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How negative experiences influence the brain in pain: neuroimaging and biobehavioral insights

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Curriculum Vitae

Brief CV

Mia Athina Thomaidou was born on 23 September 1989 in Greece and grew up in a small suburb on the coast of Athens. She attended High School in Anavissos and Kalyvia between 2004 and 2007. In 2011, Mia moved to England and commenced her university studies a year later. During her undergraduate studies at the university of Westminster, London, she attended the University of Oxford for one year, where she completed and published a neuropharmacological research study. She also volunteered as an assistant clinical neuropsychologist at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London. In 2016 Mia received her bachelor's degree in Cognitive Neuroscience with honours. Pursuing her interest in science, she moved to the Netherlands and started a Master's in Clinical Neuropsychology at Leiden University. During that master's, she did a research internship at the Center of Neurogenomics and Cognitive Research, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, where she completed an independent research project based on brain imaging data mining. In late 2017, Mia started her PhD-project in the research group of Prof. Andrea Evers at Leiden University. Mia worked on a project sponsored by a Vici grant awarded to Prof. Evers by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research and investigated the biobehavioral underpinnings of learned pain. In addition to the research activities, she supervised and taught bachelor's and master's students and presented her work at numerous conferences. During her PhD, Mia also completed a second master's degree in Comparative Criminal Justice at Leiden Law School, with the aim of combining biobehavioral and legal research in her future career. In 2022, Mia is completing her PhD while also working on several research projects in collaboration with Rutgers University, New Jersey, that investigate how biobehavioral science is translated and used in criminal justice systems.

Articles published in peer-reviewed journals

Thomaidou MA, Peerdeman KJ, Koppeschaar MI, Evers AWM, Veldhuijzen DS. How Negative Experience Influences the Brain: A Comprehensive Review of the Neurobiological Underpinnings of Nocebo Hyperalgesia. *Frontiers in Neuroscience*. **2021**;15(1):2552. doi: 10.3389/fnins.2021.652552

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Thomaidou MA, Veldhuijzen DS, Meulders A, Evers AWM. An experimental investigation into the mediating role of pain-related fear in boosting nocebo hyperalgesia. *PAIN*[®]. **2021**;162(1):287-299. doi: 10.1097/j.pain.0000000000002017.

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Capitão LP, Forsyth J, **Thomaidou MA**, Condon MD, Harmer CJ, Burnet PWJ. A single administration of ‘microbial’ D-alanine to healthy volunteers augments reaction to negative emotions: A comparison with D-serine. *Journal of Psychopharmacology* **2020**; 34(5):557. doi: 10.1177/0269881120908904.

Blythe JS, Peerdeman KJ, Veldhuijzen DS, van Laarhoven AIM, van Schothorst ME, **Thomaidou MA**, Evers AWM. Nocebo Effects on Cowhage-evoked Itch: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Classical Conditioning and Observational Learning. *Acta Derm Venereol*. **2021**;101(1):adv00370. doi: 10.2340/00015555-3723.

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Thomaidou MA, Blythe JS, Veldhuijzen DS, Peerdeman KJ, van Lennep JPA, Giltay EJ, Cremers HR, Evers AWM. D-cycloserine and brain plasticity mechanisms in placebo hyperalgesia: A pharmacological fMRI investigation. Submitted for publication.

Thomaidou MA, Blythe JS, Peerdeman KJ, van Laarhoven, AIM, van Schothorst, ME, Veldhuijzen, DS, Evers, AWM. Learned placebo effects on cutaneous sensations: A systematic review and meta-analysis of experimental behavioral findings. Submitted for publication.

Thomaidou MA, Berryessa CM. A jury of scientists: Science education reduces the odds of punitive punishment. Submitted for publication.

Thomaidou MA, Berryessa CM. Mental illness as a sentencing determinant: A case law analysis based on a novel machine learning approach. MSc thesis. Submitted for publication. Pre-print of thesis available [online](#).

Blythe JS, Veldhuijzen DS, Peerdeman KJ, **Thomaidou MA**, van Lennep JPA, Giltay EJ, Cremers HR, Evers AWM. Machine learning for classification of fMRI data in a placebo experiment. In preparation. **2022**.

Blythe JS, **Thomaidou MA**, Peerdeman KJ, van Laarhoven, AIM, van Schothorst, ME, Veldhuijzen, DS, Evers, AWM. Placebo effects on cutaneous pain and itch: A systematic review and meta-analysis of experimental results. In preparation. **2022**.

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