among young adults and athletes
- Leading multi-site research studies, designing and implementing co-creation workshops with athletes (amateur and elite)
- Administration; Event planning; Public relations
- *Sport, Exercise and Health Psychology* Lecturer**;** Statistics teaching support

Community and Professional Engagement

- 2026 – Preparation of **educational content for FORRT's *Open Science Curriculum*** (Direct vs. Conceptual Replications)
- 2025 onwards – **Replication protocol Editor** for the **Replicability Project: Health Behavior (COS)**
- 2022 onwards – **Associate Editor** of ***Collabra: Psychology*** (Methodology & Research Practice Team)
- 2022 onwards – Member of the **Italian Reproducibility Network**
- 2022 onwards – Affiliated researcher - **Institute for Globally Distributed Open Research and Education (IGDORE)**
- 2017-2025 – **Ambassador** of the **Center for Open Science (COS)**
- 2021-2024 – Research coordinator in the "**LGBT+: changing attitudes**" project. **Psychological Society of Sicily**.
- 2019-2021 – **Representative of Postdocs** (Assegnisti di Ricerca) at the Faculty of Law, **University of Trento**
- **Associate Fellow** of the **Higher Education Academy (HEA)**. Training for teaching in higher education

Lecturing, Supervision and Seminars

- 02/2013 to present - **Supervision of under and postgraduate (including PhD)** research projects and research articles
- 1/2024 to 5/2026 – **Research Methods I (BSc Counseling Psychology)**. New York College.
- 1/2024 to 5/2026 – **Research Methods II (BSc Counseling Psychology)**. New York College
- 10/2023 to 1/2026 – **Contemporary Issues in Psychology (BSc Counseling Psychology)**. New York College
- 09/2020 to 11/2021 – **Historical and Conceptual Issues (MSc Psychology Conversion)**. Brunel University.
- 09/2020 to 11/2021 – **Social Psychology** (**MSc Psychology Conversion)**. Brunel University.
- 09/2020 to 11/2021 – **Qualitative Research Methods (MSc Psychology Conversion)**. Brunel University.
- 09/2020 to 11/2021 – **Quantitative Research Methods (MSc Psychology Conversion)**. Brunel University.
- 02, 08/2021 – **Critical Thinking in Psychology**. Brunel University. Biannual seminar
- 04/2021 - **Replication in psychology**. Brunel University. Seminar
- 12/2020 – **The autobiographical IAT**. University of Padova, Faculty of Law. Seminar
- 11/2018 – **Innovative Teaching for Working in Groups** (In English and Italian). University of Trento. Seminar
- 05/2016 – **Introductory CAQDAS training workshop: Atlas.ti 7**. Kingston University London. Seminar
- 04/2016, 3/2014 and 3/2013 - **Substance abuse in Europe and the UK**. Kingston University London. Annual seminars

- 12/2014 to 02/2016 – **Sport, Exercise and Health Psychology (Sport Sciences Bachelor's program)**. Kingston University London
- 10/2014 to 12/2014 - Teaching support for **Statistics (Sport Sciences Bachelor's program)**. Kingston University London.

Conferences and Posters

- 18-20th of June 2026 – **Trainer** (Training school "From Research to Practice: Increasing Agency in the Time of Climate Crisis"). COST Action CA23113 – CliMent. Porto, Portugal.
- 5th of November 2022- **Keynote Speaker** (The attitudes of Sicilian psychologists towards homosexuality). Psychological Society of Sicily, Conference on Homonegativity. Catania, Italy.
- 2nd of October 2021 - **Keynote Speaker** (Clinical work with members of the LGBT+ community: research methods to explore attitudes of Sicilian psychologists). OPRS Webinar. Psychological Society of Sicily.
- 24th of January 2020 – **Keynote speaker** (A qualitative investigation of Innovative Teaching Practices at the University of Trento). University of Trento New Employees Training Day. Trento, Italy.
- 16-17th of September 2019 – **Poster** (Promoting Student Wellbeing through a Mind/Body Holistic Approach). ECIU Symposium on Student Wellbeing. Aveiro, Portugal.
- 30th of November 2017 – **Keynote speaker** (Holistic Exploration of Substance Use among English Adolescents: Results from Rock Challenge 2015). XXVI International Scientific Conference "The Child at Risk": Supporting the Mental Health of Children and Families: New Challenges and Visions. Bratislava, Slovakia.
- 21st of September 2017 – **Conference presentation** (Applying User-Centred Research to Explore Performance and Image Enhancing Drug Use Among Amateur Athletes: Findings from a European Study). Eighth Conference of the European Society for Prevention Research. Vienna, Austria.
- 5th of December 2016 – **Keynote speaker** (SafeYou: Co-developing anti-doping education with exercisers: The added value of users' perspectives). International Conference on the Prevention of Doping in Sport. Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs. Athens, Greece.
- 30-31 May 2015 – **Poster** (An Exploration of Substance Use among English Adolescents: Results from Rock Challenge 2015). The V International Conference on Novel Psychoactive Substances. Budapest, Hungary.
- 5th of May 2016 – **Conference presentation** (SafeYou: A qualitative exploration of attitudes towards performance and image enhancing substances). 48th Annual conference of the Association for Sport Psychology in Germany (ASP), Münster, Germany.
- 16th of June 2015 – **2nd Prize for best poster** (Me, Myself & Cocaine: Sources of Implicit Bias in the Autobiographical IAT). The Interdisciplinary Hub for the Study of Health and Age-related conditions (IhSHA) conference. Kingston University, London.
- 12-14 March 2014 – **Poster** (Me, Myself & Cocaine: Sources of Implicit Bias in the Autobiographical IAT). The International Convention of Psychological Science. Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Grants

- **DARPA SCORE** (2022): Replication of a research claim from Van Gastel *et al.* (2013), in *Psychological Medicine*. Project budget $3,900.00. Project Leader

- **DARPA SCORE** (2022): Replication of two research claims from Button & Worthen (2017), in *Criminology*. Total project budget $4,400.00. Project Leader
- **DARPA SCORE** (2020-2021): Generalizability study and Replication of a research claim (Study 2) from Torelli & Shavitt (2010), in *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. Project budget $ 19,532.00. Project Leader
- **DARPA SCORE** (2020): Replication of a research claim (Study 3) from Usta & Häubl (2011), in *Journal of Marketing Research*. Project budget $9,982.00 (Award # HR00112020015). Project Leader
- **EU Erasmus+** (Call 2019 Round 1 KA2): Collaborative Platform for Teaching Innovation in Higher Education (ColLab). 2019-2021, Project budget €208,048. Grant proposal preparation.
- **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**: Anti-Doping Policy Legitimacy and Support among Clean Athletes: A Cross-National Study (**LEGIT** Project). 2016-2017, Project budget: $194,912 – Activities: participant recruitment, research assistant training, focus groups with elite athletes in the UK.
- **EU Erasmus+** Sports Collaborative Partnership (Call EAC/S11/13): Strengthening the Antidoping Fight in Fitness and Exercise in YOUth (**SAFEYOU**). 2015-2017 €411.708,80. Activities: led multi-site qualitative research analysis and user-centred initiatives; participant recruitment; quantitative analysis, report writing (lay public and scientific community).
- **Hampshire County Council**: Mapping the substance use patterns of adolescents (Y7-Y13) in Hampshire 2015-2016, £60,000 – Activities: designed and carried out mixed-method multi-site research activities using IAT tests and brief qualitative interviews; elaborated reports on findings.

Scientific Publications and Opinion Articles

Vargo, E.J. (2026). Political Perspectives and Religiosity Contribute to Homonegative Attitudes among Sicilian Psychologists. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 1-22.

Tyner, A.H., Abatayo, A.L., Daley, M.…**Vargo, E.J.**, …Nosek, B. A., & Errington, T. M. (2026). Investigating the replicability of the social and behavioral sciences*. Nature, 652*, 143–150.

Miske, O., Abatayo, A.L., Daley…**Vargo, E.J.**, …Nosek, B. A., & Errington, T. M. (2026). Investigating the reproducibility of the social and behavioral sciences. *Nature, 652*, 126–134.

Vargo, E.J. Rethinking Drug Policy's Role in Sustainable Development: A Qualitative Exploration (under review). *World Development*.

Brodeur, A., Abdul Baki, G., Fazio, L…. **Vargo, E.J**., et al. Mass Reproducibility in Psychological Science (under review). *Psychological Science*.

Murray, S., Jiménez-Leal, W., Amaya, S…. **Vargo, E.J.**, et al. A Cross-Cultural Study of Everyday Moral Experiences. In preparation for *Science.*

Pindolia, A., & **Vargo, E. J.** (2026, January). "There are different parts of me": Acculturation of Gujarati women living in London and balancing two cultures. *Women's Studies International Forum 114* (103202).

Malpasso, A.N, Bisicchia, O., Cottone, M., Crapanzano, E., Di Salvo, G., La Placa, L., Lo Magro, E. & **Vargo, E.J.** (2023, March). Gli atteggiamenti delle psicologhe e degli psicologi siciliani verso l'omosessualità [The attitudes

towards homosexuality of sicilian psychologists]. *Psicologi & Psicologia in Sicilia: Notiziario dell'Ordine degli Psicologi della Regione Sicilia [Psychologists & Psychology in Sicily: the Journal of the Psychology Society of Sicily]*, 51-56. Full report: https://www.oprs.it/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/REPORT-GDL-LGBT.pdf

Vargo, E. J. (2023). Organizational narcissism as an adaptive strategy in contemporary academia. *Journal of Academic Ethics, 21*(2), 293-302.

Chiu, H., & **Vargo, E.J.** (2022). Bullying and Other Risk Factors Related to Adolescent Suicidal Behaviours in the Philippines: A Look into the 2011 GSHS Survey. *BMC Psychiatry 22* (445).

Cleaver, K., Essex, R., Malamateniou, C., Narramore, N., Shekede, H., **Vargo, E.J.**, & Weldon, S. M. (2021). A Systematic Scoping Review and Textual Narrative Synthesis of Undergraduate Pediatric Nursing Simulations: What, Why, and How?. *Clinical Simulation in Nursing, 53,* 10-31.

Omorogieva, O., Weldon, S.M., Thompson, T., **Vargo, E.J.** (2019). The effect of vitamin D supplementation on women with gestational diabetes mellitus: A systematic literature review and meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 16*(10), 1716.

Paoletti, D., Braun, C., **Vargo, E.J.**, van Zoest, W. (2019). Spontaneous pre-stimulus oscillatory activity shapes the way we look: A concurrent imaging and eye-movement study. *European Journal of Neuroscience*, 49(1), 137-149.

Vargo, E.J., & Iamiceli, P. (2019, July 1). Teacher training and innovation in teaching and learning: welcome FormID, a University strategic project. Retrieved July 23, 2019, from https://webmagazine.unitn.it/ricerca/64665/formazione-dei-docenti-e-innovazione-didattica

Ainsworth, N.P., **Vargo, E.J**., Petroczi, A. (2018). Being in Control? A Thematic Content Analysis of 14 In-Depth Interviews with 2,4-Dinitrophenol Users. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 52, 106-114.

Vargo, E.J. (2018, March 7). International Women's Day: there is no female version of the 'old boys' network'. Retrieved March 9, 2018, from https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/international-womens-day-there-no-female-version-old-boys-network

Vargo, E. J. (2017, October 09). A manifesto for early career researchers. Retrieved October 10, 2017, from https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/manifesto-early-career-researchers.

Vargo, E. J., & Petroczi, A. (2016). "It Was Me on a Good Day": Exploring the Smart Drug Use Phenomenon in England. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 7, 779.

Vargo, E.J., Petroczi, A., Shah, I., Naughton, D. (2014). It is Not Just Memory: Propositional Thinking Influences Performance on the Autobiographical IAT. *Drug, Alcohol and Dependence, 145*, 150-155.

Vargo, E.J. (2014), Normalization of Cocaine Use by Young Adults: The Case of Italian Users. In *Addiction and Performance: The New Normal?* Reynolds J. & Zontou Z. (eds), pp. 116-131, Cambridge, UK, Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Vargo, E.J., James, R.A., Agyeman, K., MacPhee, T., McIntyre, R., Ronca, F., Petróczi, A. (2014). Perceptions of assisted cognitive and sport performance enhancement among university students in England. *Performance Enhancement and Health*, 3(2), 66-77.

Vargo, E. J., & Petróczi, A. (2013). Detecting cocaine use? The autobiographical implicit association test (aIAT) produces false positives in a real-world setting. *Substance abuse treatment, prevention, and policy*, 8(1), 22.

Ruggieri, V. (2010). *Introduction to Thought: Its spatial and physical components. A Copernican approach in Psychobiology* (translation by **Elisabeth Julie Vargo**). Pub. ALPES - Rome, May 2010.

Scientific articles edited for *Collabra: Psychology*

Hartmann, H., Darda, K. M., Meletaki, V., Ilchovska, Z. G., Corral-Frias, N. S., Hofer, G., ... & Sauve, S. A. (2025). Incorporating Feminist Practices Into Psychological Science—The Why, the What and the How. *Collabra: Psychology*, *11*(1), 142645.

Goh, J. X. (2025). Are Brenda, Juanita, and Latoya More Feminine Than Jia and Neha? Gendered Evaluations of Racialized Names. *Collabra: Psychology*, *11*(1), 127678.

Speelman, C. P., Parker, L., Rapley, B. J., & McGann, M. (2024). Most psychological researchers assume their samples are ergodic: Evidence from a year of articles in three major journals. *Collabra: Psychology, 10*(1), 92888.

Giuliano, T. A., Hebl, W. I., & Howell, J. L. (2023). How common is undergraduate publication in psychology? An examination of faculty vitae from top colleges and universities. *Collabra: Psychology, 9*(1), 84521.