

DR. SAAD ALGHAMDI, PhD, MSc

Researcher and University Professor | Neuroscience, Behavior, Cognition

CONTACT

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Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.....

LANGUAGES

Arabic.....

English.....

SOFT SKILLS

- Leadership & decision-making.....
- Team building & communication.....
- Science Project Management.....
- Behavioral, EEG and fMRI research....

CORE SKILLS

- PsychoPy for research design & data collection.....
- EEGLab & ERPLab for data analyses...
- Excel, JASP, and SPSS for statistical analyses.....
- Peer review and publication.....

SUMMARY

Aligned with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, I am dedicated to advancing research at the intersection of neuroscience, cognition, and behavior to contribute to the nation's progress in science and innovation. During my graduate studies in the United States, I developed extensive expertise through hands-on experimentation, multidisciplinary collaborations, and leadership in projects combining behavioral and electrophysiological methods. As a professor, I actively engage in research, teaching, and mentoring. Recently, I was honored to be appointed as Head of The Research Laboratories and Psychological Experiments Unit in the Department of Psychology at King Saud University, a role that reflects my commitment to driving impactful research and fostering future scientists.

WORK HISTORY

Assistant Professor | 2024 - Present

Department of Psychology, King Saud University | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

- Conducting research and teaching in Neuroscience, Cognitive Psychology, and related fields, offering courses such as Behavioral Neuroscience, Neuropsychology, and Psychopharmacology.

Head of The Research Laboratories and Psychological Experiments unit | 2024 - Present

Department of Psychology, King Saud University | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

- Contributing to strategic planning by ensuring lab facilities and operations support research goals aligned with the department, college, and university plans, all of which follow the overarching guidance of Saudi Vision 2030.
- Identifying opportunities for cooperation with other labs within and outside the institution to enhance research impact.
- Mentoring researchers and ensuring efficient use of lab resources to maximize productivity.

Graduate Researcher | 2016 – 2023

Center for Vital Longevity | Dallas, United States

- Mentored by esteemed and highly cited scientists in the field of Neuroscience and Psychology worldwide, including Dr. Michael Rugg, Director of the Center for Vital Longevity, Dr. Bart Rypma, Director of the Imaging Center at the Center for Brain Health, and Dr. Francesca Filbey, Director of Cognitive Neuroscience Research in Addictive Disorders at the Center for Brain Health.
- Completed advanced research method classes taught by highly respected scientists such as Dr. Herve Abdi and Dr. Aage Moller.

- During my graduate studies, I actively collaborated across multiple labs, leading and contributing to diverse research projects. My work spanned behavioral, electrophysiological, neuroimaging, and neuropsychological methods, targeting neural patterns underlying cognition in varied human participant groups. These experiences provided a robust foundation for my scholarly contributions, which are detailed in the Research and Scholarly Contributions section below.
- Engaged in weekly sessions to consistently stay updated on the latest cutting-edge research in the field of Neuroscience and Psychology.

Teaching Assistant | 2019 - 2022

The University of Texas at Dallas | Richardson, United States

- Supported student learning by grading assignments, providing feedback, responding to inquiries, and assisting professors in enhancing course delivery.

Lecturer | 2010-2024

Department of Psychology, King Saud University | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

- Completed my Master of Science and Ph.D. degrees in the United States.
- Taught several courses including Research Methods, Neuropsychology, Psychopharmacology, and Biopsychology.

EDUCATION HISTORY

PH.D. in Cognition and Neuroscience | 2017 - 2023

The University of Texas at Dallas | Richardson, USA

Master of Science in Applied Cognition and Neuroscience | 2016 - 2017

The University of Texas at Dallas | Richardson, USA

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology | 2005 - 2009

King Abdulaziz University | Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTION

- College of Engineering, King Saud University. Invited Speaker. 'The Story of Brain for Everyday Life: Tips to Enhance Mental Health'. Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, October 2024.
- Brain Imaging Symposium. Invited Speaker. 'EEG Basics and EEG Data Analysis Methods'. College of Applied Medical Sciences, King Saud University. Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, September 2024.
- Department of Psychology, King Saudi University. Invited Speaker. 'How Can We Transfer Psychological and Neuroscientific Theories from the Laboratory to Real-life Applications? Practical Models of Neuroscience and Psychology'. Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, August 2024.

- School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, The University of Texas at Dallas 'Relationships between Age, Subjective and Objective Measures of Recollection, and Pre-Stimulus Neural Correlates of Memory Encoding and Retrieval'. Richardson, United States, September 2023.
- School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, The University of Texas at Dallas. 'The Relationship between the Age, Preretrieval Neural Activity, and Subjective and Objective Measures of recollection'. Richardson, United States, November 2021.
- School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, The University of Texas at Dallas. 'The Effects of Age on Subjective and Objective Estimates of Recollection'. Richardson, United States, April 2020.
- Cognitive Neuroscience Society. 'The Effects of Age on Subjective and Objective Estimates of Recollection'. San Francisco, United States, March 2019.
- The Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference. 'The Effects of Age on Subjective and Objective Estimates of Recollection'. Center for Vital Longevity. Dallas, United States, January 2019.
- I have contributed to the successful execution of the Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference (DACC) in 2019.
- I have dedicated approximately 300 research hours to Psychology and Neuroscience, employing behavioral and brain imaging techniques such as Electroencephalography (EEG) with a primary focus on Event-Related Potentials (ERPs), and conducted a variety of neuropsychological assessments on extensive human participants, evaluating essential cognitive functions such as crystallized intelligence, fluid intelligence, processing speed, and memory, among others. This work resulted in a first-author publication co-authored with Dr. Michael Rugg, a highly cited scientist in the field of cognitive neuroscience of memory and cognitive aging: Alghamdi, S. A., & Rugg, M. D. (2020). The effect of age on recollection is not moderated by differential estimation methods. *Memory* (Hove, England), 28(8), 1067–1077. Additionally, I conducted multiple other studies published as part of my dissertation under the supervision of Dr. Michael Rugg, titled: "The Effects of Age on Pre-stimulus Neural Correlates of Memory Retrieval: An ERP Study" and "Pre-stimulus Subsequent Memory Effects Predict Age-Related Differences in Source Recollection".

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

McKinsey Forward Program | July 2024

McKinsey & Company

- An extensive course where I have gained skills in applying the McKinsey problem-solving approach, enhancing communication effectiveness and influence, and cultivating adaptable, resilient mindsets and habits. Additionally, I have learned strategies for building a foundational digital toolkit.

Foundations of Project Management | Apr 2024

Google

- An extensive course where I improved my understanding of key project management skills, roles, and responsibilities across various industries.
- Learned to analyze the project management life cycle and compare different methodologies.
- Developed strategic thinking skills by exploring organizational structures and cultures and their impact on project success.

Certified Peer Review | Mar 2024

Elsevier

- An extensive course where I enhanced my ability to critically evaluate scientific manuscripts for quality, validity, and originality.
- Developed effective communication skills to provide constructive and actionable feedback to authors.
- Enhanced understanding of ethical considerations and best practices in the peer review process.

Leading Teams: Developing as a Leader | Mar 2024

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- Strengthened emotional intelligence to enhance relationships, foster collaboration, and navigate interpersonal dynamics effectively.
- Refined leadership abilities to inspire, guide, and manage teams toward achieving shared goals.
- Enhanced decision-making skills by applying advanced strategies to evaluate options, mitigate risks, and drive successful outcomes.

Mixed Methods Research | Nov 2023

King Saud University

- Gained valuable insights into the integration of qualitative and quantitative research methods to achieve a comprehensive analysis of complex phenomena.

Academic Advising Practitioner | Oct 2023

King Saud University

- A 15-hour course focused on mastering and practicing diverse strategies for mentoring college students, addressing their needs on multiple levels and from varied perspectives to foster growth and success.

Human Subject Protection | July 2023

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

- In-depth knowledge of guidelines such as the Declaration of Helsinki, Belmont Report, and institutional policies equips researchers to design and conduct studies that prioritize participant safety and scientific integrity.

COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEERS

HBR Advisory Council Member | 2024 – Present

Harvard Business Review

- Contributing to research where the realms of Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience intersect with the dynamic world of Management and Leadership.
- Sharing valuable insights with HBR's editors and product developers, enriching discussions on cutting-edge management and leadership ideas from HBR and the global professional sphere.

The Planning and Management Committee Member | 2023 – Present

Department of Psychology, King Saud University.

- Evaluating the strategic plan and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- Providing feedback on the progress toward achieving departmental goals.

Lead Faculty Advisor of the Psychology Student Group | 2023 – Present

College of Education, King Saud University.

- Offering strategic guidance and leadership to the psychology group, fostering academic excellence and collaboration.
- Serving as the primary liaison between the group and university administration, faculty, and external resources to advance college objectives.

Research Assistant | Jan 2016 - Dec 2016

NeuroPsychometric Research Lab, The University of Texas at Dallas.

- Involved in hands-on practice to gain experience with functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI).
- Participated in a brand-new project in the field of cognitive aging to examine the impact of age on behavior.

REFERENCES

References are available upon request