

AMELIE VAN CAEKENBERGHE

PhD candidate in Biomedical Science

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Date of birth: 29/05/1998

Nationality: Belgian

Languages: French (native), English (native), Dutch (B1), Italian (A1)

PERSONAL SUMMARY

As a PhD candidate at the Pain Research Lab (UCLouvain) awarded from the National Fund for Scientific Research (F.R.S.-FNRS), I investigate the neurophysiology of the human nociceptive system. My research focuses on understanding the mechanisms by which hypnoanalgesia— the reduction of pain using hypnosis— influences pain perception and nociception. Using psychophysics and neurophysiology, I aim to demonstrate the capacity of hypnoanalgesia to modulate the flow of sensory information in the brain by selectively altering responses to pain stimuli applied to the hypnotically targeted body region. To this end, I developed an expertise in electroencephalography (EEG), particularly event-related potentials (ERPs) evoked by somatosensory input, as well as skills in human nociceptive system stimulation using thermal stimuli. Supervisor: Prof. Valéry Legrain.

EDUCATION

2021-: PhD degree - FNRS Aspirant at the Institute of Neuroscience (IoNS), UCLouvain.

Title of PhD project: *"My voice will protect your hand. Testing the selectiveness of hypnotic analgesia using psychophysics and neurophysiology"*.

2019-2021: Master degree in Psychological Sciences, orientation: applied research, UCLouvain, Belgium. Graduated with summa cum laude (87.4%).

Title of Master thesis: *'Investigating the impact of spatial conflict on the crossed-hands analgesia phenomenon'*, summa cum laude (90%).

2016-2019: Bachelor degree in Psychological Sciences, UCLouvain, Belgium. Graduated with cum laude (78.85%).

EXPERIENCE

06/2022 – 09/2022: Research stay under the supervision of Prof. Pierre Rainville at the Centre de Recherche de l'Institut Universitaire de Gériatrie de Montréal (CRIUGM), Université de Montréal, Canada.

09/2020 – 12/2020: Clinical internship at the Neuropsychology service and Memory Clinic of the CHU Mont-Godinne, Belgium, maxima cum laude (85%).

02/2020 – 06/2020: Research stay and involvement in the research project *"Is facing pain effortful? A multidisciplinary approach to investigate the effects of pain on perception of effort and performance"*, CRIUGM, Université de Montréal, Canada, summa cum laude (90%).

09/2018 – 02/2019: Erasmus Exchange Program in psychology, Università degli studi di Padova, Italy.

SCIENTIFIC AWARDS

2022: Winning of the award for the best oral presentation at the IoNS Young Researcher's Day of the Institute of Neuroscience of the UCLouvain, Belgium. Topic of presentation: *"Investigating the impact of spatial conflict on the crossed-hands analgesia phenomenon"*.

2020: Winning of the first prize for a Blitz presentation at the Journée Scientifique of the Centre de Recherche de l'Institut Universitaire de Gériatrie de Montréal (CRIUGM), Université de Montréal, Canada. Topic of presentation: *"Is facing pain effortful? A multidisciplinary approach to investigate the effects of pain on the perception of effort and performance"*.

PUBLICATIONS

Van Caekenberghe A, Bougry C, Herbillon G, Vanhaudenhuyse A, Rainville P, Watremez C, Legrain, V. *Investigating pain perception during focused hypnotic analgesia: local and remote effects*. (In revision)

Van Caekenberghe A, Bougry C, Dubuc C, Herbillon G, Vanhaudenhuyse A, Rainville P, Watremez C, Legrain V. *Investigating nociceptive neural responses during focused hypnotic analgesia*. (In preparation)

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATIONS

Oral presentations:

10/2025: *"Investigating hypnoanalgesia using electrophysiology: A narrative review of the literature"*, Hypnosis Research Summit HRS (Budapest, Hungary).

04/2024: *"Investigating pain perception under focused hypnotic analgesia: local and remote effects"*, Young Researcher's day (UCLouvain, Brussels).

04/2022: *"Investigating the impact of spatial conflict on the crossed-hands analgesia phenomenon"*, Young Researcher's day (UCLouvain, Brussels).

05/2020: *"Is facing pain effortful? A multidisciplinary approach to investigate the effects of pain on perception of effort and performance"*, Scientific days CAREC-CRIUGM (Université de Montréal, Canada).

Posters:

04/2025: *"Investigating nociceptive neural responses under focused hypnotic analgesia"*, 14th Congress of the European Pain Federation EFIC (Lyon, France).

09/2023: *"Investigating pain perception under focused hypnotic analgesia: local and remote effects"*, 13th Congress of the European Pain Federation EFIC (Budapest, Hungary).

04/2022: *"Investigating the impact of spatial conflict on the crossed-hands analgesia phenomenon"*, 12th Congress of the European Pain Federation EFIC (Dublin, Ireland).

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Practice of (trail) running and mountain bike at an advanced amateur level.