

# Junior Researcher Programme

## jSchool 2023: Italy

31<sup>st</sup> July – 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Apply via our [website](#)

### The jSchool 2023 in Italy

The jSchool offers the chance to gain valuable experience in designing multi-country research in small groups under supervision of early-career researchers. It provides a platform for psychology students to conduct research in an international setting and in their field of interest, with the aim to publish in scientific journals.

The jSchool includes lectures and seminars from experts in the field, and six research groups led by Research Supervisors. The final day of the jSchool marks the beginning of student enrolment into the Junior Researcher Programme.

### Why become a Research Supervisor?

Becoming a Research Supervisor in the Junior Researcher Programme is a unique opportunity for academic and personal development. Supervisors are given the chance to lead a group of six talented and motivated undergraduate and postgraduate psychology students in designing and conducting a cross-country research project of their choosing related to the theme: *Biased beliefs: The psychology of irrationality and its consequences*.

### Expectations of a Research Supervisor

- ✓ To demonstrate skill and enthusiasm for psychological research related to the theme of irrationality
- ✓ We are looking to recruit six determined, resilient, and motivated researchers with the skills and ability to supervise, direct, and support a group of six international psychology students to complete a cross-cultural research project (generally 13 months)
- ✓ To plan for and run research group sessions during the summer school
- ✓ To supply methodological and technical expertise on the research project from the outset, while also seeking input from senior academics or other experts in psychological science
- ✓ To continue working on the study after the jSchool, oversee all aspects of the project, and attend the JRP Conference in the following year
- ✓ To support scientific transparency and to encourage reliability in scientific dissemination, we strongly encourage creation of protocols and preregistration of studies

**Research Supervisors must be willing to commit to their proposed research projects for the duration of the programme. The programme starts with the jSchool in July 2023 and ends with the JRP Conference in August 2024.**



### jSchool Information

#### Where

Siena, Italy

#### When

31<sup>st</sup> July - 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### Contact

[researchofficer@psycholars.org](mailto:researchofficer@psycholars.org)

### Supervisors Information

#### Key information

Six Research Supervisors are selected to lead small groups of Bachelor and Master-level psychology students. These groups will then develop and carry out a 13-month research project based on the supervisor's area of work.

#### Eligibility

- You must be in your second or further year of PhD study or in the first three years of postdoctoral research.
- You must be able to communicate fluently in English (written and spoken).
- You either must be primarily a researcher in psychology or have completed substantial prior training in psychological research methods
- You must fit all other guidelines presented in the documents listed below

#### How to Apply

Read the [application guidance form](#) and complete [the application form](#).

The applications close on **February, 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 17.00 CET**

Curriculum vitae should be maximum two pages on qualifications and experience, plus publications (if necessary). **Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview, which will be held on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

## Life at jSchool 2023 in Italy

During the summer school, you will work, present, and reside alongside five other supervisors. You will be supported by the JRP Team and members of the Board of Directors on site; with the Research Officer being your primary contact for project-related questions. Organisers will not intervene with your group work (apart from various scientific and managerial checks), and you will be responsible for all leadership and scientific oversight.

At the jSchool, you can expect an exciting and fulfilling week unlike any conference or workshop. You will spend several hours each day working with your research group. Whilst you are free to manage your own team, we expect you to lead discussions of literature, theory, and objectives of the study. Your team is expected to produce the study design and action plan for the project to be presented on the final day of the jSchool.

## Project Proposal

All jSchool projects feature topics relating to the general research theme *Biased beliefs: The psychology of irrationality and its consequences*. We also require all projects to meet the standards of [reproducible science](#) by encouraging early stages of study to involve some level of replication. We have outlined some potential example projects below, though other ideas are very welcome as these are meant only as idea-generators. The general focus should relate to irrationality with flexibility regarding the population of study therein. We understand irrationality broadly and encourage applications for projects across all areas of psychology and behavioural sciences. Studies of other related topics will also be considered so long as they meet the general description provided here. Given the breadth of the theme, we have provided some example project ideas below, though other ideas are very welcome. We also strongly encourage exploring the impact of biased beliefs in the domain of public health and well-being, decision-making, politics, communication, and more.

1. How did conspiratorial beliefs shape the public perception of and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic across countries (see e.g. [Romer & Jamieson, 2020](#); [Teovanović et al., 2021](#))
2. What psychological factors contribute to science scepticism: A cross country examination (see e.g. [Fraser et al., 2022](#); [Rutjens et al., 2022](#))
3. Enhancing rationality: Susceptibility to cognitive biases and how to override the intuitive response (see e.g. [Damjanović et al., 2019](#); [Misuraca et al., 2021](#); [Šrol, 2021](#))
4. Emotions as a source of (bounded) rationality: The impact of emotions on financial choices (see e.g. [Park & Sela, 2018](#))
5. Making health decisions in your worst interest: behavioral interventions that mitigate irrational health behavior (see e.g., [Volpp & Asch, 2016](#))
6. Disagreeing on facts: Determinants of politically motivated reasoning ([Druckman & McGrath, 2019](#); [Tappin et al., 2021](#))
7. Exploring the personal cost of pseudoscientific beliefs (see e.g. [O'Brien et al., 2021](#); [Majima, 2015](#))
8. Falling for fake news: susceptibility to misinformation and how to mitigate it (see e.g. [Roozenbeek et al., 2020](#); [Roozenbeek et al., 2022](#))

If the project you have in mind does not directly relate to any of the mentioned research areas, you can still apply, provided that it meets the requirements outlined in the guidance document available on the website. You are welcome to contact us in advance to discuss project ideas.



## jSchool Theme

*Biased beliefs: The psychology of irrationality and its consequences.*

## Checklist for topic and method requirements

- ✓ A clear and relevant research question should be formulated.
- ✓ Description of how students can be actively involved in the research design and process.
- ✓ Feasibility of the project: It should be described how the research question can be answered within the programme's frame
- ✓ The target population should be reasonable to recruit within a certain time (+/- 6 months).
- ✓ Suggestions for recruitment of participants, methodology, and instruments should be provided.
- ✓ To meet the standards of reproducible science, some level of replication should be involved.

## Any questions?

Please send any questions you have about applying or being a Supervisor to [researchofficer@pscholars.org](mailto:researchofficer@pscholars.org)

## Note from Executive Director

*We are delighted to host the 2023 jSchool in the stunning Certosa di Pontignano in Siena, Italy. Following the growing tradition of JRP teams making real-world impact through their research, we are also excited to having the 2023-2024 theme of irrationality and biased beliefs, an essential topic in psychology today. Being a supervisor in the JRP is a tremendous opportunity to gain experience in leading research for early career psychological scientists. From the proposal through publication, this project is yours to lead, which means you will get a chance to develop your own professional portfolio on topics of your choosing with the support of multiple enthusiastic young researchers from around the world. We do hope you'll consider proposing a project and I very much look forward to welcoming you into the programme this summer in Italy.*

*Kai Ruggeri*

*Columbia University | Executive Director of the Junior Researcher Programme*