

TOMMASO BARBA CURRICULUM VITAE

CURRENT POSITIONS

PhD candidate, Imperial College London, United Kingdom (UK) 2023/03-present
PhD candidate in Brain Sciences investigating the brain effects of 5-MeO-DMT and NN-DMT via electroencephalography and the effects of psychedelics on relationships and connectedness.

Lead Scientific Researcher, Adamo Biosciences, Austin (TX) 2023/07-present
Focus on designing and conducting a feasibility and preliminary efficacy trial of a new form of sex therapy for improving sexual satisfaction and intimacy in committed relationships.

Scientific Committee Member, Italian Society for Psychedelic Medicine (SIMEPSI) 2024/09-present
Peer-review of proposals, advising on scientific programs and conferences, promoting interdisciplinary research initiatives in psychedelic science.

EDUCATION

Entrepreneurial Mindset Course, TUM Graduate School, Munich (DE) 2023/09-present
Attending a series of online lectures and workshops dedicated to graduate students interested in developing business-oriented knowledge and mindset

Maastricht University, Maastricht (NL) 2019/09-2021/08
Master of Research in Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience, 8.55/10 GPA, cum laude (distinction UK equivalent)
Final research project: "Comparative effect of psilocybin vs escitalopram on rumination and thought suppression in major depressive disorder".

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT) 2018/09- 2019/07
MSc in Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences (Language of instruction: English)
Completed 1st year, 64/120 ETCS, 28.7/30 Italian GPA

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan (IT) 2015/09- 2018/10
BSc in Psychology and Neuroscience, 108/110 (1st class UK equivalent)
Thesis title: "Drug addiction and romantic love: similarities and differences between the two processes"

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Imperial College London 2022/03- 2023/03

- Managing the 5-MeO-DMT neuroimaging study (protocol writing, ethical approval, setting up the study at clinical research facility, etc.).
- Assisting with data collection and screenings on a study investigating the potential of psilocybin for chronic pain and the effects of continuous intravenous infusion of NN-DMT.
- Writing research papers from a clinical psilocybin trial for Major Depression.

Consultant, Business Development, Akanda (UK) 2021/09–2022/09

- Working on the business development of a cannabis company based in the UK and Germany, creating business reports and facilitating collaborations with other startups under the guidance of Dr Ashlihan Akkar-Shenkl

Invited guest lecturer, Oxbridge International Summer School (UK) 2021/07–2021/08

- Giving lectures focused on basic psychopharmacology, drug addiction, cannabis, and the therapeutic potential of psychedelics to students attending the neuropsychology summer school at Oxford-Cambridge.

Honorary Research Officer, NHS CIPPRes Clinic, London (UK) 2020/11–present

- Assisting in study design, protocol writing and data collection on several ongoing and upcoming pharmacological and clinical science studies under the supervision of Dr David Erritzoe at Central and North West London (CNWL) NHS St Charles Hospital.
- Clinical interviewing (MINI) with pathological gamblers
- EEG data collection (resting-state and plasticity paradigms with Brainvision)
- Shadowing Dr. Erritzoe during psychiatry ward rounds at St. Charles Hospital
- Writing a comprehensive review and meta-analysis on the alterations of dopamine D2/3 receptors in addiction and a meta-analysis on 5-HT_{2a} receptor availability in depression using PET imaging techniques.

Research Intern, Centre for Psychedelic Research, Imperial College London 2020/09–2021/08

- Working clinical data from a clinical psilocybin trial, focusing on rumination, thought suppression and impulsivity in depressed patients under the supervision of Dr. Robin Carhart-Harris using R and SPSS
- Study designer and coordinator for an ongoing online survey study designed to build a comprehensive questionnaire to assess acute effects of psychedelics to be used in future research. I wrote the protocol, obtained ethical approval, set up the online study and supervised a BSc student in the stage of data collection.

Honorary Research Assistant, Maastricht University, Maastricht (NL) 2020/01–2020/07

- Assisting the research project “LSD Microdosing – A repeated dosing study”
- Participants’ recruitment and screening.
- Behavioural and electrophysiological data acquisition.
- EEG data pre-processing and ERP analysis using BrainVision and MATLAB.

Social Media Strategist, Media Digital Agency, Milan (IT) - Part Time 2017/09–2019/06

- Social Media Marketing advertising
- Working together with companies and influencers in structuring and conceptualising social media campaigns and strategies for increasing following and engagement

PUBLICATIONS

- Erritzoe, D.*, **Barba, T.***, Greenway, K. T., Murphy, R., Martell, J., Giribaldi, B., ... & Carhart-Harris, R. (2024). Effect of psilocybin versus escitalopram on depression symptom severity in patients with moderate-to-severe major depressive disorder: observational 6-month follow-up of a phase 2, double-blind, randomised, controlled trial. *Lancet eClinicalMedicine*, 76.
- **Barba, T.**, Kettner, H., Radu C., Erritzoe D., Roseman, L., Carhart-Harris, R.L., Giribaldi, B. (2024) “Psychedelics and Sexual Functioning: A Mixed-Methods Study”, *Nature Scientific Reports*.
- Erritzoe, D.*, **Barba, T.***, Spriggs, M., ... Nutt D., Carhart-Harris, R.L., (2024). “Effects of discontinuation of serotonergic antidepressants prior to psilocybin therapy versus escitalopram for major depression”, *Journal of Psychopharmacology*.

- Barbut-Sivat, J.*, **Barba, T.***, Kettner, H., ... Nutt D., Carhart-Harris, R.L., Erritzoe, D. (2024). "Interactions Between Classic Psychedelics and Serotonergic Antidepressants: Effects on the Acute Psychedelic Subjective Experience, Well-Being, and Depressive Symptoms from a Prospective Survey Study", *Journal of Psychopharmacology*.
- Peill, J., Marguilho, M., Erritzoe, D., **Barba, T.**, Greenway, K. T., Rosas, F., ... & Carhart-Harris, R. (2024). Psychedelics and the 'inner healer': Myth or mechanism?. *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, 38(5), 417-424.
- Wall, M. B., Harding, R., Ertl, N., **Barba, T.**, Zafar, R., Sweeney, M., ... & Erritzoe, D. (2024). Neuroimaging and the Investigation of Drug-Drug Interactions Involving Psychedelics. *Neuroscience Insights*, 19, 26331055241286518.
- Buyukbabani, M. B., Earp, B. D., Hannikainen, I., **Barba, T.**, Mihailov, E., Yaden, D. B., & Savulescu, J. (2024). Moral Attitudes Toward Pharmacologically Assisted Couples Therapy: An Experimental Bioethics Study of Real-World "Love Drugs". *AJOB neuroscience*, 15(4), 239-243.
- Bornemann, J., Close, J. B., Ahmad, K., **Barba, T.**, Godfrey, K., Macdonald, L., ... & Carhart-Harris, R. (2024). Study protocol for "Psilocybin in patients with fibromyalgia: brain biomarkers of action". *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 15, 1320780.
- James E., Erritzoe D., Benway T., Timmerman C., **Barba T.**, ... Routledge C. (2024). "Safety, tolerability, pharmacodynamic and wellbeing effects of SPL026 (dimethyltryptamine fumarate) in healthy participants: A randomized, placebo-controlled Phase 1 trial", *Frontiers in Psychopharmacology*.
- **Barba, T.**, Buheler, S., Kettner, H., Nutt D.J., Erritzoe D., Roseman, L., Carhart-Harris, R.L., (2022) "Comparative Effects of Psilocybin versus Escitalopram on Rumination and Thought Suppression in Major Depressive Disorder", *British Journal of Psychiatry-Open*, 8(5): p. e163.
- Zafar, R., Siegel, M., Harding, R., **Barba, T.**, Agnorelli, C., Suseelan, S., ... & Erritzoe, D. (2023). Psychedelic therapy in the treatment of addiction: the past, present and future. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 14, 1183740.

***Shared First Authorship**

AWARDS

- British Journal of Psychiatry editor choice award for "Comparative Effects of Psilocybin versus Escitalopram on Rumination and Thought Suppression in Major Depressive Disorder"
- European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) Poster Award 2024
- Public Engagement Award 2024, Imperial College London, department of Brain Sciences
- Top 100 Most Downloaded Papers Scientific Reports, 2024, for "Psychedelics and sexual functioning: a mixed-methods study"

INVITED REVIEWER

- The Lancet Psychiatry
- Nature Scientific reports
- Nature International Journal of Impotence Research

- British Medical Journal (BMJ) Open
- Journal of Affective Disorders
- Journal of Psychopharmacology

TALKS & CONFERENCES

- 2025, Talk, Invited Speaker, Scuola Normale Superiore Pisa, “Beyond stigma: psychedelic drugs from shamanism to modern science”
- 2025, Talk, Invited Speaker, Croatian 2nd National Psychedelic Conference “Psychedelics vs classic antidepressants in Depression”
- 2025, Talk, Invited Speaker, Soho House Rome Members Club, “Psychedelics & Mental Health”
- 2024, Panel, Invited Speakers, Leaders in Healthcare 2024, “Is psychiatry ready for psychedelics?”
- 2024, Talk, Invited Speaker, University of Trento, “Emerging Therapies in Psychedelic Science”
- 2024, Talk, Invited Speaker, University of Wurzburg, Invited Lecturer “Psychedelics vs classic antidepressants in Depression”
- 2024, Talk, Invited Speaker, Kensington Roof Gardens, “The new science of Psychedelics”
- 2024, Poster, European College of Neuropsychopharmacology, Milan “Effect of psilocybin versus escitalopram on depression symptom severity in patients with moderate-to-severe major depressive disorder: observational 6-month follow-up”.
- 2024, Accepted Speaker, ICPR Amsterdam, “Psychedelics & Sexuality: from counterculture to modern research”
- 2024, Talk, Invited Speaker at Fotografiska Berlin, “Psychedelics, Mental Health and Human Flourishing”
- 2024, Talk London, Seed Talks, “Psychedelics & Romantic Relationships”
- 2023, Talk Bristol, Seed Talks, “Psychedelics & Romantic Relationships”
- 2023, Talk Brighton, Seed Talks, “Psychedelics & Romantic Relationships”
- 2023, Talk, Drug Science Podcast Live, “5-MeO-DMT research and personal academic Journey”
- 2023, Talk, Accepted Speaker, MAPS Denver Conference, “Psychedelics & Sexual Functioning: A Mixed Methods Study in Healthy and Depressed Subjects”
- 2023, Talk, Invited Speaker, Soho House Members Club, “Psychedelics & Mental Health”
- 2023, Talk, Invited Speaker, Breaking Convention Conference, “Psychedelics & Sexual Functioning: A Mixed Methods Study in Healthy and Depressed Subjects”
- 2023, Talk, Invited Speaker, Imperial College London Students for Sensible Drug Policy, “Psychedelics & Romantic Relationships”
- 2023, Talk, Invited Speaker, University of Milan, “Uncovering the Mind: Psychedelics and Psychiatry”
- 2023, Panel, Wonderland Conference 2023, “Sexuality & Psychedelics”
- 2023, Panel, Psych Symposium British Museum, “A conversation on psychedelics & intimacy”
- 2023, Poster, British Psychopharmacology Association Conference, “Interactions Between Classic Psychedelics and Serotonergic Antidepressants: Effects on the Acute Psychedelic Subjective Experience, Well-Being, and Depressive Symptoms from a Prospective Survey Study”
- 2022, Talk, Invited Speaker, Psychedelics & Pain Symposium, “Can psychedelics offer a promise in the treatment of chronic pain?”
- 2022, Talk, Invited Speaker, University of Modena, “What can psychedelics offer to psychiatry?”
- 2022, Workshop, Wonderland Conference 2022, “Psychedelics & Intimacy”
- 2022, Poster, ICPR Amsterdam Conference, “Psychedelics & Sexual Functioning: A Mixed Methods Study in Healthy and Depressed Subjects”
- 2021, Poster, Insight Conference Berlin, “Comparative Effects of Psilocybin versus Escitalopram on Rumination and Thought Suppression in Major Depressive Disorder”
- 2021, Graduation Ceremony Representer of 2019/21 Cohort, “Comparative Effects of Psilocybin versus Escitalopram on Rumination and Thought Suppression in Major Depressive Disorder”

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

- 2025, TV guest at Rai 3, “Magic mushrooms as a new venue for depression treatment”, <https://www.rai.it/ufficiostampa/assets/template/us-articolo.html?ssiPath=/articoli/2025/03/Gocce-di-Petrolio-le-ultime-ricerche-sul-cervello-5d42e6c4-c21f-4b37-b7a6-71a3210655bc-ssi.html>
- 2025, Newspaper Feature, Men’s Health Magazine, <https://www.menshealth.com/uk/mental-strength/a64428633/talking-therapy-is-losing-its-appeal/>
- 2025, Radio Interview, Rai 1 Italy, “Psychedelics & Mental Health: where we are now” <https://www.raiplaysound.it/audio/2025/01/Intervista-a-Tommaso-Barba-967bcab6-3252-4128-9941-6c769216c4af.html>
- 2024, Newspaper Feature, CNN Health, “What experts say about taking psilocybin as an alternative treatment for depression”, https://edition.cnn.com/2024/10/22/health/psilocybin-versus-antidepressant-wellness/index.html?fbclid=PAZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAaYcVEppkBkJaBUXVJZ6audk78RP3IX2y--SKn1mKe9YdJpYgskU36a86CM_aem_WLNfLQc-1mB7Vb5gVaQ47w
- 2024, Newspaper Feature, Forbes, “Psilocybin Might Be More Effective In Treating Depression Than Antidepressants: Study”, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/anuradhavaranas/2024/09/24/psilocybin-might-be-more-effective-in-treating-depression-than-antidepressants-study/>
- 2024, Newspaper Feature, Forbes, “New Study Links Psychedelic Experiences To Better Sex”, https://www.forbes.com/sites/ajherrington/2024/02/08/new-study-links-psychedelic-experiences-to-better-sex/?sh=7e95dcfc10af&fbclid=PAZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAaZFYGIG0BLyHlcD60GHOLYNYiNwlBz8q9CWUmpP17IXeaw6pHGdKGM40fl_aem_nRE-nTgTVvPwFDzm930O8g
- 2024, Newspaper Feature, The Times, “Mushroom drug psilocybin ‘more effective than antidepressant’”, <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/science/article/psilocybin-psychedelic-drug-antidepressant-wt09mkt90>
- 2024, Newspaper Feature, Womens Health Magazine, “ Could MDMA save your marriage?”, <https://www.womenshealthmag.com/uk/collective/long-reads/a61994654/could-mdma-save-your-marriage/>
- 2024, Newspaper Feature, La Stampa, “Sesso: perche migliora con le sostanze psichedeliche” https://www.repubblica.it/salute/dossier/frontiere/2024/02/07/news/sostanze_psichedeliche_sesso-422079081/#:~:text=Un%20nuovo%20studio%20realizzato%20dai,dai%20farmaci%20utilizzati%20per%20curarla
- 2023, Newspaper Interview, Rolling Stone Italy, “Is Psilocybin the future of psychiatry?” <https://www.rollingstone.it/cultura/interviste-cultura/la-psilocibina-e-davvero-il-futuro-della-medicina/754602/>
- 2023, Newspaper Feature, Rolling Stone Italy, “Psilocybin as the latest wellbeing frontier” <https://www.rollingstone.it/alfredo/la-psilocibina-e-lultima-frontiera-del-benessere-e-della-medicina/800150/>
- 2023, Podcast, Drug Science, “David Nutt & Tommaso Barba: Psychedelics as Love Drugs”
- 2023, Podcast, Illuminismo Psichedelico, “The italian ban of CBD: what does science say?” <https://it.player.fm/series/illuminismo-psichedelico/ep-67-il-cbd>
- 2023, Newspaper Interview, Il Manifesto Italy, “DMT as a treatment for depression” <https://ilmanifesto.it/dmt-e-le-sue-sorelle-test-sulla-depressione>
- 2023, Newspaper Feature, Vice UK, “Can Psychedelics Save a Failing Relationship?” <https://www.vice.com/en/article/7kxpyg/using-psychedelics-to-save-failing-relationships>
- 2023, Radio Interview, Rai 1 Italy, “Recent developments in psychedelic science” <https://www.raiplaysound.it/audio/2023/01/Tommaso-Barba-ricercatore-dellImperial-College-di-Londra-fa-il-punto-sugli-sviluppi-delle-ricerche-accademiche-sulluso-terapeutico-delle-sostanze-psichedeliche-in-psichiatria-98f07e26-f521-4f8d-abca-8a7cc596d27a.html>
- 2022, Podcast, Illuminismo Psichedelico, “Psychedelic Capitalism: Pharmaceutical Trials” <https://www.spreaker.com/user/11476067/illuminismopsichedelico-puntata23-tommas>
- 2022, Radio Interview, Rai 1 Italy, “Psychedelic Therapies” <https://www.raiplaysound.it/audio/2022/08/terapie-con-sostanze-psichedeliche-la-ricerca-di-Tommaso-Barba-c32b2196-4e6a-48a1-8504-b5ac66f70613.html>

- 2021, Podcast, Illuminismo Psichedelico, “Psychedelics & Neuroscience”
<https://www.spreaker.com/user/11476067/illuminismopsichedelico-puntata19-tommas>
- 2021, Newspaper Feature, Il Tascabile Italy, “Psychedelics & Autism”
<https://www.iltascabile.com/scienze/psichedelici-e-autismo/>
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EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Mentee at Lead the future

2021-2022

- Among the few Italian students selected to be mentees for LeadTheFuture, a leading mentorship non-profit organization for students in STEM, with acceptance rate below 15%. LeadTheFuture empowers top-performing students to achieve their goals and contribute to their communities by giving them one-on-one guidance from high-impact mentors coming from the world's leading STEM innovation hubs such as Silicon Valley and CERN.

Private teacher

2018-2020

- Subjects Taught: - Science, mathematics and English to high school students – Statistics and principles of neuroscience to BSc Psychology students

ADDITIONAL CREDENTIALS & TRAINING

EEG data analysis | Microsoft Office (expert) | SPSS, Jamovi/Jasp (expert) | Rstudio/R (data analysis & visualisation) | MATLAB (vectors, matrices, cycles and conditionals, scripts, psychtoolbox) | Python (basic) | FSL (fMRI data pre-processing) | Brain Vision/Letswave (EEG data pre-processing and analysis) | SurveyGizmo /Alchemer (survey research) | G-Power | E-Prime (basic) | Inquisit (basic) |

Italian: Native | English: Bilingual Fluency |