

Sonia J. Milani

Sexuality and Well-being Laboratory, Department of Psychology
UBC Sexual Health Research Laboratory, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
University of British Columbia
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EDUCATION

- 2020 – **M.A. Student in Clinical Psychology**, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC
Supervisor: Samantha Dawson, Ph.D.
- 2016 – 2018 **Unclassified Student**, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC
- 2006 – 2011 **Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)**, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2020 – 2021 **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)** \$17,500
Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Master's Scholarship
- 2020 – 2021 **Graduate Entrance Scholarship**, University of British Columbia \$17,500

RESEARCH GRANTS (AWARDED)

- 2017 – 2019 **International Society for Sexual Medicine** \$11,000
Principal Applicant: Dr. Julia Velten
Co-Applicants: Dr. Lori Brotto, **Sonia Milani**
Project Title: EYES Study: Investigating visual attention and sexual response in women with and without sexual concerns.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Milani, S.**, Brotto, L. A., & Kingstone, A. (2019). "I can see you": The impact of implied social presence on visual attention to erotic and neutral stimuli in men and women. *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, 28(2), 105-119. doi:10.3138/cjhs.2019-0007
2. Velten, J., **Milani, S.**, Margraf, J., & Brotto, L. A. (Under Review). Visual attention to sexual stimuli in women with and without sexual dysfunction. *Journal of Sexual Medicine*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

1. Velten, J., **Milani, S.**, & Brotto, L. A. *Attending to sexual stimuli: Difference between women with and without sexual dysfunction.*

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Brotto, L. A., & **Milani, S.** (in press). Asexuality: When Sexual Attraction Is Lacking. In D. VanderLaan & I. Wong (Eds.), *Gender and Sexuality Development: Contemporary Theory and Research*.
2. Velten, J., & **Milani, S.** (2019). Sexuality and Sexual Dysfunction: Psychological Perspectives and Interventions. In J. M. Ussher, J. C. Chrisler & J. Perz (Eds.), *Routledge International Handbook of Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health*. New York, NY: Routledge. Chapter 28, pp. 427-442.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **Milani, S.**, Velten, J., & Brotto, L. A. (2020, April). *Comparing visual attention patterns in women with and without sexual concerns*. Oral presentation at the Women's Health Research Cluster Trainee Presentation Series, Vancouver, British Columbia
2. **Milani, S.**, Velten, J., & Brotto, L. A. (2020, April). *Controlled visual attention in women with and without sexual concerns*. Poster presentation at the 45th Annual Society for Sex Therapy and Research, Chicago, Illinois.
3. **Milani, S.**, & Brotto, L. A. (2019, October). *Diversity in asexuality*. Poster presentation at the 46th Annual Canadian Sexual Research Forum, Victoria, British Columbia.
4. **Milani, S.**, Brotto, L. A., & Kingstone, A. (2018, October). *"You are being eye tracked": The impact of implied social presence on visual attention to erotic and neutral stimuli in men and women*. Oral presentation at the 45th Annual Canadian Sexual Research Forum, Toronto, Ontario.
5. **Milani, S.**, Brotto, L. A., & Kingstone, A. (2018, September). *Visual attention patterns to erotic and neutral stimuli in women*. Oral presentation at the Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI) World Sexual Health Day, Vancouver, British Columbia.
6. **Milani, S.**, Kingstone, A., & Brotto, L. A. (2018, May). *Where will you look? Implied social presence and its effect on visual attention to erotic and neutral stimuli in men and women*. Oral presentation at the 2018 NorthWest Cognition and Memory (NOWCAM), Richmond, British Columbia.
7. **Milani, S.**, Brotto, L. A., & Kingstone, A. (2017, October). *Wandering eyes: The impact of implied social presence on visual attention to erotic stimuli*. Poster presentation at the 44th Annual Canadian Sexual Research Forum, Fredericton, New Brunswick.
8. Wahn, B., **Milani, S.**, Konig, P., & Kingstone, A. (2016, May). *Humans' willingness to cooperate with a computer partner depends on feedback about the team's performance*. Oral presentation at the 2016 NorthWest Cognition and Memory (NOWCAM), Vancouver, British Columbia.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

UBC Sexual Health Laboratory, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC. (April 2016 – Present).

Study Coordinator/Directed Studies Student, Supervisor: Lori A. Brotto, Ph.D.

- Assist in conceptual design of multiple research projects, research proposals, grant applications and creating behavior and clinical ethics applications
- Manage multiple studies simultaneously, studies include: EYES, TRACE, BRACE, and JUNIPER
- Study recruitment, conduct phone screens for prospective clinical participants
- Conduct psychophysiological assessments (eye-tracking and vaginal photoplethysmography)
- Create online surveys (REDCap and Qualtrics), manage online data and conduct analysis in SPSS
- Train and supervise new volunteers on study tasks
- Administrative work (scheduling appointments, creating invoices, ethics renewals)
- Directed studies project: “You are being eye tracked: The impact of implied social presence on visual attention to erotic and neutral stimuli in men and women”

Brain, Attention, and Reality Lab, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC. (January 2016 – Present).

Research Assistant/Directed Studies Student, Supervisor: Alan Kingstone, Ph.D.

- Assist in coding experiments, data entry, conducting literature reviews
- Data collection using eye tracking, virtual reality equipment, and computer-based tasks
- Assist in training new volunteers and graduate students using eye tracking equipment
- Directed studies project: “Wandering eyes: The impact of implied social presence on visual attention to erotic stimuli.”

Attentional Neuroscience Lab, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC. (April 2016 – December 2016).

Volunteer Research Assistant, Supervisor: Sumeet Mutti (M.A. Student)

- Data collection using electroencephalogram

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & MEMBERSHIPS

Ad Hoc Reviewer

2020 – Present *Journal of Sex Research (in collaboration with Dr. Brotto)*

Memberships (Student Affiliate)

2020 – Present International Academy of Sex Research

2020 – Present Society for Sex Therapy and Research

2019 – Present Women’s Health Research Cluster

2017 – Present Canadian Sex Research Forum

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Vancouver Cognitive Behaviour Therapy Centre, Vancouver, BC. (January 2018 – Present).

Behavioural Assistant, Supervisor: Dr. Melisa Robichaud

- Conduct exposure therapy for clients presenting with a variety of anxiety-related disorders, such as obsessive-compulsive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, and panic disorder

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Jan 2019 **Teaching Assistant**, Cultural Psychology (PSYC 307)
University of British Columbia, Instructor: Dr. Steven Heine
- Sept 2018 **Teaching Fellow**, Research Methods in Psychology (PSYC 217)
University of British Columbia, Instructor: Dr. Catherine Rawn
- Jan 2018 **Teaching Assistant**, Cultural Psychology (PSYC 307)
University of British Columbia, Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Cheung
- Sept 2017 **Teaching Fellow**, Research Methods in Psychology (PSYC 217)
University of British Columbia, Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Cheung
- Jan 2017 **Lab Facilitator & Teaching Assistant**, Introduction to Developmental, Social, Personality and
Clinical Psychology (PSYC 102), Vantage College (UBC), Instructor: Dr. Lily May
- Sept 2016 **Teaching Fellow**, Research Methods in Psychology (PSYC 217)
University of British Columbia, Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Cheung

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Vancouver United Football Club, Premier Team, Captain (2010 – Present)
Metro Women's Soccer League, Vancouver, BC
- Vancouver United Football Club, Selects Team, Volunteer Assistant Coach (2010 – Present)
Metro Women's Soccer League, Vancouver, BC