

CRISTINA IANI

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY, MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND MORPHOLOGICAL SCIENCES WITH INTEREST IN TRANSPLANT,
ONCOLOGY AND REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF MODENA AND REGGIO EMILIA
VIALE A. ALLEGRI 9, REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY
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ORCID: 0000-0002-7220-6337

CURRENT POSITION

2019 – PRESENT
FULL PROFESSOR IN GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
Department of Surgery, Medicine, Dentistry and Morphological Sciences with interest in Transplant, Oncology
and Regenerative Medicine
University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2010 – 2019
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
Department of Communication and Economics
University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

2004 - 2010
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
Faculty of Communication Sciences
University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

April – September 2008: Visiting Scholar/Researcher, School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences,
University of Texas, Dallas, USA

July – September 2005/August-November 2004: leave for study purposes spent at the Beckman
Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (USA), as a
Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Beckman Institute Fellows Program.

2002 - 2004
POST DOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (Beckman Postdoctoral Fellow)
Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (USA)

2001 – 2002
POST DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW
Faculty of Industrial Engineering and Management,
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa (Israel)

EDUCATION

2001
PH.D. IN PSYCHOLOGY
University of Bologna, Italy

1995
LAUREA (MASTER'S DEGREE) IN GENERAL AND EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
Università di Padova, Italy

FELLOWSHIPS

2002–2005

Beckman Institute Fellowship, Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA

2001–2002

Max Wertheimer Minerva Center for Cognitive Processes and Human Performance Fellowship, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Israel

1996–1997

European Commission Human Capital and Mobility Programme Training and Research Fellowship, Université de Valenciennes, France

TEACHING (LAST TWO ACADEMIC YEARS)

- General Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology in digital contexts

UNIVERSITY SERVICES (SELECTED)

NOVEMBER 2025-PRESENT

VICE-RECTOR FOR THE REGGIO EMILIA CAMPUS

University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

10/01/2025 – 31/10/2025

MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY EVALUATION BOARD

University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

2016 - 2024

MEMBER OF THE QUALITY COMMITTEE

University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

EXTERNAL SERVICES

2019 – 2022

Member of the Board

Istituzione Scuole e Nidi dell'Infanzia del Comune di Reggio Emilia (Institution of Schools and Early Childhood Centers of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia)

FUNDED PROJECTS (FROM 2021)

2023

The attentive homunculus in somatosensation: Investigating the mechanisms of spatial attention in the tactile and nociceptive sensory modalities

Funding body: Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR-PRIN2022)

Role: Research member

2023

The Green European University

Funding body: Erasmus+, key action 2

Role: Manager and Researcher

2022

The role of attention in the tactile and nociceptive modalities

Funding body: Fondo di Ateneo per la ricerca, FAR Mission Oriented 2022, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

Role: Principal Investigator

2022

SERMAS - Socially-acceptable Extended Reality Models and Systems

Funding body: European Community (HORIZON-CL4-2021-HUMAN-01)

Role: Research member

2022

ACT2- Acting together: How motor styles shape action prediction and brain-to-brain connectivity in typical and autistic populations

Funding body: Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR-PRIN2020)

Role: Research member

PUBLICATIONS (2016-2026)

ORCID: 0000-0002-7220-6337 for the complete list

ARTICLES

- Scerrati, E., **Iani, C.**, Rubichi, S., Nicoletti, R. (2026). From spatial attention to action: the legacy of Carlo Umiltà. *Giornale Italiano di Psicologia*, Vol. 53(2), 385-410. DOI: 10.1421/120864
- Fiorino, F.R., **Iani, C.**, Rubichi, S., Gherri, E. (2026). Behavioral and Electrophysiological Evidence for Intertrial Priming of Pop-out in Touch. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 38(4), 631-644. DOI: 10.1162/JOCN.a.2400
- Miti, F., Toppi, J., Ciaramidaro, A., **Iani, C.**, Rubichi, S. (2026). Inter-brain alignment during a joint Simon task: An EEG hyperscanning study. *PlosOne*, 21, e0338934. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0338934
- Miti, F., Ciaramidaro, A., Rubichi, S., **Iani, C.** (2026). Attentional capture by real and illusory faces: a failure to replicate. *Psychological Research*, 89(6), 181. DOI: 10.1007/s00426-025-02211-3
- Biagi, F., **Iani, C.**, Biagiotti, L. (2025). The use of the social robot NAO in medical settings: How to facilitate interactions between healthcare professionals and patients with autism spectrum disorder. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 16: 1675098. DOI:10.3389/fpsy.2025.1675098
- **Iani, C.**, Rubichi, S. (2025). Acting and Practising Together: Modulations of the Joint Simon Effect in 6- to 8-Year-Old Children. *Infant and Child Development*, 34:e70044. DOI: 10.1002/icd.70044
- Scerrati, E., **Iani, C.**, Rubichi, S., Goldstone, R. (2025). An attentionally modulated motor-to-semantic priming: Evidence from the property-verification task. *Language & Cognition*, 17, e61, 1–1. DOI: 10.1017/langcog.2025.10017
- Scerrati, E., Rubichi, S., **Iani, C.** (2025). For your eyes only: quick and long gaze differently affect action. *Visual Cognition*. DOI: 10.1080/13506285.2025.2524334
- Fiorino, F.R., **Iani, C.**, Rubichi, S., Gherri, E. (2025). Behavioral and Electrophysiological Evidence for Intertrial Priming of Pop-out in Touch. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 1-14. DOI: 10.1162/JOCN.a.2400
- Gherri, E., Fiorino, F.R., **Iani, C.**, Rubichi, S. (2023). Searching for a tactile target: The impact of set-size on the N140cc. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 17:1209555. DOI: 10.3389/fnhum.2023.1209555
- Scerrati, E., Rubichi, S., **Iani, C.** (2022). Does a look of fear prompt to act? The effects of gaze and face emotional expression on manipulable objects. *Frontiers in Psychology. Emotional Science*, 13. DOI: 10.3389/fpsyg.2022.927104
- Scerrati, E., Rubichi, S., Nicoletti, R., **Iani, C.** (2022). Emotions in Motion: Affective Valence Can Influence Compatibility Effects with Graspable Objects. *Psychological Research*. DOI: 10.1007/s00426-022-01688-6
- Bellini, P., **Iani, C.**, Macaluso, G.M., Zucchelli, G., Franchi, M., Mattioli, A.M., Consolo, U. (2022). Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on dental hygiene students in the Italian region of Emilia-Romagna. *Minerva Stomatologica*. DOI: 10.23736/S0026-4970.20.04475-1
- Generali, L., **Iani, C.**, Macaluso, G.M., Montebugnoli, L., Siciliani, G., Consolo, U. (2021). The perceived impact of COVID-19 pandemic on dental undergraduate students in the Italian region of Emilia-Romagna. *European Journal of Dental Education*, 25(3), 621-633. DOI: 10.1111/eje.12640
- **Iani, C.**, Ciardo, F., Panajoli, S., Lugli, L., Rubichi, S. (2021). The role of the co-actor's response reachability in the joint Simon effect: remapping of working space by tool use. *Psychological Research*, 85(2), 521-532. DOI: 10.1007/s00426-019-01271-6
- Bellini, P., Checchi, V., **Iani, C.**, Bencivenni, D., Consolo, U. (2021). Psychological reactions to COVID-19 and epidemiological aspects of dental practitioners during lockdown in Italy. *Minerva Dental and Oral Science*, 70(1), 32-43. DOI: 10.23736/S0026-4970.20.04430-1
- Scerrati, E., **Iani, C.**, Rubichi, S. (2021). Does the activation of motor information affect semantic processing? In L.

Bechberger, K-U. Kühnberger, & M. Liu (Eds.), *Concepts in Action: Representation, Learning and Application* (pp. 153-166). Springer Nature.

- Trifiletti, E., D'Ascenzo, S., Lugli, L., Cocco, M.V., Di Bernardo, G.A., **Iani, C.**, Rubichi, S., Nicoletti, E., Vezzali, L., (2020). Truth and lies in your eyes: Pupil dilation of White participants in truthful and deceptive responses to White and Black partners. *PLoS ONE* 15(10): e0239512. DOI: pone.0239512
- Scerrati, E., D'Ascenzo, S., Lugli, L., **Iani, C.**, Rubichi, S., Nicoletti, R. (2020). Exploring the role of action consequences in the handle-response compatibility effect. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, section Cognitive Neuroscience, 14: 286. DOI: 10.3389/fnhum.2020.00286
- Consolo, U., Bellini, P., Bencivenni, D., **Iani, C.**, Checchi, V. (2020). Epidemiological aspects and psychological reactions to COVID-19 of dental practitioners in the northern Italy districts of Modena and Reggio Emilia. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17(10). 3459. DOI: 10.3390/ijerph17103459
- Scerrati, E., **Iani, C.**, Lugli, L., Nicoletti, R., Rubichi, S. (2020). Do my hands prime your hands? The hand-to-response correspondence effect. *Acta Psychologica*, 203, Article 103012. DOI: 10.1016/j.actpsy.2020.103012
- **Iani, C.**, Maiorana, N.V., Rubichi, S. (2020). L'influenza del tipo di prime sull'emergere degli effetti affordance. *Giornale Italiano di Psicologia*, 1, 293-303. DOI: 10.1421/96611
- Pellicano, A., **Iani, C.**, Maiorana, N. V., Horoufchin, H., Rubichi, S., Lugli, L., Nicoletti, R., Binkofski, F. (2020). Correspondence effect driven by salient visual asymmetries in integral object stimuli. *Psychological Research*, 84(3), 738-742. DOI: 10.1007/s00426-018-1079-3
- Scerrati, E., **Iani, C.**, Lugli, L., Rubichi, S. (2019). C'è un effetto di potenziamento dell'azione con oggetti bimanuali? *Giornale Italiano di Psicologia*, 46(4), 987-996.
- Peruzzini, M., Tonietti, M., **Iani, C.** (2019). Transdisciplinary design approach based on driver's workload monitoring. *Journal of Industrial Information Integration*, 15, 91-102. DOI: 10.1016/j.jii.2019.04.001
- Ciardo, F., Ricciardelli, P., **Iani, C.** (2019). Trial-by-trial modulations in the orienting of attention elicited by gaze and arrow cues. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 72(3), 543-556. DOI: 10.1177/1747021
- **Iani, C.**, Ferraro, L., Maiorana, N.V., Gallese, V., Rubichi, S. (2019). Do already grasped objects activate motor affordances? *Psychological Research*, 83(7), 1363-1374. DOI: 10.1007/s00426-018-1004-9
- Pellicano, A., Lugli, L., Binkofski, F., Rubichi, S., **Iani, C.**, Nicoletti, R. (2019). The unimanual handle-to-hand correspondence effect: evidence for a location coding account. *Psychological Research*, 83(7), 1383-1399. DOI: 10.1007/s00426-018-1009-4
- D'Ascenzo, S., Lugli, L., Baroni, G., Guidotti, R., Rubichi, S., **Iani, C.**, Nicoletti, R. (2018). Visual versus auditory Simon effect: a behavioural and physiological investigation. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 71, 917-930. DOI: 10.1080/17470218.2017.1307429
- Ciardo, F., Campanini, I., Merlo, A., Rubichi, S., **Iani, C.** (2018). The role of perspective in discriminating between social and non-social intentions from reach-to-grasp kinematics. *Psychological Research*, 82(5), 915-928. DOI: 10.1007/s00426-017-0868-4.
- **Iani, C.**, Ciardo, F., Ricciardelli, P., Nicoletti, R. (2016). Relazione tra campo dipendenza-indipendenza e controllo cognitivo. *Giornale Italiano di Psicologia*, 3, 649-658. DOI: 10.1421/84499.
- D'Ascenzo, S., **Iani, C.**, Guidotti, R., Laeng, B., Rubichi, S. (2016). Practice-induced and sequential modulations in the Simon task: evidence from pupil dilation. *International Journal of Psychophysiology*, 110, 187-193. DOI: 10.1016/j.ijpsycho.2016.08.002.
- Pistoia, F., Cornia, R., Conson, M., Gosseries, O., Carolei, A., Sacco, S., Quattrocchi C.C., Mallio, C.A., **Iani, C.**, Di Mambro, D., Sarà, M. (2016). Disembodied Mind: Cortical Changes Following Brainstem Injury in Patients with Locked-in Syndrome. *The Open Neuroimaging Journal*, 10(1), 32-40. DOI: 10.2174/1874440001610010032.
- Ciardo, F., Lugli, L., Nicoletti, R., Rubichi, S., **Iani, C.** (2016). Action-space coding in social contexts. *Scientific Reports*, 6, 22673. DOI: 10.1038/srep22673.
- Ricciardelli, P., Lugli, L., Pellicano, A., **Iani, C.**, Nicoletti, R. (2016). Interactive effects between gaze direction and facial expression on attentional resources deployment: the task instruction and context matter. *Scientific Reports*, 6, 21706. DOI: 10.1038/srep21706.
- Romano, A., Cornia, R., Moraschi, M., Bozzao, A., Chiacchiararelli, L., Coppola, V., **Iani, C.**, Stella, G., Albertini, G., Pierallini, A. (2016). Age-Related Cortical Thickness Reduction in Non-Demented Down's Syndrome Subjects. *Journal of Neuroimaging*, 26(1), 95-102. DOI: 10.1111/jon.12259.

PROCEEDINGS

- Ciardo, F., Fava, A., Ricciardelli, P., Villani, V., **Iani, C.**, Sabattini, L. (2026). Diffusion of Responsibility in HRI: Reduction of Human Agency Does not Occur When Sharing a Task with a Robotic Arm. In: Staffa, M., *et al.* *Social Robotics + AI. ICSR+AI 2025. Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, 16131. Springer, Singapore. Doi: 10.1007/978-981-95-2379-5_55
- Quamara, M., Schmuck, V., **Iani, C.**, Primavesi, A., Plaum, A., & Viganò, L. (2025). Evaluating Social Acceptance of eXtended Reality (XR) Agent Technology: A User Study. In *Proceedings of the 16th Biannual Conference of the Italian SIGCHI Chapter (CHIItaly '25)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 25, 1-10. DOI: 10.1145/3750069.3750317
- Ruo, A. *et al.* (2025). Systematic Analysis of Requirements for Socially Acceptable Service Robots. In: Paolillo, A., Giusti, A., Abbate, G. (eds.) *Human-Friendly Robotics 2024. HFR 2024. Springer Proceedings in Advanced Robotics*, vol 35. Springer, Cham. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-031-81688-8_2
- Patarini, F. *et al.* (2025). Handling Kinematic Features in an Action Observation Task to Optimize a Brain Computer Interface-Based Rehabilitation Training. *2025 International Conference On Rehabilitation Robotics (ICORR)*, Chicago, IL, USA, 2025, pp. 1078-1082. DOI: 10.1109/ICORR66766.2025.11062958

- **Iani, C.**, Bori, L., Rubichi, S. (2024). Relationship Between Arousal and Technical Performance in the Oil and Gas Sector: An Investigation Using a Simulated Well Control Scenario. Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting, DOI: 10.1177/10711813241277537
- Villani, V., Ciaramidaro, A., **Iani, C.**, Rubichi, S, Sabattini, L. (2022). To collaborate or not to collaborate: understanding human-robot collaboration. IEEE 18th International Conference on Automation Science and Engineering (CASE), Mexico City, Mexico, 2022, pp. 2441-2446. DOI: 10.1109/CASE49997.2022.9926436

EDITED BOOKS

- Ciccarelli, S. K., & White, J. N. (2022). *Psicologia generale* (P. Ricciardelli & **C. Iani**, Eds.). Milano: Pearson.

BRIEF BIO

Cristina Iani earned her degree in General and Experimental Psychology from the University of Padua in 1995 and completed her PhD in Psychology at the University of Bologna in 2001. She subsequently held postdoctoral appointments at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology (2001–2002) and at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (2002–2004), and was a Visiting Researcher at The University of Texas at Dallas in 2008.

In 2004, she joined the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia as Assistant Professor of General Psychology, was promoted to Associate Professor in 2010 and to Full Professor in 2019. She has taken part in numerous nationally and internationally funded research projects and is Co-Director of the Laboratory of Neuroscience and Psychology at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. She is currently serving as Vice Rector for the Reggio Emilia campus.

Her research addresses human cognitive functioning in both experimental and applied contexts. Her recent work focuses on attentional mechanisms, perception–action relationships, the cognitive processes involved in interactions with both human and artificial agents, and the assessment of mental workload during the execution of complex tasks.

7/07/2026