

The Open Conference

All you need to know about the event

Junior Researcher Programme: jSchool 2022

Wednesday 13th July 2022
Siena, Italy

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The Open Conference

The Open Conference (OC) represents one of the annual Junior Researcher Programme (JRP) events held during the **jSchool**, and open to all non-participating students and academics. Early career researchers from all over the world are invited to present and discuss their past or current research in any field of Psychology (or related) with other attendees.

It is an unmissable opportunity for young aspiring researchers in Psychology to learn about studies being carried out internationally, network with groups of early career researchers and academics, and present their ideas and findings to a friendly group of fellow students from around the world.

Individuals from all backgrounds related to Psychology are welcome to join and participate, regardless of their experience in research. **The event is open also to those solely interested in learning about research, but who do not wish to present.**

The Open Conference at jSchool 2022

This year The OC will be running for the fifth consecutive year on the **13th July 2022** from **13:30 (CET)** and will be hosted at **Certosa di Pontignano** (Localita Pontignano, 5, 53019 Pontignano SI, Italy), a 14th Century venue located in the vast Chianti countryside of Siena.



Events

As part of the Open Conference, participants will have the opportunity to attend the following events:

- **Workshop I** Join us for a 90-minute workshop by Maria Sansoni concerning the use of **Virtual Reality (VR) to promote Sustainability**. Attendees will firstly get information about VR and how this technology can be broadly used toward a sustainable development (e.g., well-being, environment, education etc.). Attendees will then proceed analysing practical implications of VR interventions, and they will conclude the workshop by experiencing on their skin what they listened to during the first part of the workshop: a practical experience will challenge them with VR headsets and scenarios, to offer to the participants concrete and real examples of VR interventions that aim at supporting sustainable goals.

Maria Sansoni, PhD Candidate at the University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, member of the Humane Technology Lab and supervisor of the 2022 jSchool, will drive attendees through all the steps of this workshop. Maria applies VR to the psycho-oncological field, by developing psychological interventions that promote cancer patients' well-being, and that enhance patients' communication with providers and the relationship with their caregivers.

- **Poster session I** JRP students, supervisors, alumni and external early career researchers will be given the opportunity to present research in any field of Psychology, in the form of an Ao poster, in the venue's open courtyard. This is a chance to network with other fellow researchers, surrounded by the beauty of the Chianti countryside.
- **Wine Tasting I** Guests can enjoy a **wine tasting** experience during the sunset in the neighbouring wine vineyard. This will include the tasting of three types of wines accompanied by some side appetisers.
- **Dinner I** This will be a 3-course meal held in the venue's open courtyard. The venue can accommodate all dietary requirements and allergies. We will be asking you to confirm these after you have registered for the event.
- **Colours Night I** This evening event will allow all guests to network, and celebrate the internationality of our previous and current JRP cohorts, our Open Conference guests and our JRP team. We encourage our guests to represent their university or affiliation in Siena, for example, by wearing their university t-shirt... or be creative and find a unique way to represent your institute!
- **Alumni Lecture I** Join us for a lecture given by a JRP Alumni on the topic they are expert in. Attendees will have the chance to engage with the lecturer in a final Q&A session with the lecturer. Details on the topic will be announced in advance of the event.

All guests will receive a **JRP certificate** of presentation or attendance in a digital format at the end of their event participation.

Timetable

All presenters and attendees will receive the event proceedings before the conference.

Please consider that this timetable *may* undergo minor changes up until 1 week before the event. Should these occur, they will be communicated via email to all Open Conference guests.

	Wed 13th	Thurs 14th
8.30		Breakfast
9.00		
9.30		
10.00		Alumni Lecture
10.30		
11.00		Break
11.30		
12.00		Departure
12.30		
13.00		
13.30	Registration	
14.00		
14.30	OC Workshop	
15.00		
15.30	Break	
16.00		
16.30	Poster Session	
17.00		
17.30	Break	
18.00	Wine tasting Group 1	
18.30		
19.00	Wine tasting Group 2	
19.30		
20.00		
20.30	Dinner	
21.00		
Evening	Colours Night	

Arrival time

All guests are required to arrive in Siena on Wednesday 13th July 2022.

If you are attending the workshop, please arrive at the Certosa di Pontignano by **13:30**. If you are participating from the Poster session onwards, please arrive at the Certosa di Pontignano by **15:30**.

Departure time

Your departure time will depend on which event package you choose (please see below).

Package Options

- **Poster Package I** Poster Session, Prosecco, Certificate of attendance (**£25**)
- **Workshop Package I** Poster package + Workshop (**£35**)
- **Wine tasting package I** Workshop Package + Wine tasting (**£50**)
- **Dinner package I** Wine tasting Package + Dinner + Evening Networking social (**£70**)
- **Overnight package I** Dinner Package + Accommodation + Breakfast + Lecture (**£105**)

An early bird discount of 10% will be applied if you register to The Open Conference AND transfer your participation fee before Sunday 12th June, 2022 (23:59 CE(S)T) (Rome time).

Other

Dress Code I With students and academics from Italy and other neighboring countries attending the Poster Session, the dress code will be **smart casual**.

Essentials I All attendees must remember to bring:

- ID/Passport
- Covid-19 vaccine certification
- European Adaptor (if you need one)
- Cash (in Euros) for any extra food or drinks, should you stay past dinner – there are no ATMs at or close to the venue

How to register and attend the OC

Our registration process is structured in a streamlined way, to ensure registrants' experience is as smooth and clear as possible. **Please follow these steps to make sure you do not make mistakes when registering your place at The Open Conference.**

1. Decide if you want to present at the event

Our event is open to all individuals interested in learning more about research in Psychology (and related fields) that is carried out by early career researchers and academics from all over the world. Participants can therefore attend the event and present their research at the Poster Session, or attend the event and network with other researchers.

2. Check your eligibility

Presenters must:

- Be students or graduates from any university in the world, conducting research concerning any field of Psychology (or related).
- Demonstrate a standard-high level of English.
- Ensure they are given permission by their co-authors to present, should their research have been carried out in collaboration with other researchers.
- Adhere to COVID-19 guidelines and vaccination status (please see below).

There are **no eligibility criteria for attendees**, for exception of also adhering to COVID-19 guidelines and vaccination status (please see below).

3. Choose your package

To make the event as open and flexible as possible, we've introduced a number of different attendance packages for guests to choose from. Please see the package options above.

We require registrants to choose and confirm their preferred package when registering.

4. Complete the registration form online

Regardless of whether you'll be participating in The OC as a presenter or attendee, **you must register online** by **Sunday 3rd July 2022 (23:59 CE(S)T) (Rome time)** here: [Registration Form](#)

To receive an early bird discount of 10% you must register AND transfer your participation fee before **Sunday 12th June, 2022 (23:59 CE(S)T) (Rome time)**.

Presenters must include their:

- Research title (70 characters max., including spaces).
- Research abstract (1000 characters max., including spaces).
- Co-authors name(s) and affiliation(s), where applicable.

5. Receive confirmation of participation

All registrants will receive an email from the JRP Team confirming their spot and package choice.

As we have a limited amount of rooms booked at the venue for guests staying overnight, we will let registrants know within 5 working days from their registration if we were able to secure a room for them, where they have chosen the **Overnight Package**. In the event where we are not able to, we will recommend guests to register for the **Dinner package** and contact venues nearby to book a room overnight. You will also be more than welcome to attend the morning lecture, free of charge.

6. Transfer your participation fee

Once the JRP Team has confirmed your spot and package choice, you will receive further information on how to transfer the participation fee.

7. Prepare for the poster session

We expect researchers to present their research in a poster format, and explain their presentation clearly and in a professional manner to their audience, showing themselves available to answer any questions, discuss research ideas, and receive feedback.

As you will be presenting your research in the form of a poster, you may not find it ideal to bring your poster during your travels. Should this be the case, we can print your research poster in an A0 format for you and have it ready for the Poster Session, for the price of 12€. **We require presenters to send their research poster in a digital format by Friday 8th July 2022 (23:59 CE(S)T) (Rome time) to jschool@psycholars.org**. You can find poster templates [here](#). Please remember these are just examples.

Posters must be:

- in English and highly academic
- in a standard A0 format (size: 84,1 x 118,9 cm)
- minimum 15 font size.

How to reach Certosa

The Certosa di Pontignano is a hidden gem in the Tuscan countryside, only a 20 minute drive from Siena. There are many ways for you to enter Italy, and reach the venue.

To enter Italy

Closest airports | Aeroporto di Peretola (**Florence**) | Aeroporto Galileo Galilei (**Pisa**) | Aeroporto San Francesco d'Assisi (**Perugia**) | Aeroporto Guglielmo Marconi (**Bologna**)

We advise you to fly to one of the abovementioned airports, which are located the closest to Siena. They are all well connected to the city (either by train or bus). Please note that *Uber* is not available in the area.

To reach Siena

Train | Any that reach **Stazione Ferroviaria, Piazzale Carlo Rosselli, 53100 (Siena)**

Bus | Any that reach **Stazione Ferroviaria (Siena) OR Piazza Gramsci / Via Tozzi (Siena)**

To reach Certosa di Pontignano from Siena

Bus | **555** and **S34** from the Train Station

Taxi | Standard rate of 20 euros (as of 2019) to reach Certosa front the Station

Covid-19 Mitigation

During the Open Conference at jSchool 2022, we expect all guests to behave according to the national COVID guidelines and the venue's policies set in place for July 2022.

As of April 2022, we do not yet know what the guidelines for July 2022 are. We expect these to be released by the Italian Ministry of Health in the next few months. We will be in frequent contact with all Open Conference guests prior to the event to ensure they are aware of updated guidelines and agree to them.

Vaccination Status

We require guests to operate under the Italian vaccination status guidelines, meaning that you must have a **COVID-19 vaccination certificate valid in Europe**. This means you must be vaccinated with a booster dose, or have received your last vaccine within the last 6 months from joining the jSchool in person, or hold a medical exemption. Please consult the [EU Digital COVID Certificate webpage](#) for more information. This status will be verified by the operators of the venue.

Event guidelines

Should a person test positive to COVID-19 during the Open Conference, we expect everyone to act according to the guidelines set by the Italian Ministry of Health. This includes:

- **Taking a lateral flow test at arrival.** The JRP Team is not responsible for providing these for participants, so we ask everyone to bring a stock of lateral flow tests with them at the event.
- **Having an FFP2 mask at hand.** Should it be necessary, we will require all Open Conference guests to wear an FFP2 mask. The JRP Team is not responsible for providing these for participants, so we ask everyone to bring a stock of FFP2 masks with them at the event.

Unexpected circumstances

Should new COVID health and safety regulations change and discourage in-person events, the JRP reserves the right to switch to an online jSchool via Zoom. We will release further information, where the in-person event cannot take place.

The JRP team has every intention to run the whole event in person. However, should new COVID health and safety regulations change and discourage in-person events, we reserve the right to substitute the planned in-person jSchool to a virtual event, and therefore a virtual Open Conference, allowing all attendees to stay safe and participate from the comfort of their home.