

ELISA PUVIA, Ph.D.

Lecturer in Psychology

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Main current research interests

- **Social cognition**: objectification and dehumanization of female targets (behavioral, indirect measure of attitudes-IAT, SC-IAT, AMP, self-report, and theoretical studies).

- **Trait self-objectification and bodily awareness**: link between women's appearance related self-views and their tendency to objectify and dehumanize objectified female targets (behavioral, indirect measure of attitudes-SC-IAT, self-report experiments).

- **Unconscious cognition**: The (facilitating) role of completely masked solutions in the accuracy of creative problem-solving tasks (behavioral, self-report research).

- **Existential neuroscience**: effects of mindfulness meditation on implicit cognition (self vs. other bias) and brain activity (neurophysiological signals) in managing existential concerns (death anxiety) (behavioral, self-report, indirect measures of attitudes, and EEG studies).

Involvement in studies with *multiple methods*: behavioral, self-report, indirect measures of attitudes (i.e., IAT, SC-IAT, AMP), electroencephalographic (perspective), Event Related Potentials (perspective).

Education

Ph.D. in Cognitive Sciences, University of Padua, March 2011

Master's Degree in Psychology (summa cum laude), University of Padua, February 2007

II level University Master Course, University of Pisa, June 2017 - Analysis, Prevention, and Fight against Organized Crime and Corruption

Academic Appointments

April 2024- September 2025

Postdoctoral Research Fellow-P.N.R.R. project funded by the European Union-Next Generation EU.

Title: "*Detrimental and Beneficial Social Factors Leading to Inclusive Societies.*"

Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.

July 2019 - February 2021

Postdoctoral Research Fellow - Project funded by the Volkswagen Foundation in the field of "Artificial Intelligence and the Society of the Future"

Title: "*COURAGE: A Social Media Companion Safeguarding and Educating Students*"

National Research Council of Italy (CNR), Palermo.

October 2017 - October 2018

Postdoctoral Research Fellow - P.R.I.N. project funded by the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (M.I.U.R.)

Title: "*Social representations of the violence against women: the case of femicide in Italy*"

University of Palermo, Italy.

March 2016 – February 2017

Research Fellow

Title: *“The presence of organized crime, corruption and illegal systems in the north of Italy, with particular attention to the Tuscany region”*

University of Pisa, Italy.

September 2013 – June 2015

Postdoctoral Research Fellow – funded by F.N.R.S.–FNRS Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique

Title: *“Cultural Foundations of Sexual Objectification: The Impact of Clothing”*

Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium.

October 2012- August 2013

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Title: *“Immigration, Fear of Crime and the Mass Media: Roles and Responsibilities”.*

University of Padua, Italy.

September 2011-September 2012

Postdoctoral Research Associate

Title: *“The Impact of Sexualised Images on Thoughts, Perceptions and Behaviors”.*

University of Kent, United Kingdom.

March 2011- August 2011

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Title: *“Denied Humanity and perception of use: The phenomenon of objectification”.*

University of Padua, Italy.

Teaching Experience

Academic level

January 2022- today

Lecturer in Psychology - John Cabot University, Rome, Italy.

Courses taught: **Cognitive Psychology** (core course); course leader in **Psychology of Objectification and Dehumanization**, and **Psychology of Women and Gender**.

Spring term (2018)

Adjunct Professor in *Cognitive Social Psychology* – Graduate-level course within the Psychology program at the University of Palermo, Italy.

Other teaching activities (Professional and Continuing Education)

October 22–23, 2020

Teaching activities for the public **health agency Azienda Tutela Salute (ATS) Sardegna**, ASSL Olbia, within the training project entitled: *“The planetary crisis of the Anthropocene and the emerging ethical-health perspective: new approaches in healthcare.”*

Lecture titles: *“Empathy as a tool for prevention,” “Decision-making dynamics and resistance to change,”* and *“Emotionally demanding professions.”*

Fall term (2008)

Delivered two guest lectures at the Faculty of Statistics, University of Padua, Italy.

Lecture title: *“New proposals for the measurement of attitudes.”*

Committee member and Co-grader

Secondary co-advisor on M.Sc. theses for the Faculty of Psychology at the **University of Palermo**, Italy (2019-2020).

Official member of Ph.D. committee for the Faculty of Social Psychology at the **University of Granada**, Spain (2016).

Official member of Master's thesis committee for the Faculty of Clinical Psychology at the **University of Brussels**, Belgium (2014).

Student Support & Professional Development**Letters of Recommendation**

Provided multiple letters of recommendation for students applying to graduate programs and professional positions.

Invited Panelist, *Psych Career Opportunities*, The Psychology Society, John Cabot University, 11/22/2024. Invited to participate in the Psych Career Opportunities series to discuss career paths in psychology.

Visiting Positions and Research Experiences

April 2012 - September 2012

Visiting Academic

University of Melbourne, Australia

Social Psychology Lab, Prof. Nick Haslam.

August 2009 – June 2010

Visiting scholar

University of South Florida (USF), United States

Advisor: Prof. Jamie L. Goldenberg.

March 2007-March 2008

Research Internship

University of Padua, Italy

Advisor: Prof. Luciano Arcuri.

Grants and Research Funding**External Third-party Grant Funding**

Bial Foundation Grant for scientific research (PI). Title of the project: "*Existential neuroscience investigations with long-term meditation practitioners*". Duration of the project (in months): 24. Award: € 45.500.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship by the **Volkswagen Foundation** in the field of "Artificial Intelligence and the Society of the Future", (primary candidate), Germany, 2019-2021.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship by the **Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (M.I.U.R.)**, (primary candidate), Italy, 2017-2018.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship by the **F.R.S. – FNRS Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique**, (primary candidate), Belgium, 2013 –2015.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship by the **Cariparo Foundation**, (primary candidate), Italy, 2012-2013.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship by the **Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)**, (primary candidate), UK, 2011-2012.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship by the **Cariparo Foundation**, (primary candidate), Italy, 2011.

Postgraduate travel grant funded by the **European Association of Social Psychology**, spent for a research stay at University of South Florida (USF), FL, USA, July 2009.

Internal competitive University Grants

Young research project grant. Title: “A gaze on objectification: Spatial components and perception of objectified women’s instrumentality” (co-investigator), University of Padua, Italy 2009-2010.

Honors and Awards

Selected for recognition by the Municipality of Carrara (Equal Opportunities Committee) among women distinguished for their contributions to science and society, *Carrara celebra le sue donne*, March 2026.

Publications

International journal articles

[Q2] Padakannaya, P., **Puvia, E.**, Khalil, R. (2023). Editorial: Methods and Applications in Cognitive Science. *Frontiers in Psychology Sec. Cognitive Science*, 14. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1321214.

Puvia, E., Taibi, D., & Tressoldi, P.E. (2022). The Role of Masked Solutions in the Accuracy of an Insight Problem-Solving Task. *Journal of Anomalous Experience and Cognition*, 2(1).

[Q1] Bago, B., Kovacs, M., Protzko, J..., **Puvia, E.** *et al.* Situational factors shape moral judgements in the trolley dilemma in Eastern, Southern and Western countries in a culturally diverse sample. *Nat Hum Behav* 6, 880–895 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-022-01319-5>

[Q3] Wollast, R., **Puvia, E.**, Bernanrd, P., Tevichapong, P. & Klein, O. (2018). Sexual Objectification Generates Dehumanization in Western and Non-Western Cultures: A Comparison between Belgium and Thailand. *Swiss Journal of Psychology*, 77(2).

- [Q2] **Puvia, E.**, & Vaes J. (2015). Promoters versus victims of objectification: Why women dehumanize sexually objectified female targets. *International Review of Social Psychology* 28(1), 63-93.
- [Q2] Steve Loughnan, Silvia Fernandez, Jeroen Vaes, Gulnaz Anjum, Mudassar Aziz, Chika Harada, Elise Holland, Indramani Singh, **Elisa Puvia**, & Koji Tsuchiya (2015). Sexual Objectification is common in Western, but not non-Western nations: A seven nations study of sexual objectification. *International Review of Social Psychology*, 28(1), 63-93, 125-152.
- [Q1] **Puvia, E.**, & Vaes, J. (2013). Being a *body*: Women's appearance related self-views and their dehumanization of sexually objectified female targets. *Sex Roles*, 68, 484-495, doi: 10.1007/s11199-012-0255-y.
- [Q1] Loughnan, S., Pina, A., Vasquez, E., & **Puvia, E.** (2013). Sexual objectification increases rape victim blame and decreases perceived suffering. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 37, 455-461, doi: 10.1177/0361684313485718.
- [Q1] Heflick, N.A., Goldenberg, J.L., Cooper, D.P., & **Puvia, E.** (2011). From women to objects: Appearance focus, target gender, and perceptions of warmth, morality and competence. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 47, 572-581. doi: 10.1016/j.jesp.2010.12.020.
- [Q1] Vaes, J., Paladino, M.P., & **Puvia, E.** (2011). Are sexualized female targets human beings? Why males and females dehumanize sexually objectified women. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 41, 774-785. doi: 10.1002/ejsp.824.

Ph.D. Dissertation

Puvia, E. (2011). *A feminine look at female objectification: Makeup and self-objectification, sexy women and their dehumanization*. Università degli Studi di Padova, Padova Italia. Retrieved from: [http://paduaresearch.cab.unipd.it/3812/1/ElisaPuvia PhD thesis.pdf](http://paduaresearch.cab.unipd.it/3812/1/ElisaPuvia%20PhD%20thesis.pdf)

National journal articles

Puvia, E. (October 2024). Meet the Unexpected: A Portrayal of Paul Auster. *The Matthew at JCU*. Retrieved from: <https://thematthewrome.com/2024/10/31/meet-the-unexpected-a-portrayal-of-paul-auster/>

Puvia, E. (2017, June). Dal reale al virtuale e ritorno: il fenomeno del bullismo. Colloquio con Tiziana Pozzoli. *Exagere Rivista*, 5-6. ISSN 2531-7334. Retrieved from: <http://www.exagere.it/>

Puvia, E. (2016, October). Madri d'onore: il ruolo della donna all'interno della famiglia criminale mafiosa. *Exagere Rivista*, 1. ISSN 2531-7334. Retrieved from: <http://www.exagere.it/>

Loughnan, S., Bratanova, B., & **Puvia, E.** (2012). Il paradosso legato al consumo di carne: ovvero, come possiamo amare gli animali e al contempo mangiarli [*The Meat Paradox: How are we able to love animals and love eating animals*]. *In-Mind Italia*, 1, 15-18. ISSN 2240-2454.

Book chapter

Vaes, J., Loughnan, S., & **Puvia, E.** (2013). The inhuman body: When sexual objectification becomes dehumanizing. In Paul G. Bain; Jeroen Vaes; Jacques Philippe Leyens, *Humanness and Dehumanization* (pp. 186-204). New York: Psychology Press. ISBN: 978-1-84872-610-9.

Conference papers

Simione, L., **Puvia, E.** & Raffone, A. (September 2025). Implicit and emotional responses to mortality in Sufi meditators: evidence from the affective misattribution and death-thought accessibility task. Poster presented at the XXXI Annual Conference of the Italian Association of Psychology (AIP), Turin, Italy.

Feri, A., Signorini, A., Baccelloni, A. **Puvia, E.** (2024). Investigating Perceptions of Brand Personality and Consumer Reactions in the Automotive Industry by ChatGPT. In *Sinergie-SIMA 2024 Management Conference Management of sustainability and well-being for individuals and society*, ISBN 978-88-94-7136-5-7, pages 409-417. DOI 10.7433/SRECP.SP.2024.01.

Puvia, E.; Monteleone, V.; Fulantelli, G. and Taibi, D. (2020). Facing the Appeal of Social Networks: Methodologies and Tools to Support Students towards a Critical Use of the Web. In *Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Computer Supported Education - Volume 1: CSEDU*, ISBN 978-989-758-417-6, pages 567-573. DOI: 10.5220/0009571105670573.

Taibi D., Fulantelli G., Basteris L., Rosso G., **Puvia E.** (2020) How Do Search Engines Shape Reality? Preliminary Insights from a Learning Experience. In: Popescu E., Hao T., Hsu TC., Xie H., Temperini M., Chen W. (eds) *Emerging Technologies for Education*. SETE 2019. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 11984. Springer, Cham.

Puvia, E., Goldenberg, J. L., & Vaes, J. (2011). Painting your face: The psychological function of cosmetic use. In Cadinu, M., Galdi, S., & Maass, A. (Ed.), *Social Perception Cognition and Language in honour of Arcuri* (pp. 298-299). Padova: CLEUP, ISBN: 9788861296992.

Puvia, E., Vaes, J., & Paladino M. P. (2010). Perchè lo fanno? De-umanizzazione della donna oggetto e motivazioni di genere a confronto. In Camussi, E. & Monacelli, N. (Ed.), *Questioni sul Corpo in Psicologia Sociale* (pp. 203-211). Pavia: Uninova. ISBN: 978-88-6319-049-6.

Puvia, E., Pavan, G., & Pitteri, M. (2010). Uno sguardo sull'oggettivazione femminile: componenti spaziali di un fenomeno sociale [*A gaze on objectification: Spatial components and perception of objectified women's instrumentality*]. In Ferrari, G., Bouquet, P., Cruciani, M., & Giardini, F. (Ed.), *Pratiche della Cognizione* (pp. 203-207). ISBN: 978-88-8443-349-7

Internal report

Puvia, E. (2010). Report for the EASP travel grant. *European Bulletin of Social Psychology*, 22, 62-63. ISSN:1563-1001.

Puvia E., Maass A., Latrofa, M. & Vaes, J. (2013). La sicurezza percepita nella città di Padova: l'effetto della presenza di poliziotti, militari dell'esercito e civili. *Report di ricerca spedito alla Questura di Padova.*

Manuscripts in preparations with completed data collections

Puvia, E. *Understanding dehumanization.* Invited book proposal. Edward Elgar Publishing, UK.

Puvia, E., Goldenberg, Jamie. *The illusion of enjoyment: makeup consumption as self-objectifying practice among American women.*

Manuscripts submitted for publication

Puvia, E., Simione, L., Gholizadeh, N., Shovaneh, F., & Raffone, A. *Awakening to Death: Contemplative Engagement with Mortality and Prosocial Orientation in Long-Term Sufi Meditators.* Submitted to *Mindfulness.*

Baldner C., Albarello F., **Puvia,** Pierro A. *The Precarity of Inclusive Stances: When and Why Political Left-Wing Individuals Shift to Right-Wing Positions in the Realm of Immigration.* Submitted to *International Journal of Intercultural Relations.* *Authorship for the first three authors is acknowledged merely according to alphabetic order.

Presentations

Oral Presentations and Invited Talks

Puvia, E. (2026, April 27). *Quando il corpo diventa oggetto: impatti sulla salute e sul benessere [When the body becomes an object: Impacts on health and well-being].* Invited talk at the Department of Developmental and Social Psychology, Faculty of Medicine and Psychology, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy.

Puvia, E., Raffone, A., & Simione, L. (2026, April 8-11). *Existential neuroscience investigations with long-term meditation practitioners.* Poster with oral blitz presentation at the Bial Foundation Symposium "Behind and Beyond the Brain: End-of-life experiences", Porto, Portugal.

Puvia, E. (2026, March 4). *The psychology of objectification and dehumanization: On being seen as a body.* Invited lecture, Women's Leadership Initiative, John Cabot University, Rome, Italy.

Puvia, E. (2025, November 26). *Contemplare la morte: Effetti cognitivi e affettivi della meditazione Sufi. [Contemplating Death: Cognitive and Affective Effects of Sufi Meditation].* I, The Other and Death: Psychology of Spirituality and Transcendence. Università degli Studi Internazionali di Roma (UNINT), Italy.

- Puvia, E.** (2025, September 30). *L'Eterno Femminino: How Objectification Shapes Bodies, Minds, and Societies*. Invited lecture at the Rotary Club of Carrara (MS), Italy.
- Puvia, E.** (2025, September 19). *La precarietà delle posizioni inclusive: quando e perché individui di sinistra adottano posizioni di destra in tema di immigrazione*. Oral presentation at the Seminar on Research Activities, Department of Developmental and Socialization Psychology, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.
- Feri, A., Signorini, A., Baccelloni, A. **Puvia, E.** (2023). *ChatGPT in the driver's seat: exploring perceptions of brand personality in the automotive industry*. Sharing Ideas, Advancing Scholarship. The Second Annual Research Workshop of the Frank J. Guarini School of Business. John Cabot University, Rome, Italy. 16/06/2023
- Puvia, E.;** Monteleone, V.; Fulantelli, G. and Taibi, D. (2020). Facing the Appeal of Social Networks: Methodologies and Tools to Support Students towards a Critical Use of the Web. In *Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Computer Supported Education - Volume 1: CSEDU*, ISBN 978-989-758-417-6, pages 567-573
- Puvia, E.,** Mirisola, A., Tarantino, F. (June 2019). *Il ruolo dell'emotional self-stereotyping nelle disuguaglianze economiche e sociali [The role of emotional self-stereotyping in social and economic inequalities]*. Workshop on economic inequality and the role of Social Psychology, Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Caserta, Italy.
- Puvia, E.** (May 2019). International Festival of Science, 'Pint of Science'. *Fare la cosa giusta: il merito del pensiero inconscio nello sviluppo delle preferenze [Make the right thing: the role of unconscious thought in the development of preferences consumption]*, Palermo, Italy.
- Puvia, E. &** Brevetto, G. (January 2016). *Gestione del rischio in funzione anticorruzione: proposte operative*. Giornata dedicata all'incontro con gli Enti Locali, Prefettura di Massa-Carrara, Massa, Italy.
- Puvia, E.,** Vaes, J., & Paladino M. P. (May 2010). *Perchè lo fanno? De-umanizzazione della donna oggetto e motivazioni di genere a confronto*. In Camussi, E. & Monacelli, N. (Ed.), *Questioni sul Corpo in Psicologia Sociale* (pp. 203-211).
- Puvia, E.** (March 2010). *Painting your face: The psychological function of cosmetic use*. CNS Brown Bag, Department of Psychology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.
- Puvia, E.** (February 2010). *Behind the cultural practice: Sexual female objectification made in Italy*. The 19th Southeast Conference on Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Film. Tampa, Florida.

Poster Presentation

- Simione, L., **Puvia, E.** & Raffone, A. (September 2025). Implicit and emotional responses to mortality in Sufi meditators: evidence from affective misattribution and death-thought accessibility task. Poster presented at the *XXXI Annual Conference of the Italian Association of Psychology (AIP)*, Turin, Italy.

COURAGE team: A social media Companion Safeguarding and Education Students (November 2019). Poster presented at the *Kick-off Symposium* held by the Volkswagen Foundation “Artificial Intelligence and The Society of The Future”, Hannover, Germany.

Puvia, E., Goldenberg, J. L., & Vaes, J. (July 2011). Painting your face: The psychological consequences of cosmetic use. Poster presented at the 16th General Meeting of the European Association for Social Psychology (EASP). Stockholm, Sweden.

Puvia, E., Pavan, G., & Pitteri, M. (December 2010). Uno sguardo sull’oggettivazione femminile: componenti spaziali di un fenomeno sociale [*A gaze on objectification: Spatial components and perception of objectified women’s instrumentality*]. Poster presented at the 7th National Conference of the Italian Association of Cognitive Science (AISC). Trento, Italy.

Puvia, E., & Vaes, J. (June 2008). The infrahumanization of objectified women: Why would women do it? Poster presented at the Small Group Meeting on Dehumanization-Determinants and Consequences of Perceiving Others as Less Than Human. Kazimierz Dolny, Poland.

Service Activities

Review Editor, *Forensic and Legal Psychology*, *Frontiers in Psychology*.

Co-Topic Editor of the Research Topic “Methods and Applications in Cognitive Science,” *Frontiers in Psychology*.

Regular ad-hoc reviewer:

European Journal of Social Psychology (EJSP), British Journal of Social Psychology (BJSP), Sex Roles, *Frontiers in Psychology*, Journalism, Mindfulness, *Psychologica Belgica*, *Inquisitive Mind* (national), *Psicologia Sociale* (national).

Conference Organization

Co-organizer of the seminar titled: “Io, l’altro e la morte. Psicologia della spiritualità e della trascendenza”, Università degli Studi Internazionali di Roma (UNINT), Rome, Italy, 26 November 2025.

Member of the Organizing Committee of the workshop titled: “Performing the Female Body: An Exploration”, John Cabot University, Rome, 8 March 2024.

Member of the Organizing Committee of the conference titled: “From Pizza Connection to the Maxi Trial: The Legacies of Giovanni Falcone”, John Cabot University, Rome, 26 January 2024.

Member of the Organizing Committee of the conference titled: “Mafia e antimafia. Lo stato della ricerca e delle politiche negli ultimi anni”, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy, 26 October, 2017.

Member of the Organizing Committee of the conference titled: “Raccontare Cosa Nostra dal tempo delle stragi”, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy, 12 May, 2017.

Member of the Organizing Committee of the Conference on anti-corruption regulations, Prefecture of Massa-Carrara, Italy, 22 January, 2016.

Member of the Organizing Committee of the 10th ESCON-Transfer of Knowledge Conference, Volterra, Italy, 3-7 September 2008.

Professional Affiliations

Italian Association of Experimental Psychology

Gender Studies Community

Science of Consciousness Research Group

Consciousness, Mindfulness and Compassion Research Community Forum

The Power of the Other Hand