

Dr. Alex Pike
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Psychology
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Research interests

I aim to use techniques from computational and cognitive neuroscience to understand how cognition (e.g. learning and decision-making) differs in those who are experiencing mental illness – particularly eating disorders. I am also interested in understanding mental health in terms of clinical psychology constructs and processes, such as catastrophizing and intolerance of uncertainty.

Qualifications

PhD, Eating disorders and compulsivity: neural, computational, and psychopharmacological approaches, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK.

1 Sept 2015 → 1 Dec 2018

Award Date: 27 Jul 2019

Masters, Neuroscience, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK.

1 Sept 2014 → 1 Sept 2015

Award Date: 1 Sept 2015

Employment

Lecturer in Mental Health

Lecturer

Psychology

University of York

Heslington, York

16 May 2022 → present

Research outputs

Brain activation and connectivity after 2-3weeks of escitalopram administration in anxiety disorders: A randomised trial

Lukow, P. B., Lowther, M., Pike, A. C., Yamamori, Y., Chavanne, A. V., Gormley, S., Aylward, J., Vera, C. E., McCloud, T., Goble, T., Rodriguez-Sanchez, J., Tuominen, E. W., Buehler, S. K., Kirk, P. & Robinson, O. J., 1 Feb 2026, In: Journal of affective disorders. 394, 9 p., 120682.

"I feel full with shame": A qualitative perspective on gastric interoceptive sensibility

Stafford, L., Pike, A. C. & Preston, C. E. J., 1 Jan 2026, In: Appetite. 216, 108299.

Computational Perspectives on Cognition in Anorexia Nervosa: A Systematic Review

Pike, A., Hall-McMaster, S. & Radzikowska, M., 7 Apr 2025, In: Computational Psychiatry. 9, 1, p. 100-121 21 p.

Test-Retest Reliability of Two Computationally-Characterised Affective Bias Tasks

Pike, A. C., Tan, K. H. T., Tromblee, H., Wing, M. & Robinson, O. J., 18 Dec 2024, In: Computational Psychiatry. 8, 1, p. 217-232 16 p.

Participant Use of Artificial Intelligence in Online Focus Groups: An Experiential Account

Stafford, L., Preston, C. E. J. & Pike, A., 15 Oct 2024, In: International Journal of Qualitative Methods. 23, 12 p.

Amygdala activity after subchronic escitalopram administration in healthy volunteers: A pharmaco-functional magnetic resonance imaging study

Lukow, P. B., Lowther, M., Pike, A. C., Yamamori, Y., Chavanne, A. V., Gormley, S., Aylward, J., McCloud, T., Goble, T., Rodriguez-Sanchez, J., Tuominen, E. W., Buehler, S. K., Kirk, P. & Robinson, O. J., 4 Oct 2024, (E-pub ahead of print) In:

Independent replications reveal anterior and posterior cingulate cortex activation underlying state anxiety-attenuated face encoding

Buehler, S. K., Lowther, M., Lukow, P. B., Kirk, P. A., Pike, A. C., Yamamori, Y., Chavanne, A. V., Gormley, S., Goble, T., Tuominen, E. W., Aylward, J., McCloud, T., Rodriguez-Sanchez, J. & Robinson, O. J., 24 Aug 2024, In: *Communications psychology*. 2, 10 p., 80.

A series of unfortunate events: Do those who catastrophize learn more after negative outcomes?

Pike, A., Harada-Laszlo, M., Talwar, A. & Robinson, O. J., 11 Dec 2023, In: *Mental Health Science*. 12 p., e49.

The influence of peer non-suicidal self-harm on young adults' urges to self-harm: experimental study

Pitman, A., Lowther, M., Pike, A., Davies, J., de Cates, A., Buckman, J. E. J. & Robinson, O., 28 Nov 2023, (E-pub ahead of print) In: *Acta neuropsychiatrica*. 13 p.

Adaptive learning from outcome contingencies in eating-disorder risk groups

Pike, A., Sharpley, A. L., Park, R. J., Cowen, P. J., Browning, M. & Pulcu, E., 4 Nov 2023, In: *Translational psychiatry*. 13, 9 p., 340.

Eating disorder symptoms and control-seeking behavior

Slanina-Davies, A., Robinson, O. J. & Pike, A. C., 28 Jun 2023, (E-pub ahead of print) In: *Brain and Behavior*. 10 p., e3105.

Editorial: What is computational psychopathology, and why do we need it?

Ossola, P. & Pike, A. C., 17 Apr 2023, (E-pub ahead of print) In: *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*. 105170.

Catastrophizing and Risk-Taking

Pike, A., Alves Anet, Á., Peleg, N. & Robinson, O. J., 17 Jan 2023, In: *Computational Psychiatry*. 7, 1, p. 1-13

10 Simple Rules for a Supportive Lab Environment

Pike, A. C., Atherton, K., Bauer, Y., Crittenden, B. M., van Ede, F., Hall-McMaster, S., von Lautz, A. H., Muhle-Karbe, P., Murray, A. M., Myers, N., Printzlau, F., Salaris, I., Spaak, E., Tankelevitch, L., Trübutschek, D., Wasmuht, D. & Noonan, M. P., 27 Oct 2022, (E-pub ahead of print) In: *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*. p. 1-4 4 p.

Threat of shock promotes passive avoidance, but not active avoidance

Binti Affandi, A. H., Pike, A. C. & Robinson, O. J., 13 Mar 2022, In: *European Journal of Neuroscience*. 55, 9-10, p. 2571-2580 10 p.

Reinforcement Learning in Patients with Mood and Anxiety Disorders vs Control Individuals: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Pike, A. C. & Robinson, O. J., 2 Mar 2022, (E-pub ahead of print) In: *JAMA Psychiatry*. 79, 4, p. 313-322 10 p.

The Importance of Common Currency Tasks in Translational Psychiatry

Pike, A. C., Lowther, M. & Robinson, O. J., 1 Mar 2021, In: *Current Behavioral Neuroscience Reports*. 8, 1, p. 1-10 10 p.

The development and psychometric properties of a self-report Catastrophizing Questionnaire

Pike, A. C., Serfaty, J. R. & Robinson, O. J., 13 Jan 2021, In: *Royal Society Open Science*. 8, 1, 15 p., 201362.

Attentional Control in Subclinical Anxiety and Depression: Depression Symptoms Are Associated With Deficits in Target Facilitation, Not Distractor Inhibition

Pike, A. C., Printzlau, F. A. B., von Lautz, A. H., Harmer, C. J., Stokes, M. G. & Noonan, M. P., 22 Jul 2020, In: *Frontiers in Psychology*. 11, p. 1660 10 p., 1660.

The translational neural circuitry of anxiety

Robinson, O. J., Pike, A. C., Cornwell, B. & Grillon, C., 14 Nov 2019, In: Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry. 90, 12, p. 1353-1360 8 p.

Deep brain stimulation in anorexia nervosa: Hope for the hopeless or exploitation of the vulnerable? The Oxford neuroethics gold standard framework

Park, R. J., Singh, I., Pike, A. C. & Tan, J. O. A., 20 Mar 2017, In: Frontiers in psychiatry. 8, MAR, 10 p., 44.

Brain glutamate in anorexia nervosa: a magnetic resonance spectroscopy case control study at 7 Tesla

Godlewska, B. R., Pike, A., Sharpley, A. L., Ayton, A., Park, R. J., Cowen, P. J. & Emir, U. E., 1 Feb 2017, In: Psychopharmacology. 234, 3, p. 421-426 6 p.

Distinct mechanisms for distractor suppression and target facilitation

Noonan, M. P., Adamian, N., Pike, A., Printzlau, F., Crittenden, B. M. & Stokes, M. G., 10 Feb 2016, In: Journal of neuroscience. 36, 6, p. 1797-1807 11 p.

Activities

Talk: Meta-analysis in computational psychiatry

Pike, A. (Invited speaker)

31 Jan 2024

Royal Society Open Science (Journal)

Pike, A. (Editor)

Dec 2023 → Dec 2026

External Examiner for PhD Thesis

Pike, A. (Examiner (external))

6 Oct 2023

External Examiner for PhD thesis

Pike, A. (Examiner (external))

5 Oct 2023

Science Media Centre comment on phase I trial of psilocybin for anorexia nervosa

Pike, A. (Interviewee)

25 Jul 2023

British Association of Psychopharmacology (External organisation)

Pike, A. (Member)

Jul 2023 → Jul 2027

Alex Pike & Melanie Forster: A conversation about Anxiety. Supporting anxiety and wellbeing as part of Mental Health Awareness Week for 'York Ideas'.

Pike, A. (Organiser) & Forster, M. (Organiser)

15 May 2023

The mystery between your ears: how does your brain work?

Pike, A. (Speaker)

28 Apr 2023

Mental health seminar series talk

Pike, A. (Invited speaker)

17 Apr 2023

Talk on Careers in Mental Health/Psychology, Denstone College, Staffordshire

Pike, A. (Speaker)
28 Mar 2023

Centre for Cognition and Neuroscience Seminar Series

Pike, A. (Invited speaker)
8 Mar 2023

Mental Elf blog on meta-analysis of fMRI studies of predictors of response to CBT for anxiety

Pike, A. (Contributor)
13 Jan 2023

Mental Elf blog on deep brain stimulation effects on Quality of Life in treatment-resistant depression

Pike, A. (Contributor)
12 Sept 2022

Science Media Centre comment on pilot study of deep brain stimulation for binge-eating disorder

Pike, A. (Interviewee)
29 Aug 2022

Enhance Research Culture Workshop Series

Hahn, I. (Organiser), Plevin, M. J. (Committee member), Holding, A. N. (Committee member), Rylott, L. (Committee member), Payne-Dwyer, A. (Committee member), Smit, C. (Committee member), Botelho MacHado, C. (Committee member), Castro Avila, A. (Committee member), Fox, J. M. (Committee member), Howard, J. A. L. (Committee member), Sherwood, J. R. (Committee member) & Pike, A. (Committee member)
1 Jun 2022 → ...

Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews (Journal)

Pike, A. (Guest editor)
1 Dec 2021 → 1 Feb 2023

Mental Elf blog on personalised/targeted deep brain stimulation for treatment resistant depression

Pike, A. (Contributor)
26 Oct 2021

Mind the Brain 2021: Brains in a COVID world. Mental Health panel session.

Pike, A. (Chair)
5 Jun 2021