

Francesca Morfini

Department of Psychology | Jill Hooley lab
Harvard University

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EDUCATION

2011-2014	University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Italy Clinical Psychology (final grade 110/110)	Master Degree
02-06/2010	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain “ERASMUS” exchange student (awarded EU funds)	Study Abroad Program
2008-2011	University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Italy Psychology - Major in Neuroscience	Bachelor Degree

AWARDS

- IOCDF Conference Scholarship (2017)
- Sponsored to attend the ICED conference (2016)
- Sponsored to attend the ECP conference (2015)
- E.U. exchange study abroad award - ERASMUS Scholarship (2010)

CERTIFICATES

- Licensed as Psychologist – Italian Board of Psychologists (since 2016)
- fMRI safety certificate at the UCLA Brain Mapping Center (2016, 2017, and 2018)
- fMRI safety certificate at the Staglin Center for Cognitive Neuroscience (2017 and 2018)
- European Computer Driving License (ECDL) (2006)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Vaughn, D.A., Kerr, W., Moody, T., Cheng, G.K., Zhang, A., Leow, A.D., Strober, M., Cohen, M.S., **Morfini, F.**, Feusner, J.D. (*Revise and resubmit, PLOS ONE*). Differentiating weight-restored anorexia nervosa and body dysmorphic disorder using neuroimaging and psychometric markers.
2. Moody, T., **Morfini, F.**, Cheng, G.K., Kerr, W., Strober, M., Feusner, J.D. (*In submission*). Abnormal Brain Activation and Connectivity in Body Dysmorphic Disorder and Anorexia Nervosa when Viewing Bodies.
3. Rangaprakash, D., Bohon, C., Lawrence, K. E., Moody, T., **Morfini, F.**, Khalsa, S. S., Strober, M., & Feusner, J.D. (2018). Aberrant dynamic connectivity for fear processing in anorexia nervosa and body dysmorphic disorder. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 9, 273.
4. Reggente, N., Moody, T. D., **Morfini, F.**, Sheen, C., Rissman, J., O'Neill, J., & Feusner, J. D. (2018). Multivariate resting-state functional connectivity predicts response to cognitive behavioral therapy in obsessive-compulsive disorder. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, 115(9), 2222-2227.
5. Moody, T. D., **Morfini, F.**, Cheng, G.K., Sheen, C., Tadayon-Nejad, R., Reggente, N., O'Neill, J., & Feusner, J. D. (2017). Mechanisms of cognitive-behavioral therapy for obsessive-compulsive disorder involve robust and extensive increases in brain network connectivity. *Translational Psychiatry*, 7(9), e1230.
6. Tadayon-Nejad, R., Deshpande, R., Ajilore, O., Moody, T., **Morfini, F.**, Ly, R., ... & Feusner, J. D. (2018). Pregenuel Anterior Cingulate Dysfunction Associated with Depression in OCD: An Integrated Multimodal fMRI/1 H MRS Study. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 43(5), 1146.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS AND ABSTRACTS

1. Feusner, J.D., Deshpande, R., Bohon, C., Lawrence, K., Moody, T., **Morfini, F.**, Khalsa, S., Goldbeck, J., Strober, M., (2018). Aberrant fronto-limbic dynamic connectivity for fear processing in anorexia nervosa and body dysmorphic disorder. *Eating Disorders Research Society (EDRS)*.
2. Moody, T., **Morfini, F.**, Deshpande, R., Ly, R., Sheen, C., Feusner, J. D. (2018). Visual Modulation of the Dorsal Visual Stream in Body Dysmorphic Disorder Using Short-Duration Visual Stimuli. *Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP)*.
3. **Morfini, F. (presenter)**, Greco, R., Naman, K., Feusner, J.D., Motivala, S.J. (2017). Cross-sectional and Longitudinal Relationships Between Poor Sleep and Symptom Severity in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. *UCLA Brain Research Institute (BRI)*.
4. **Morfini, F. (presenter)**, Moody, T., Cheng, G.K., Feusner, J.D. (2017). Brain Activation and Connectivity in Body Dysmorphic Disorder and Anorexia Nervosa when Viewing Bodies. *UCLA Brain Research Institute (BRI)*.
5. **Morfini, F.**, Moody, T., Cheng, G.K., Strober, M., Feusner, J.D. (2017). Abnormal Brain Activation and Connectivity in Body Dysmorphic Disorder and Anorexia Nervosa When Viewing Bodies. *American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP)*.
6. Cheng, G.K., **Morfini, F. (presenter)**, Moody, T., Feusner, J.D. (2017). Brain Activation and Connectivity in BDD and Anorexia Nervosa when Viewing Bodies. *International OCD Foundation (IOCDF)*.
7. Tadayon-Nejad, R., Deshpande, R., Moody, T., **Morfini, F.**, Ly, R., O'Neill, J., Feusner, J.D. (2017). Biochemical-connectivity-psychological model of comorbid depression in OCD: an integrated fMRI/1H MRS study. *Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP)*.
8. Deshpande, R., Moody, T., Ly, R., Sheen, C., Potter, G., Cheng, G.K., **Morfini, F.**, Feusner, J. D. (2017). Dynamics of Visual Processing Abnormalities in Body Dysmorphic Disorder. *Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP)*.
9. Feusner, J.D., Reggente, N., Moody, T. D., **Morfini, F. (presenter)**, Rissman, J., O'Neil, J. (2016). Prediction of response to cognitive-behavioral therapy in obsessive-compulsive disorder: a multivariate analysis of resting state functional connectivity. *UCLA Brain Research Institute (BRI)*.
10. Feusner, J.D., Reggente, N., Moody, T. D., **Morfini, F.**, Rissman, J., O'Neil, J. (2016). Prediction of response to cognitive-behavioral therapy in obsessive-compulsive disorder: a multivariate analysis of resting state functional connectivity. *American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP)*.
11. **Morfini, F. (presenter)**, Casero, F., Bassetti, E., Galimberti, E., Baud-Bovy, G., Tettamanti, A., Gatti, R. (2015). Body schema and body image in anorexia nervosa patients: action- oriented protocol. *European Congress of Psychology (ECP)*.
12. Martoni, R.M., Rancoita, R., De Filippis, R., **Morfini, F.**, Cavallini, M.C., Galimberti, E., Bellodi, L. (2015). Risky decision strategies in Healthy Subjects and Obsessive-Compulsive Patients and their interaction with clinical variables. *European Congress of Psychology (ECP)*.

REPORTS (NOT PEER-REVIEWED)

1. Master Degree's Thesis. Morfini, F., (2014). Neurocognitive impulsivity and compulsivity in pathological gambling: a pilot study. pp 107. Final grade 110/110. (Italian only).
2. Bachelor Degree's Thesis. Morfini, F., (2011). Risk perception: the violation of decision-making principles in pathological addictions: pathological gambling and alcohol addiction. pp. 87. Final grade 104/110. (Italian only).

MEDIA NEWS ARTICLES

1. [Brain scans help predict whether OCD will improve with treatment - UCLA Newsroom - Feb. 2018](#)
2. [Behavioral therapy increases connectivity in brains of people with OCD - UCLA News - Sept. 2017](#)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Fellow **10/2018 – present**
The Clinical Research laboratory **Harvard University**

Lab PI: Jill M. Hooley, Ph.D.

- Discuss and develop projects (emotion regulation, impulsivity, and cognitive control in NSSI)
- Take part in lab meetings

Assistant Project Scientist **10/2016 – 09/2018**
The Eating and Body Dysmorphic Disorder Research Program **Semel Institute - UCLA**

Lab PI: Jamie Feusner, M.D.

- Collect MRI, behavioral, and psychometric data
- Preprocessing and analysis of fMRI and rs-fMRI data in FSL (brain activity: GLM, randomize. Brain connectivity: dual regression, independent component analysis, network base statistic analysis)
- Preparation of poster and manuscripts
- Programming and planning stimuli presentation (Matlab, Presentation Neurobs)
- Administration of neuropsychological tests

Volunteer Research Assistant **01/2017 – 09/2018**
Lab PI: Sarosh Motivala, Ph.D. **OCD Treatment Program - UCLA**

- Data manager for a follow-up study that investigates the long-term effects of behavioral and psychiatric treatment for OCD
- Programmed Matlab scripts that organize, score, and analyze data from questionnaires (collected through Survey Monkey)

Volunteer Research Assistant **02-08/2016**
Lab PI: Jamie Feusner, M.D. **Semel Institute - UCLA**

- Operated MRI scanner for research projects
- Responsible for MRI data management and analyses; cleaned, preprocessed, and conducted first and group level analyses
- Programmed in UNIX and Presentation Neurobs
- Acquired data using the Biopac and Eye-tracking systems

Research Assistant **2014 - 2016**
Lab Director: Laura Bellodi, M.D. **San Raffaele University, Italy**

- Responsible for coordinating three research centers for a project on body schema and image
- Involved in neurocognitive studies on executive functions abilities in OCD and AN
- Recruited participants for a project on body schema and body image
- Administered psychological questionnaires, structured diagnostic interviews, CANTAB tasks, visuo-haptic tests, and BIAS software's evaluation
- Collected, organized, maintained, and analyzed data
- Trained research assistants and graduate students in data entry and analysis
- Conducted research literature searches and scientific writing for lab's projects

Volunteer Graduate Research Assistant **2013 - 2014**
Lab Director: Laura Bellodi, M.D. **San Raffaele University, Italy**

- Developed an honors thesis examining executive functions, impulsivity, and compulsivity in OCD and pathological gamblers
- Spearheaded a collaboration between the Bellodi lab and a group of *Gamblers Anonymous*
- Collaborated with the Anxiety Disorders Ward for recruiting participants

CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

Trainee **07 - 08/2016**
Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Training Program **Anxiety Disorder Clinic - UCLA**

- Attended a four-week training program on the application of CBT for OCD
- Attended seminars on interview and therapy techniques, medication management, and theoretical models of CBT for OCD

Clinical Observer **05 - 07/2016**
Health Professional Observer Program **Ronald Reagan Hospital, UCLA**

- Attended weekly teaching rounds on the inpatient or partial eating disorders units
- Supervisors: Michael Strober, Ph.D. and Jamie Feusner, M.D.

Licensed Psychologist **2016**
Self - Employed **Milan, Italy**

- Successfully obtained national license on July 2015
- Conducted diagnostic assessments and psychological counseling sessions

Post-Graduate Intern – Clinical Psychologist **2014 - 2015**
Psychiatry Ward for Anxiety and Eating Disorders **San Raffaele Hospital, Italy**

- Conducted diagnostic evaluations and support interviews for inpatients of the Hospital
- Provided clinical care for patients with OCD, general anxiety disorder, panic attack disorder, anorexia, and bulimia nervosa

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

Fundraiser and PR **2011 - present**
Slanciamoci, non-profit organization **Milan and London**

- Collaboratively built and helped the organization grow
- Raised over € 400,000 in donations to foster research on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
- Plan, publicize, and coordinate Rock Parties, achieving consistent attendance of 4,000 participants
- Expand the outreach events from Milan to London
- Effectively work with a team of 40-50 staff members

SPECIALIZED SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Programming	MRI	Laboratory	Data management
• UNIX • Matlab • Presentation NBS	• FSL • BrainNetViewer • Mango	• Eye tracking • AcqKnowledge • BIAS • CANTAB • ImageMagick • Fantamorph	• SPSS • REDcap • R

Clinical:

- Diagnostic interview
- Neurocognitive testing: Lafayette Grooved Pegboard, Verbal fluency (FAS), Mental Rotations, Digit span, Consonant–Vowel Dichotic Listening
- Psychological testing: SCID-I/-II, MINI, WAIS-R, Y-BOCS, HAMA, EDI, MADRS, ...

WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Matlab - UCLA (May 2017) | coursera.com (Sept 2016)

R - UCLA (Apr 2017) | UCLA (March 2017) | Bootstrapping module at UCLA (Feb 2017)

LANGUAGES

Italian: Native speaker

English: Proficient

Spanish: Proficient