

# E.J. Vargo, PhD

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## Summary

Qualitative/Quantitative researcher and trainer who advocates for rigorous, authentic and transparent research processes. Research Methods expert for psychological-social research studies. 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"

### **RESEARCH MASTERS OF SCIENCE | 03/2011 | SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME**

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

### **BACHELOR'S DEGREE | 07/2007 | SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME**

- Organizational and Occupational Psychology

## Experience

### **RESEARCH METHODS INSTRUCTOR (REMOTE) | 11/2021 TO PRESENT**

- **Scholars Professional Editing Group LLC**
  - Mentor PhD students in their dissertation and research work (qualitative and quantitative).
- **American College of Greece**
  - Instructor of Research Proposal I for undergraduate students (quantitative)

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

- Researcher in a mass-replication project (DARPA SCORE) aimed to improve replicability in the Behavioral Sciences
  - Reviewing preregistration protocols of study designs
  - Reproducibility and generalizability investigations of studies published in top-tier peer-reviewed journals

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

- Provide online senior lecturing services for partner universities (50% weekly workload)
  - Teach "Historical and Conceptual Issues in Psychology", "Social Psychology" (module leader), Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods for Brunel University's online MSc in Psychology.
  - Supervision of Master's students research projects.
  - 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 to explore 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

## **MIXED METHODS RESEARCHER | 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

## **Community and Professional Engagement**

- 2022 onwards – Associate Editor of Collabra: Psychology (Methodology & Research Practice Team)
- 2022 onwards – Member of the Italian Reproducibility Network
- 2022 onwards - Researcher Affiliated to the Institute for Globally Distributed Open Research and Education (**IGDORE**)
- 2021-2024 – Research coordinator in the “**LGBT+: changing attitudes**” project. Sicilian Psychological Society. Coordinating and enabling the workgroup in collecting and analyzing data from Sicilian psychologists.
- 2019-2021 – **Representative of Postdocs** (Assegnisti di Ricerca) at the Faculty of Law, University of Trento
- 2017 onwards - **Ambassador of the Center for Open Science** (COS)
- **Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy** (HEA). Training for teaching in higher education

## **Lecturing and Supervision**

- 02/2013 to present - **Supervision of under and postgraduate (including PhD)** research projects and research articles
- 09/2020 to 11/2021 – Online modules “**MSc. Psychology Conversion Course**”. Brunel University.
- 02, 08/2021 – **Critical Thinking in Psychology**. Brunel University. Bi annual seminar lasting 2 hours
- 04/2021 - **Replication in psychology**. Brunel University. 2 hours.
- 12/2020 – **The autobiographical IAT**. University of Padova, Faculty of Law. 2 hours
- 11/2018 – **Innovative Teaching for Working in Groups** (In English and Italian). University of Trento. 4 hours

- 05/2016 – **Introductory CAQDAS training workshop: Atlas.ti 7.** Kingston University London. 5 hours
- 04/2016, 3/2014 and 3/2013 - **Substance abuse in Europe and the UK.** Kingston University London. 6 hours
- 12/2014 to 02/2016 – **Sport, Exercise and Health Psychology.** Kingston University London. 65 hours
- 10/2014 to 12/2014 - Teaching support for **Statistics** (Kingston University). 20 hours

## 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: co-designed and led mixed-method multi-site research activities; report writing.

## Selected Conferences

- 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2022- **Keynote and invited Speaker** (The attitudes of Sicilian psychologists towards homosexuality). Society of Chartered Psychologists Sicily, Conference on Homonegativity. Catania, Italy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2021 - **Keynote and invited speaker** (Clinical work with members of the LGBT+ community: research methods to explore attitudes of Sicilian psychologists). OPRS Webinar. Society of Chartered Psychologists Sicily.
- 24<sup>th</sup> of January, 2020 – **Keynote and invited speaker** (A qualitative investigation of Innovative Teaching Practices at the University of Trento). University of Trento New Employees Training Day. Trento, Italy.
- 16-17<sup>th</sup> of September, 2019 – **Poster** (Promoting Student Wellbeing through a Mind/Body Holistic Approach). ECIU Symposium on Student Wellbeing. Aveiro, Portugal.
- 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 2017 – **Keynote and invited 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.
- 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

- 5<sup>th</sup> 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 in Athens, Greece.
- 5<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 16<sup>th</sup> of June, 2015 – **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize for best poster** (Me, Myself & Cocaine: Sources of Implicit Bias in the Autobiographical IAT) at the Interdisciplinary Hub for the Study of Health and Age-related conditions (IhSHA) conference. Kingston University, London.
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## Scientific Publications and Opinion Articles

**Vargo, E.J.** (2022). Organizational Narcissism as an Adaptive Strategy in Contemporary Academia. *Journal of Academic Ethics*, 1-10.

Pindolia, A., & **Vargo, E.J.** (2022). The "Home Self" Versus "Social Self": Acculturation of Gujarati Women Living in London and Balancing Two Cultures. *Culture & Psychology*. Under Review.

**Vargo, E.J.** (2022). Is clinical simulation for nursing students investigated from the right perspective? A discussion on the importance of student engagement in enabling effectiveness. Ready for submission.

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).

**Vargo, E.J.** (2021, March 7). Cultural Narcissism as an Adaptive Strategy in Contemporary Academia. PsyArXiv. [doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/2yb87](https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/2yb87)

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.