Samrawit Ayele

Website: Samayele.com
Email: samrawit.ayele@imtlucca.it
Tiktok: @samisshortforsalmon
LinkedIn: Samrawit Ayele
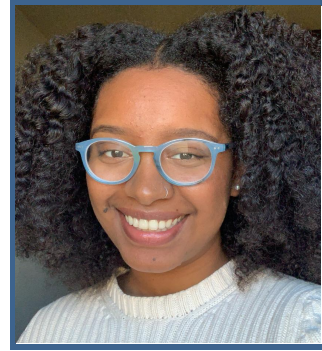
Education

PhD in Cognitive, Computational, and Social Neuroscience

IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca
Lucca,Italy
11/2020-Present

- PhD student working within the Molecular Mind Lab (MomiLab)
- Member of the Social and Affective Neuroscience group
- Coursework in neuroimaging, neurobiology of emotions, social network theory, evolutionary game theory, behavioral economics, neurolinguistics, and more
- Researcher on the cognitive and emotional basis of internet memes

BA in Philosophy

University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, California
06/2016-03/2020

- Graduated with highest honors in the philosophy department
- Coursework in philosophy of mind, intermediate logic, and philosophy of religion
- Thesis: One Does Not Simply Define Memes: A Prototypical Theory to Understanding Internet Memes
  - Advised by Dr. Nico Orlandi
  - Awarded Dean's Undergraduate Research Award and Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Award

BSc in Cognitive Science

University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, California
09/2016-03/2020

- Graduated with highest honors in the psychology department
- Coursework in psycholinguistics, cognitive neuroscience, human-computer interaction, perception, and python
- Awarded 21st Century Leonardo DaVinci Scholar Award and Dean's List Award

Work Experience

Research Assistant
University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, California
01/2018 - 11/2020

- **Dr. Nicolas Davidenko High-Level Perception Lab (**09/2019-11/2020)
  - Investigated the interface between perception, memory, and communication
  - Worked with VR, eye tracking, and EEG equipment
  - Directed independent study on categorizing internet memes with human participants
- **Dr. Ben Storm Memory Lab (**01/2018-12/2018)
  - Executed three-level, between-subjects experimental design about memory and creativity
  - Collected and analyzed data from human participants

User Experience Intern
Silicon Valley Social Innovation Lab
Santa Cruz, California
06/2020 - 09/2020

- Contributed to an international usability study of an online STEM education platform for neurodiverse students

---

Extracurricular

UCEAP Exchange in Philosophy
University College Maastricht

Maastricht, Netherlands

01/2019-06/2019

- Spring 2019 UCEAP Exchange
- Received UCEAP Promise Scholarship and College Nine Travel Scholarship
- Coursework in the philosophy of language, philosophy of science, game theory, and psychology of individual differences

Carnegie Mellon Logic and Formal Epistemology Summer School
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
06/2019-06-2019

- Participated in a three-week summer program dedicated to formal philosophy, mathematics, and computer science
- Lived and studied with students from diverse backgrounds with a similar interest in logic