

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### **Bernardo Villa Sánchez**

24/05/1989

Spanish

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### ACADEMIC CAREER

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- 2015 – Present      **PhD Candidate in Neurosciences, Psychology and Psychiatric Sciences.**  
Dept. of Neurosciences, Biomedicine and Movement Sciences. University of Verona, Verona, Italy.  
Title: *“The motor placebo effect. Neural and behavioural investigations”*.  
Supervisors: Prof. Mirta Fiorio, PhD.
- 2013 – 2015      **Master’s degree in Neurosciences and Behavioural Biology.**  
Dept. of Physiology, Anatomy and Cellular Biology. University of Pablo de Olavide, Seville, Spain.  
Thesis Title: *“Effects of cerebellar tDCS on primary motor cortex excitability”*.  
Supervisor: Prof. Javier Márquez-Ruiz, PhD.  
Co-supervisor: Prof. Pablo Mir, PhD, MD and Juan Francisco Martín-Rodríguez, PhD.
- 2007 – 2012      **Bachelor’s degree in psychology.**  
Faculty of Education, University of Huelva, Huelva, Spain.

### EXPERIENCE

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- 2018 – Present      **Post-doc fellow**  
*Department of Neurosciences, Biomedicine and Movement Sciences, University of Verona, Verona, Italy.*  
- *The effect of cerebellar tDCS and visual feedback on postural control in Parkinson’s patients.*
- 2015 – Present      **Ph.D. Student**  
*Department of Neurosciences, Biomedicine and Movement Sciences, University of Verona, Verona, Italy.*  
The topics of the researches that I am working on are listed below:  
- *Neural underpinnings of the motor placebo effect (tDCS application).*  
- *The effect of placebo on balance control.*  
- *The effect of placebo on motor learning.*  
- *The effect of cerebellar tDCS on balance control.*

- 2015 – 2015  
(3 months) - *The effect of cerebellar tDCS and visual feedback on balance control.*  
**Visiting Scientist.**  
*Mouse Biology Unit Monterotondo, EMBL Monterotondo, Rome, Italy.*  
*Prof. Cornelius Gross.*
- Animal behaviour and learning
  - Intra-muscle recording
- 2015 – 2015  
(6 months) **Trainee: Master's degree.**  
*The institute of Biomedicine of Seville. Group of Movements Disorders, Seville, Spain.*
- Application of cerebellar transcranial direct current stimulation (ctDCS) in healthy subjects.
  - Recordings and evaluation using transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) in healthy subjects. Data analysis (NuCursor)
  - Creation of experiment using E-Prime software.
- 9/2014 – 2/2015  
(6 months) **Trainee: Master's degree.**  
*Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Cellular Biology, University of Pablo de Olavide, Seville, Spain*
- Cerebellar Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) in awake mice.
  - Electrophysiological recordings
  - Knowledge of electrophysiological setup: preamplifier, amplifier, oscilloscope, data acquisition.
- 2/2012 – 5/2012  
(5 months) **Trainee: Bachelor's degree.**  
*Alzheimer's Disease Association, Huelva.*
- Cognitive stimulation therapy for people with mild cognitive impairment.
  - Psychological evaluation.

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Villa-Sánchez, B.**, Emadi Andani, M., Menegaldo, G., Tinazzi, M. & Fiorio, M. (2019) Positive verbal suggestion optimizes postural control. *Sci Rep.*, 9(1):6408.

**Villa-Sánchez, B.**, Emadi Andani, M., & Fiorio, M. (2018). The role of the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex in the motor placebo effect. *Eur J Neurosci.*, 48(11), 3410–3425.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

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**Villa-Sánchez, B.**, Emadi Andani, M., Maron, M., Cesari, P. & Fiorio, M. (2018) *The placebo effect on a motor learning task.* XXVI Congresso Nazionale SIPF, Societa Italiana di Psicofisiologia e Neuroscienze Cognitive, Turin, Italy. November 15-17.

**Villa-Sánchez, B.**, Emadi Andani, M., Menegaldo, G., Tinazzi, M. & Fiorio, M. (2018) *Improving balance control with the placebo effect.* XXVI Congresso Nazionale SIPF, Societa Italiana di Psicofisiologia e Neuroscienze Cognitive, Turin, Italy. November 15-17.

**Villa-Sánchez, B.**, Emadi Andani, M. and Fiorio, M. (2018) *The role of the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex in the motor placebo effect: a tDCS study.* 11th FENS Forum of Neuroscience, Berlin, Germany. July 7-11.

Emadi Andani, M., **Villa-Sánchez, B.**, Menegaldo, G. and Fiorio, M. (2018) *Improving balance control with the placebo effect*. MeeTo International Conference, Turin, Italy. May 25-27,

**Villa-Sánchez, B.**, Emadi Andani, M. and Fiorio, M. (2018) *The role of the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex in the expectation-induced enhancement of force: a tDCS study*. MeeTo International Conference, Turin, Italy. May 25-27.

**Villa-Sánchez, B.**, Emadi Andani, M. and Fiorio, M. (2017) *The Role of the Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex in the Motor Placebo Effect: a tDCS study*. XX Congresso Nazionale SIPF, Società Italiana di Psicofisiologia e Neuroscienze Cognitive, Roma, Italy. November 16-18.

**Villa-Sánchez, B.**, Emadi Andani, M. and Fiorio, M. (2017) *The Role of the Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex in the Motor Placebo Effect: a tDCS study*. 20th Conference of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology". European Society for Cognitive Psychology (ESCoP), Potsdam University, Postdam, Germany. September 3-6.

**Villa-Sánchez, B.**, Emadi Andani, M. and Fiorio, M. (2017) *The Role of the Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex in the Motor Placebo Effect: a tDCS study*. 1st Conference on Placebo Studies", The Society of Interdisciplinary Placebo Studies (SIPS), Leiden, Netherlands. April 2-4.

## GIVEN TALKS

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PhD Day of Graduate School of Life and Health Sciences. *"The role of the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex in the motor placebo effect. A tDCS study"*. University of Verona. December 7, 2017

## PARTICIPATION TO CONGRESSES

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*Congresso Nazionale Società Italiana di Psicofisiologia e Neuroscienze Cognitive (SIPF)*, Torino, Italy. November 15-17, 2018. Attendance and poster presentation.

*11th FENS Forum of Neuroscience*, Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), Berlin, Germany. July 7 -11, 2018. Attendance and poster presentation.

*MeeTo 2018: from moving bodies to interactive minds*. InTo Brain, Turin, Italy. May 25-27, 2018. Attendance and poster presentation.

*Concepts, Actions, and Objects (CAOs 2018)*, Center for Mind/Brain Sciences (CIMEC), Rovereto, Italy. May 3-5, 2018. Attendance and poster presentation.

*Congresso Nazionale Società Italiana di Psicofisiologia e Neuroscienze Cognitive (SIPF)*, Roma, Italy. November 16-18, 2017. Attendance and poster presentation.

*Ten years of mind/brain sciences*. Center for Mind/Brain Sciences (CIMEC), Rovereto, Italy. October 19-21, 2017. Attendance .

*1st ESCoP Satellite on Cognitive Enhancement*. European Society for Cognitive Psychology (ESCoP), Potsdam University, Postdam, Germany. September 3, 2017. Attendance.

*20th Conference of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology*. European Society for Cognitive Psychology (ESCoP), Potsdam University, Postdam, Germany. September 3 – 6, 2017. Attendance and poster presentation.

*1st Conference on Placebo Studies*, The Society of Interdisciplinary Placebo Studies (SIPS), Leiden, Netherlands. April 2 – 4, 2017. Attendance and poster presentation.

*Non-invasive brain stimulation in psychiatric disorders*. School of Psychology, University of Padua, Padua, Italy. June 24, 2016. Attendance.

*Integrazione di metodi e tecniche per la ricerca, la clinica e la riabilitazione in psicofisiologia e neuroscienze*. Modulo 1: "Tecniche di neurostimolazione". Alta Scuola di Psicologia "Agostino Gemelli". Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy. June 13, 2016. Attendance

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Activity as tutor for undergraduate students

Thesis title: "*L'effetto Placebo nell'apprendimento visuo-motorio*". Student: Laura Micheloni. Master's degree in Preventive and Adapted Exercise Science. AY 2018-2019. University of Verona

Thesis title: "*Studio dell'effetto placebo in un compito di forza e della sua durata nel tempo*". Student: Marco Mastropasqua. Master's degree in Preventive and Adapted Exercise Science. AY 2017-2018. University of Verona

Thesis title: "*L'effetto placebo nell'apprendimento visuo-motorio*". Student: Matteo Maron. Master's degree in Preventive and Adapted Exercise Science. AY 2017-2018. University of Verona.

Thesis title: "*Ruolo del cervelletto nel controllo dell'equilibrio: uno studio di tDCS*". Student: Silvia Dامتto. Master's degree in Preventive and Adapted Exercise Science. AY 2017-2018. University of Verona.

Thesis title: "*Il ruolo dell'effetto placebo sul controllo dell'equilibrio monopodal*". Student: Giulia Menegaldo. Master's degree in Preventive and Adapted Exercise Science. AY 2017-2018. University of Verona.

Thesis title: "*Effetto placebo in ambito motorio: uno studio sperimentale sul ruolo della corteccia prefrontale*". Student: Julie Primavesi, Bachelor's degree in Sport and Exercise Science. AY 2017-2018

Thesis title: "*Il ruolo del cervelletto nel controllo dell'equilibrio con feedback visivo: uno studio di tDCS*". Student: Federico Raneri. Master's degree in Preventive and Adapted Exercise Science. AY 2016-2017. University of Verona.

## LANGUAGES

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Spanish (Native), English (Advanced) and Italian (Upper Intermediate).

## SKILLS

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**Software:** Microsoft Office, E-Prime, CorelDraw, NuCursor, SPSS and Spike2.

**Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation:** tDCS and TMS

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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**Fields of interest**

- Cognitive and Sensorimotor Neuroscience.
- Human Motor Control and Motor Planning System.
- Motor learning and rehabilitation.
- Placebo and Nocebo effects.
- Non-invasive Brain Stimulation.

**Awards**

- Best Abstract PhD day, University of Verona, 2017.  
*"The role of the DLPFC in the motor placebo effect: a tDCS study"*
- Travel grant award, Society for Interdisciplinary Placebo Studies (SIPS) conference, 2019 (300€).  
*"The placebo effect in motor skill learning: Comparing cognitive and motor placebos"*