

João Oliveira Santos

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About Me

I'm João (John), I have a great interest in connecting philosophy of science, research methods, and data analysis. My research has focused on how adults perceive children, as a social category. My passion for programming and IT has led me to my freelance work, where I leverage technology to solve problems and automate tasks, in academia and in the industry.

Current Positions

Professor at ISPA (Instituto Universitário; Lisbon) - 2023-Present

Consultant: Remote or Hybrid (Lisbon, Portugal) - 2021-Present

Previous Positions

Teaching Assistant at the University of Lisbon - Department of Psychology - 2023-2024

Education

PhD (2024), Social Psychology, University of Lisbon - Department of Psychology.

MSc. (2017), Applied Social Cognition, University of Lisbon - Department of Psychology.

BSc. (2015), Psychological Sciences, University of Lisbon - Department of Psychology.

Theses

Santos, J. O. (2024). *“You’re too young to understand”: Investigating childist beliefs and practices.* (Unpublished doctoral thesis). University of Lisbon - Department of Psychology, Portugal.

Santos, J. O. (2017). *Do we inhumanize our children?*. (Unpublished master's thesis).
University of Lisbon - Department of Psychology, Portugal.

Fellowship

PhD scholarship: PD/BD/135465/2017 Funded by Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT)

Manuscripts

Garcia-Marques, T., Lapa, A., & Santos, J. O. (2025). *Why We Should Stop Being Prejudiced Against Non-Representative Samples: The Myth of the Representative Sample* [Manuscript submitted for publication].

Santos, J. O., Do Bú, E. A., Hara, T., Mendonça, C., Hagá, S., Pogacar, R., & Kouril, M. (2025). *Implicit Association Tests for All: Using iatgen for Non-English and Offline Samples* [Manuscript submitted for publication].

Hagá, S., & Santos, J. O. (in prep). *Humanness and Valence Norms for Portuguese Words*

Hagá, S., & Santos, J. O. (in prep). *Regarding children as less human than adults*

Projects

2024-Present: Maintainer of the [tr.iatgen R package](#) (also contributed to the [iatgen R package](#)).

2022-Present: Helped establish and coordinate an R user group named [RUGGED](#). I'm also spearheading the development of the [group's projects](#), namely:

- MOC: An ongoing attempt at building a *Medium Online Course* on using R for data analysis in psychology and related fields. The unfinished draft is available [here](#).
- SciOps: An ongoing attempt to create a template (or templates) to help researchers leverage cutting-edge computer tools to increase their productivity, by automating repetitive tasks, as well as their research's reproducibility and transparency.
- RUGGED's website: The group's official [website](#).

2021-2023: SPGRow 360 – collaborated with Sérgio Moreira in developing an R/shiny application for the automatic generation of 360 (i.e., self- and peer-evaluation) evaluation reports of workers' social performance metrics.

2022: QHELP - worked with and mentored students, under the supervision of Sérgio Moreira, to build R/Shiny apps for teaching about linear models and their assumptions.

2017-2021: Collaborated in developing and maintaining LiSP's PhD program official website.

Note: To see a more detailed list of my projects please checkout my [portfolio](#).

Oral presentations

Santos, J. O., Hagá, S., & Garcia-Marques, L. (2025, May). *Questões e Respostas, Filosóficas e Práticas, Sobre a Crise de Replicabilidade*. XII Simpósio Nacional de Investigação em Psicologia (SNIP), FPCE-UP, Porto, Portugal.

Santos, J. O., Hagá, S., & Garcia-Marques, L. (2023, March-April). *Questions, Answers, Problems, and Suggestions For the Replication Crisis*. 17º Encontro da Associação de Portuguesa de Psicologia Experimental (APPE), FP-UL, Lisbon, Portugal.

Santos, J. O., Hagá, S., Ricoca-Peixoto, M., & Garcia-Marques, L. (2022, June). *Childism: Idadismo dirigido a crianças*. SNIP XI Simpósio Nacional de Investigação em Psicologia, Universidade de Trás-Os-Montes e Alto Douro, Vila Real, Portugal.

Santos, J. O., Garcia-Marques, L., & Hagá, S. (2022, March). *How Philosophy of Science Can Help Us Sort Out the Replication Crisis*. JIP22, FP-UL, Lisbon, Portugal.

Santos, J. O., Hagá, S., Garcia-Marques, L., & Dunham, Y. (2021, September). *What and how do we think of children? Are we discriminating them?*. ESCON 2021 Transfer of Knowledge Conference, University of Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria (Online).

Santos, J. O., Garcia-Marques, L., & Hagá, S. (2021, May). *Sorting Out the Replication Crisis with Philosophy of Science*. XVI PhD Meeting in Psychology, ISCTE-IUL, Lisbon, Portugal (Online).

Santos, J. O., Hagá, S., & Garcia-Marques, L. (2020, February). *Innocent until proven child? Adults expect children to commit more mishaps than adults, but can restrain these expectations*. To be presented at the International APPE-SEPEX Meeting, University of Algarve, Portugal. (Conference canceled).

Hagá, S. & Santos, J. O. (2020, June–July). *Perceiving Children as Less Human Than Adults*. To be presented at the 19th General Meeting of the EASP, University of Kraków, Poland. (Conference canceled).

Santos, J. O., Hagá, S., Dunham, Y., & Garcia-Marques, L. (2020, June–July). *What is acceptable? An age old question...quantitative and qualitative evidence of discrimination against children*. To be presented at the 19th General Meeting of the EASP, University of Kraków, Poland. (Conference canceled).

Hagá, S., & Santos, J. O., (2019, September). *Of mice and boys: Perceiving children as less human than adults*. 21st ESCON Transfer of Knowledge Conference, University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France

Santos, J. O., Hagá, S., & Garcia-Marques, L. (2019, May). *How do we stereotype and feel about children and adults?* XV Phd Meeting in Social and Organizational Psychology, ISCTE-IUL, Lisbon, Portugal.

Santos, J. O., & Hagá, S. (2018, May). *We need to talk...about childism: Perceived acceptability of discriminatory statements targeting children*. XIV Phd Meeting in Social and Organizational Psychology, ISCTE-IUL, Lisbon, Portugal.

Hagá, S., & Santos, J. O. (2018, April). *Perceiving children as less human than adults*. 13^o Encontro da Associação de Portuguesa de Psicologia Experimental (APPE), Braga, Portugal.

Santos, J. O. & Hagá, S. (2017, March). *Do we inhumanize our children?*. Dia do Jovem Investigador em Psicologia (DJIP), FP-UL, Lisbon, Portugal.

Poster presentations

Santos, J. O., Do Bú, E. A., Hara, T., Mendonça, C., Hagá, S., Pogacar, R., & Kouril, M. (2025, April). *Implicit Association Tests for All: Using iatgen for Non-English and Offline Samples*. 19^o Encontro da Associação de Portuguesa de Psicologia Experimental (APPE), FPCEUP, Oporto, Portugal.

Santos, J. O., Hagá, S., & Garcia-Marques, L. (2021, April). *Innocent until proven child? Adults' assumptions about children's and adults' behaviors*. XV Encontro da Associação de Portuguesa de Psicologia Experimental (APPE) , ISPA, Lisbon, Portugal (Online).

Santos, J. O., Hagá, S., & Garcia-Marques, L. (2019, May). *Children are curious and adults are responsible: Stereotypes and feelings towards children and adults*. 14^o Encontro da Associação de Portuguesa de Psicologia Experimental (APPE), FPCE-UÉvora, Évora, Portugal.

Ricoca-Peixoto, M., Hagá, S., Santos, J. O., & Garrido, M. P., (2019, May). *Would you rather meet a childlike adult or an adultlike child? Childlike and adultlike as attributes in person perception*. XIV Phd Meeting in Social and Organizational Psychology, ISCTE-IUL, Lisbon, Portugal.

Ricoca-Peixoto, M., Hagá, S., Santos, J. O., & Garrido, M. P., (2019, May). *A criança e o adulto dentro de nós, vistos de fora: Percepção de pessoas descritas como “muito crianças”*

ou “ *muito adultas*”. 14º Encontro da Associação de Portuguesa de Psicologia Experimental (APPE), FPCE-UÉvora, Évora, Portugal.

Santos, J. O., Hagá, S., & Garcia-Marques, L. (2018, June). *Childism is no child's play: Experimental and anecdotal evidence of discrimination against children*. Future of Social Cognition workshop, East Anglia, England.

Santos, J. O., & Hagá, S. (2018, April). *While you're young it's acceptable: Perceived acceptability of discriminatory statements targeting children*. 13º Encontro da Associação de Portuguesa de Psicologia Experimental (APPE), Braga, Portugal.

Santos, J. O., & Hagá, S. (2017, June). *Are children perceived as less human than adults?*. XIII Phd Meeting in Social and Organizational Psychology, Lisbon, Portugal.

Santos, J. O., & Hagá, S. (2017, May). *Wild children and civilized adults: Studies on the infrahumanization of children*. 12º Encontro da Associação de Portuguesa de Psicologia Experimental (APPE), Oporto, Portugal.

Workshops

2023: SciOps: Next-Level OpenScience?. Workshop presented at the QHELP 2023 Mobility event, Arrifana, Portugal

2023:  and GitLab. Workshop presented at the QHELP 2023 Mobility event, Arrifana, Portugal

2022: Openness & Community: Catalysts for Quality Ethical Science. Workshop presented at a QHELP Multiplier event, at the University of Lisbon - Department of Psychology. (Co-author: Inês Ramalhete)

2021: Modelos Multinível no R: Uma Missão Impossível. Invited Workshop at the University of Lisbon - Department of Psychology.

2020: O que é e como se faz a ciência? Dicas para produtores e consumidores. Workshop presented at the Dezembro Workshops at the University of Lisbon - Department of Psychology.

2020: Um novo robô de cozinha: o R! Utilização e receitas básicas. Workshop presented at the Dezembro Workshops at the University of Lisbon - Department of Psychology.

2017: Workshop on mouse-tracking, Invited Workshop at the University of Lisbon - Department of Psychology (Main author: Sara Hagá)

Teaching

- 2025: Experimental Design and Advanced Ecological Data Analysis, Graduate Course (Msc.), taught all enrolled students in the Masters Program in Marine and Conservation Biology at ISPA (Coordinator: Emanuel Gonçalves), three hours a week for a semester
- 2025: Philosophy of Science, Undergraduate Course at ISPA (Coordinator: Teresa Garcia-Marques), taught all enrolled students, one hour and half a week, for a semester
- 2025: Statistical Analysis II, Undergraduate Course at ISPA (Coordinator: Nuno Gomes) - taught two cohorts, three hours a week each, for a semester
- 2025: Experimental Methodology and Data Analysis, Graduate Course (Msc.) for the Masters Program in neuropsychology at ISPA, and the Masters Program in neuroscience at the Portuguese Catholic University (Coordinator: Niccolò Bonacchi), taught all enrolled students, three hours a week each, for a semester
- 2025: Statistical Analysis I, Undergraduate Course at ISPA (Coordinator: Nuno Gomes) - taught two cohorts, three hours a week each, for a semester
- 2024: Statistical Analysis II, Undergraduate Course at ISPA (Coordinator: Nuno Gomes) - taught two cohorts, three hours a week each, for a semester
- 2024: Philosophy of Science, Undergraduate Course at ISPA (Coordinator: Teresa Garcia-Marques), taught all enrolled students, one hour and half a week, for a semester
- 2024: Learning and Behavior, Undergraduate Course at ISPA (Coordinator: Teresa Garcia-Marques), taught the initial cohort of students to attend the course course, three hours a week for a semester
- 2024: Experimental Design and Advanced Ecological Data Analysis, Graduate Course (Msc.), taught all enrolled students in the Masters Program in Marine and Conservation Biology at ISPA (Coordinator: Emanuel Gonçalves), three hours a week for a semester
- 2024: Graduate Seminar in Social and Cognitive Psychology, at FPUL (Coordinator: Tomás Palma) - Taught a two hour module on open science
- 2024: Statistical Analysis I, Undergraduate Course at ISPA (Coordinator: Nuno Gomes) - taught three classes of introduction to R to the initial cohort
- 2024: Statistics Applied to Psychology, Undergraduate Course at FPUL (Coordinator: Ana Luísa Raposo) - Taught three modules (lectures and sectionals) to all enrolled students
- 2024: Data Analysis I, Undergraduate Course at ISPA (Coordinator: Gonçalo Aires de Oliveira) - taught the first three classes for the first cohort of students.

2023: Philosophy of Science, Undergraduate Course at ISPA (Coordinator: Teresa Garcia-Marques), taught the initial cohort of students to attend the course course, one hour and half a week, for a semester

2023: Statistical Analysis II, Undergraduate Course at ISPA (Coordinator: Nuno Gomes) - taught two cohorts, three hours a week each, for a semester

2023: Introduction to Probabilities and Statistics Applied to Psychology, Undergraduate Course at FPUL (Coordinator: Maga Roberto) - taught four cohorts (sectional classes), two hours a week each, for a semester

2022: Social Psychology II, Undergraduate Course at FPUL (Coordinator: Ana Sofia Santos)

2022: Social Psychology II, Undergraduate Course at FPUL (Coordinator: Ana Sofia Santos)

2022: Graduate Seminar in Social and Cognitive Psychology at FPUL (Coordinator: André Mata)

2021: Research Methods in Psychology: Basic Notions, Undergraduate Course at FPUL (Coordinator: Mário Boto-Ferreira)

2021: Social Psychology II, Undergraduate Course at FPUL (Coordinator: Ana Sofia Santos)

2021: Research Methodology, Graduate Seminar (PhD) at FPUL (Coordinator: Magda Roberto)

2020: Research Methods in Psychology: Basic Notions, Undergraduate Course at FPUL (Coordinator: Mário Boto-Ferreira)

2019: Social Psychology I, Undergraduate Course at FPUL (Coordinator: André Mata)

2018: Themes of Social Psychology, Undergraduate Course at FPUL (Coordinator: André Mata)

2018: Research Methodology, Graduate Seminar (PhD) at FPUL (Coordinator: Magda Roberto)

Professional memberships

Associação Portuguesa de Psicologia Experimental (APPE) - Member since 2018

Associação Portuguesa de Psicologia (APP) - Member since 2025

Additional Training

2022: QHelp, one week intensive seminar in quantitative thinking, statistics (including R and Shiny apps) at KU Leuven (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

2019-2021: WriteOn, Scientific Writing Workshop at the University of Lisbon - Department of Psychology

2019: Analyzing discourse and communication for understanding socio-psychological processes at ISCTE-IUL

2018: X Summer School In Advanced Methods Of Data Analysis, at the University of Lisbon - Department of Social Sciences (ICS-UL)

- Introduction to Quantitative Analysis
- Multivariate Analysis (in R) at the University of Lisbon
- Structural Equation Modeling (in R)

2018: Introduction to E-Prime: From the design of the experiment to data management and processing at ISCTE-IUL

2018: Qualitative data analysis with NVivo 11 at ISCTE-IUL

2018: Systematic literature review and meta-analysis in Psychology at ISCTE-IUL

2018: Moderated Mediation at ISCTE-IUL

2018: Publishing empirical articles that have information value at ISCTE-IUL

2017: Techniques of Data Analysis I at ISPA

Skills

Statistical analysis: R (including: mixed and robust models, ggplot2), JASP, SPSS.

Experiment Programming: Qualtrics, latgen, OpenSesame, Mouse Tracker, E-PRIME.

Open Science: Preregistration and open science using osf.io, aspredicted.org, and protocols.io

Markup: Markdown (including Quarto, RMarkdown and Bookdown), LaTeX, as well as multi-format conversion using pandoc (including custom templates).

Programming: R, POSIX shell, C, also dabbled in Python, Lua and SQL.

Web: html, css, interactive R/Shiny applications.

Tools: Linux (proficient user), git, make, sed as well as other coreutils; GitHub and Gitlab (including gitlab's CI/CD, and experience with GitHub workflows).

Languages

Portuguese (native speaker)

English (fluent)

French (basic comprehension)

Spanish (basic comprehension)

Latin (very basic comprehension, personal hobby)

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