



Simone Varrasi

simone.varrasi@phd.unict.it | Catania, Italy

● DECLARATIONS

Self-declaration affidavit according to DPR 445/2000

The undersigned VARRASI SIMONE, aware of the criminal liability he may incur in case of false statements, pursuant to and for the purposes of Article 76 of Presidential Decree 445/2000, as amended, and under his own responsibility DECLARES the following Curriculum Vitae pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree 445/2000, as amended.

● EDUCATION

2022 – CURRENT

PhD - XXXVIII Cycle

Name of the PhD: "Educational processes, theoretical-transformative models and research methods applied to the territory".

At: Department of Educational Sciences - University of Catania, Catania (Italy).

2018 – CURRENT

Four-Year Postgraduate Diploma in Psychotherapy (PsyD)

At: Tolman Institute, **recognized by M.I.U.R.** D.M. 21/05/2001, GURI n. 128 of 05/06/2001, Palermo (Italy).

23/07/2021 – 07/08/2021

A.B.A. Behavior Technician (R.B.T.) Training Course

Course name: "Theoretical-practical and methodological tools for the use of Applied Behavior Analysis in autism spectrum disorders and special educational needs." Duration: 40 hours.

At: L'Arca di Noè Association and Mnemosine Association, both entities **recognized by M.I.U.R.** under Directive No. 170/2016, Catania (Italy).

2018

Licensed Diploma in the Practice of Psychology - Section A

Session: II of 2018.

At: University of Messina, Messina (Italy).

2015 – 2017

Master's Degree in Psychology (MSc)

Final grade: **110 cum laude**.

At: Department of Educational Sciences - University of Catania, Catania (Italy).

2012 – 2015

Bachelor's Degree in Psychological Sciences and Techniques (BSc)

Final grade: **110 cum laude**.

At: Department of Educational Sciences - University of Catania, Catania (Italy).

2007 – 2012

Classical Baccalaureate Diploma - "Brocca" Experimentation

Final grade: **100 cum laude**.

At: Liceo Classico Platone, Palazzolo Acreide (Italy)

● **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2021 – 2022

Adjunct Lecturer

Teaching activities carried out in A. Y. 2021/2022 related to the course "Educational and Developmental Psychology with Early Childhood Psychology Laboratory (0-3 years)" (SSD M-PSI/04). Amount of hours: 75. ECTS: 11.

At: Department of Educational Sciences - University of Catania, Catania (Italy).

2020 – CURRENT

Academic Expert in General Psychology (SSD M-PSI/01)

Support to the chair of General Psychology.

At: Department of Educational Sciences - University of Catania, Catania (Italy).

● **RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ABROAD**

12/12/2017 – 13/04/2018

Research Associate

Research activities abroad in collaboration with IBM company for early detection of Mild Cognitive Impairment with the support of artificial intelligence. Name of research project: "CATHI: Cognitive assessment through human-robot interaction."

At: Smart Interactive Technologies Research Lab - Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield (UK).

03/11/2017 – 13/04/2018

Research Assistant - Erasmus+ Traineeship 2017/2018

Research activities abroad within the Erasmus+ Traineeship 2017/2018 programme to study personality factors and acceptability processes affecting human-robot interaction employed in the early diagnosis of cognitive impairment. The work was carried out in collaboration with the University of Catania, Sheffield Hallam University, the University of Naples Federico II and the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli.

At: Centre for Automation and Robotics Research - Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield (UK).

15/03/2017 – 15/05/2017

Research Assistant - Erasmus+ Traineeship 2016/2017

Research activity abroad within the Erasmus+ Traineeship 2016/2017 programme for the development of a procedure for early diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment supported by humanoid robots.

At: Centre for Automation and Robotics Research - Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield (UK).

● **POSITIONS AT INSTITUTIONS RECOGNIZED BY THE M.I.U.R.**

2020 – 2022

Tutor for University students in the area of Psychology

Study support tutoring for Psychology area students in A. Y. 2020/2021 and 2022/2023.

At: Camplus College D'Aragona, University College of Merit recognized by the M.I.U.R. by Directorial Decree No. 2165 of 08/11/2019 and managed by European Center for University and Research (CEUR), Catania (Italy).

2019 – 2022

Psychological area trainer

Trainer for psychological area topics in A. Y. 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 in both mentioned locations.

At: Camplus College D'Aragona and Camplus College Palermo, University Colleges of Merit recognized by M.I.U.R. by Directorial Decree No. 2165 dated 08/11/2019 and managed by European Center for Universities and Research (CEUR), Catania and Palermo (Italy).

● **SPEAKER AT THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES**

27/09/2022 – 30/09/2022

XXX AIP Congress - Joint Sections

Title of the paper I presented: "Stress and coping strategies in the first lockdown: group differences and evidence-based strategies to reduce psychological burden."

At: University of Padua, Padua (Italy).

08/09/2021 – 10/09/2021

XXVII AIP Congress - Experimental Section

Title of the paper I presented: "Bipolar Depression and pharmacological treatment with Mood Stabilizers and second-generation Antipsychotics: the impact on the affective, cognitive and psychosocial dimensions".

Congress held in online mode.

21/01/2021 – 22/01/2021

I Conference on Technology Enhanced Learning Environments for Blended Education (teleXbe)

Title of the paper I presented: "Face-to-face and online learning: the role of technology in students' metacognition". In this Conference I won the prize Best Paper Award "Antonio Cerrato".

Congress held in online mode.

02/09/2020 – 04/09/2020

XXVI AIP Congress - Experimental Section

Title of the paper I presented: "Cognitive dysfunction and differential diagnosis: unipolar vs bipolar Depression".

Congress held in online mode.

10/10/2019

National Day of Psychology 2019

Title of the paper I presented: "Le nuove frontiere della Psicologia".

At: Department of Educational Sciences, University of Catania, Catania (Italy).

04/07/2018 – 06/07/2018

International Workshop on New Trends in Medical and Service Robotics

Title of the paper I presented: "IBM Cloud Services Enhance Automatic Cognitive Assessment via Human-Robot Interaction". In this Conference I won the prize Silver Best Application Paper.

At: University of Cassino and of Lazio Meridionale, Cassino (Italy).

15/12/2017

BMRC/MERI Winter Poster Presentation

Title of the paper I presented: "New technologies for the early diagnosis of cognitive impairment".

At: Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield (UK).

22/08/2017

What? What's Human about Technology?

Title of the paper I presented: "Robotica e assessment psicologico: uno studio pilota".

At: Meeting di Rimini, Rimini (Italy).

08/04/2016 – 09/04/2016

Psychological Research in... training

Title of the paper I presented: "Socially assistive robotics e depressione post-ictus".

At: Department of Educational Sciences - University of Catania, Catania (Italy).

● **SCIENTIFIC AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

2021

Best Paper Award "Antonio Cerrato"

Prize given to the paper "Face-to-face and online learning: the role of technology in students' metacognition".

At: I Conference on Technology Enhanced Learning Environments for Blended Education - teleXbe, where I was the speaker.

2018

Silver Best Application Paper

Prize to the paper "IBM Cloud Services Enhance Automatic Cognitive Assessment via Human-Robot Interaction".

At: International Workshop on New Trends in Medical and Service Robotics, where I was the speaker.

● **SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATIONS**

18/05/2022 – CURRENT

Italian Psychogeriatrics Association

12/01/2021 – CURRENT

Work Group of the Board of Psychologists of the Sicilian Region "Psychology and scientific research: current status and future prospects"

17/06/2020 – CURRENT

Italian Psychological Association (AIP) - Experimental Section

13/02/2020 – CURRENT

CBT-Italy Society of Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapy

24/01/2019 – CURRENT

Board of Psychologists of the Sicilian Region (OPRS) with No. 9241-A

2012 – CURRENT

National Register of Excellence - M.I.U.R.

● **FOREIGN LANGUAGE CERTIFICATIONS**

2018

IELTS Academic - C1 Level of English Language

● **COMPUTER SKILLS ATTESTED BY INSTITUTIONS RECOGNIZED BY M.I.U.R.**

15/06/2022

Fundamentals of Computer Science

Certificate issued by the Mnemosine Association, a body accredited by M.I.U.R. under Directives 90/2003 and 170/2016, upon completion of a 200-hour training course with a final exam.

15/06/2022

Coding: computational thinking and computer science

Certificate issued by the Mnemosine Association, a body accredited by M.I.U.R. under Directives 90/2003 and 170/2016, upon completion of a 200-hour training course with a final exam.

15/06/2022

L.I.M. and teaching

Certificate issued by the Mnemosine Association, a body accredited by M.I.U.R. under Directives 90/2003 and 170/2016, upon completion of a 200-hour training course with a final exam.

Certificate issued by the Mnemosine Association, a body accredited by M.I.U.R. under Directives 90/2003 and 170/2016, upon completion of a 200-hour training course with a final exam.

PUBLICATIONS

Full papers on Journals:

1. **Varrasi, S.**, Castellano, S., Platania, G. A., Guerrera, C. S., Caponnetto, P., & Pirrone, C. (2022). "Don't touch your face!" The contribution of Habit Reversal in the COVID-19 pandemic. *Health Psychology Research*, 10(4). ISSN 2420-8124. <https://doi.org/10.52965/001c.39650>
2. Pirrone, C., Di Corrado, D., Privitera, A., Castellano, S., & **Varrasi, S.** (2022). Students' mathematics anxiety at distance and in-person learning conditions during COVID-19 pandemic: are there any differences? An exploratory study. *Education Sciences (MDPI)*, 12(6), 379. ISSN: 2227-7102. <https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci12060379>
3. **Varrasi, S.**, & Hichy, Z. (2020). Contatto, emozioni e atteggiamenti intergruppi nella relazione tra Meridionali e Settentrionali. *Annali della Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione*, Università degli Studi di Catania, 19, 77-90. ISSN 2038-1328 / ISSN 2039-4934. <https://doi.org/10.15169/unict-asdf.19.2020.6>
4. Platania, G. A., **Varrasi, S.***, Castellano, S., Godos, J., Pirrone, C., Petralia, M. C., Cantarella, R. A., Tascedda, F., Guerrera, C. S., Buono, S., Caraci, F., & Blom, J. M. C. (2020). Biological and neuropsychological markers of cognitive dysfunction in unipolar vs bipolar Depression: What evidence do we have? *Life Span and Disability*, 23(2), 239-281. ISSN 2035-5963. http://www.lifespanjournal.it/client/abstract/ENG369_4.%20Platania.pdf
5. Castellano, S., Platania, G. A., **Varrasi, S.**, Pirrone, C., & di Nuovo, S. (2020). Assessment tools for risky behaviors: Psychology and health. *Health Psychology Research*, 8(2), 115-116. ISSN: 2420-8124. <https://doi.org/10.4081/HPR.2020.9235>
6. Rossi, S., Conti, D., Garramone, F., Santangelo, G., Staffa, M., **Varrasi, S.**, & di Nuovo, A. (2020). The role of personality factors and empathy in the acceptance and performance of a social robot for psychometric evaluations. *Robotics*, 9(2), 39. ISSN 2218-6581. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ROBOTICS9020039>
7. Di Nuovo, A., **Varrasi, S.**, Lucas, A., Conti, D., McNamara, J., & Soranzo, A. (2019). Assessment of Cognitive skills via Human-robot Interaction and Cloud Computing. *Journal of Bionic Engineering*, 16(3), 526-539. ISSN 1672-6529 / ISSN 2543-2141. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42235-019-0043-2>
8. **Varrasi, S.**, Conti, D., & Di Nuovo, S. (2017). Il contributo della Robotica nell'assessment psicologico: Una literature review. *Formazione Psichiatrica e Scienze Umane*, 37(1-2), 41-46. <http://www.formazionepsichiatrica.it/2017.html>

* Corresponding author

Full papers on Congress Proceedings:

1. Pirrone, C., **Varrasi, S.***, Platania, G. A., & Castellano, S. (2021). Face-to-face and online learning: The role of technology in students' metacognition. In P. Limone, & R. Di Fuccio (Eds), *Proceedings of the First Workshop on Technology Enhanced Learning Environments for Blended Education – The Italian e-Learning Conference 2021*. CEUR Workshop Proceedings, 2817. ISSN 1613-0073. <http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-2817/paper5.pdf>
2. Di Nuovo, A., **Varrasi, S.**, Conti, D., Bamsforth, J., Lucas, A., Soranzo, A., & McNamara, J. (2019). Usability Evaluation of a Robotic System for Cognitive Testing. *14th ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI), 2019-March*, 588-589. ISSN 2167-2148. <https://doi.org/10.1109/HRI.2019.8673187>
3. **Varrasi, S.**, Lucas, A., Soranzo, A., McNamara, J., & di Nuovo, A. (2019). IBM cloud services enhance automatic cognitive assessment via human-robot interaction. In G. Carbone, M. Ceccarelli, & D. Pislà (Eds), *New Trends in Medical and Service Robotics. Mechanisms and Machine Science* (Vol. 65, pp. 169-176). Springer, Cham. ISBN 978-3-030-00328-9 / ISBN 978-3-030-00329-6. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-00329-6_20
4. **Varrasi, S.**, Di Nuovo, S., Conti, D., & Di Nuovo A. (2019). Social Robots as Psychometric Tools for Cognitive Assessment: A Pilot Test. In F. Ficuciello, & R. F., Finzi A. (Eds), *Human Friendly Robotics. Springer Proceedings in Advanced Robotics* (Vol. 7, pp. 99-112). Springer, Cham. ISBN 978-3-319-89326-6 / ISBN 978-3-319-89327-3. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-89327-3_8

5. **Varrasi, S.**, di Nuovo, S., Conti, D., & di Nuovo, A. (2018). A Social Robot for Cognitive Assessment. In *Proceedings of the HRI '18: Companion of the 2018 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction, March 5-8, 2018, Chicago, IL, USA*, 269-270. ISBN 9781450356152. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3173386.3176995>
6. Rossi, S., Santangelo, G., Staffa, M., **Varrasi, S.**, Conti, D., & di Nuovo, A. (2018). Psychometric Evaluation Supported by a Social Robot: Personality Factors and Technology Acceptance. In *RO-MAN 2018 - 27th IEEE International Symposium on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN)*, 802-807. ISSN 1944-9437. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ROMAN.2018.8525838>
7. Penders, J., Wang, J., Bhowmik, D., di Nuovo, A., Soranzo, A., Rolph, J., Popa, I., **Varrasi, S.**, Lucas, A., Conti, D., Young, J., Alboul, L., Collins, E., Aitken, J. M., Law, J., & Cameron, D. (2018). Robots claiming space: gauging public reaction using computer vision techniques. In M. Giuliani, T. Assaf, & M. Giannaccini (Eds), *Towards Autonomous Robotic Systems (TAROS), 19th Annual Conference, Bristol, UK, Lecture Notes in Computer Science (Including Subseries Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence and Lecture Notes in Bioinformatics)* (Vol. 10965, pp. 468-470), Springer Verlag. ISBN 978-3-319-96728-8. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-96728-8>

* Corresponding author

Abstracts on Congress Proceedings:

1. Guerrera, C. S., Sarti, P., **Varrasi, S.**, Platania, G. A., Popovic, D., Tascetta, F., Pani, L., Brunello, N., Drago, F., Di Nuovo, S., Colliva, C., Castellano, S., Caraci, F. & Blom, J. M. C. (2022). Network Intervention Analysis: an innovative tool to investigate symptom-specific treatment effects in Major Depression and Bipolar Disorder. *41° Congresso Nazionale della Società Italiana di Farmacologia - Il valore scientifico e l'uso appropriato del farmaco*, Roma, 16-19 Novembre 2022.
2. **Varrasi, S.**, Platania, G. A., Boccaccio, F. M., & Pirrone, C. (2022). Stress and coping strategies in the first lockdown: group differences and evidence-based strategies to reduce the psychological burden. In F. Gambarota, M. Grassi, & S. Salcuni (Eds), *XXX Congresso Nazionale AIP - Sezioni Riunite*, Padova University Press, Padova, 27-30 Settembre 2022.
3. Platania, G. A., Guerrera, C. S., **Varrasi, S.**, Vezzosi, V., & Castellano, S. (2022). Intolerance to uncertainty and personality factors towards COVID-19 pandemic: a study on the psychological condition during first lockdown. In F. Gambarota, M. Grassi, & S. Salcuni (Eds), *XXX Congresso Nazionale AIP - Sezioni Riunite*, Padova University Press, Padova, 27-30 Settembre 2022.
4. **Varrasi, S.**, Guerrera, C. S., Platania, G. A., Pirrone, C., Castellano, S., & Caraci, F. (2021). Bipolar Depression and pharmacological treatment with mood stabilizers and second-generation antipsychotics: the impact on the affective, cognitive and psychosocial dimensions. *Atti del XXVII Congresso Nazionale AIP - Sezione Sperimentale*, Lecce - Ibrido, 8-10 Settembre 2021.
5. Platania, G. A., **Varrasi, S.**, Guerrera, C. S., Petralia, M. C., Castellano, S., Pirrone, C., & Caraci, F. (2021). A dynamic network approach for the analysis of interactions between symptoms: differences between Major Depressive Disorder and Bipolar Disorder. *Atti del XXVII Congresso Nazionale AIP - Sezione Sperimentale*, Lecce - Ibrido, 8-10 Settembre 2021.
6. Guerrera, C. S., Platania, G. A., **Varrasi, S.**, Castellano, S., Pirrone, C., & Caraci, F. (2021). The role of second-generation antipsychotics in Treatment-Resistant Major Depressive Disorder: effects on cognitive symptoms. *Atti del XXVII Congresso Nazionale AIP - Sezione Sperimentale*, Lecce - Ibrido, 8-10 Settembre 2021.
7. **Varrasi, S.**, Platania, G. A., Castellano, S., Pirrone, C., & Caraci, F. (2020). Cognitive dysfunction and differential diagnosis: unipolar vs bipolar Depression. *Atti del XXVI Congresso Nazionale AIP - Sezione Sperimentale*, Virtual Edition, 2-4 Settembre 2020.

OTHER INFORMATION USEFUL FOR THE EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION

Author metrics retrieved from Scopus

Publications on Scopus: **13**.

Citations: **116** su 86 documenti.

h-index: **7**.

● OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

28/01/2021 – CURRENT

Psychologist

Psychological interventions also provided in psychological and psychiatric emergencies. Interviews conducted in Italian and English.

At: Psyché Clinical Center - Psychological First Aid service, Catania (Italy).

2018 – 2021

Autonomy and Communication Assistant

Habilitation, rehabilitation and support in the school environment of students with disabilities in the SS. YY. 2018/2019 (Millennium Cooperative), 2019/2020 (T.E.A.M. Cooperative) and 2020/2021 (T.E.A.M. Cooperative).

At: Catania (Italy).

I authorize the processing of my personal data in the CV in accordance with art. 13 d. lgs. 30 June 2003 n. 196 - "Code for the Protection of Personal Data" and art. 13 GDPR 679/16 - "European Regulation on the Protection of Personal Data".

Catania, 07/11/2022

