

# Alexandria (Alex) Samson

Rotman Research Institute,  
University of Toronto  
1<sup>st</sup> year PhD Student



## Fun Facts About Me

- I enjoy reading psychological thrillers
- I am an avid hockey player
- New COVID hobby: paint-by-numbers
- I lived in the Netherlands for a year
- I love to travel

## My Background

### **2014 – 2018:**

I completed my undergraduate degree at Dalhousie University. During my 4<sup>th</sup> year, I conducted an EEG project that compared the neural correlates of musicians vs. non musicians when completing a Speech Perception in Noise task. I graduated with a Bachelors of Science majoring in Neuroscience.

### **2018 – 2019:**

I was awarded the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award to work within a lab at the Alberta Children's Hospital. In Calgary, I analyzed the effects of time spent playing videogames on cognition, attention, and ADHD behavioural traits.

### **2019 – 2020:**

I completed my Masters of Arts in Psychology at the University of Toronto. My thesis explored salient risk factors involved in Alzheimer's disease pathology and mild cognitive impairment utilizing data from the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative.

## Current Research

### **PhD Project**

I plan to expand on my masters research and look at the relationship between structural and functional brain connectivity, neuropsychological performance, and lifestyle factors over time in an attempt to better understand Alzheimer's disease, prodromal stages of the disease, and healthy aging. I hope to generate well-established risk profiles to aid in the clinical research stratification of Alzheimer's disease as well as, in the future generate these profiles for other neurodegenerative disease such as Parkinson's disease.

### **Collaborative Project**

I am working with the STOP-AD Centre (affiliated with McGill University) looking at longitudinal sex and gender differences in an 'at-risk' Alzheimer's disease population.

## Career Development and Goals for the SPA

- Interact, meet, and network with researchers in the field
- Learn and develop new skills
- Expand my knowledge on methodologies and analyses of longitudinal data
- Capitalize on this awesome opportunity