

Dr. Abbie Maroño

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Personal statement

As a distinguished professional in the field of human behavior, I bring a rare combination of scientific rigor and practical expertise to my work. I have been internationally recognized by the United States Department of State as a top 1% behavior analysis expert.

I have delivered specialized behavioral analysis training to representatives from 29 U.S. federal agencies, including the U.S. Secret Service, FBI, and Department of Homeland Security, as well as to senior leadership at INTERPOL. I am the creator of The Upper Hand, a proprietary framework for understanding human decision-making and influence. After delivering this training, the U.S. Secret Service recognized my expertise with an award for outstanding contribution to their forensic services.

Having completed my PhD in Psychology, I became a Professor of Psychology by the age of 23. I contribute regularly to Forbes, Court TV, and Apple News and have been featured on BBC News, Fox News, WIRED, and Forbes Breaking News. I am also a highly sought-after expert witness, retained for high-profile cases, including lawsuits involving A-list celebrities.

Key Skills

- **Advanced Psychological Knowledge:** In-depth understanding of psychological mechanisms underpinning human decision-making.
- **Expert Witness Experience:** Served as an expert witness in both the United States and the United Kingdom, testifying in court on trauma responses and body language analysis.
- **Nonverbal Communication:** Skilled in interpreting and analyzing nonverbal cues in human interactions.
- **Keynote speaker:** Experienced in delivering engaging and informative presentations at international conferences and events.
- **Scientific Research:** Strong background in conducting scientific research and contributing to internationally recognized research groups.

Education

PhD in Psychology and Behavior Analysis. Lancaster University, UK

Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with Forensic Psychology, BSc. Lincoln University, UK

Awarded with First-Class Honours

Certifications and Awards

- **O1 Visa for Extraordinary Abilities in the Sciences, United States Department of State**
- **Outstanding contribution to forensic services, US Secret Service, Homeland Security**

- **Top Behavioral scientist of the year (2025)**, The International Association of Top Professionals
- **Outstanding Reviewer Literati Award**, Journal of Criminal Psychology
- **Specialized Training in Behavior Analysis**, TRAP Program (Tactical Risk Assessment of People)
- **Recipient of Numerous Research Grants** for research in behavior analysis

Books

The Upper Hand; Mastering persuasion and getting what you want with the science of social engineering. (Best Seller).

- Published with Matt Holt Books of BenBella Books

Work in Progress; The road to empowerment, the journey through shame

- Published with Morgan James Publishing, LLC

Lilly the brave lion

- Published with Morgan James Publishing, LLC

Employment History

Director of Education, Social-Engineer, LLC (April 2022- Present)

- Creation of specialized training for awareness and defense against social engineering, emphasizing human network security for private sector clients.
- Developed and managed nonverbal communication training programs.
- Providing expert behavior analysis assessment and judgment to public and private sector clients
- Collaborated with experts to integrate latest research into practical, simulation-based training, maintaining high scientific and ethical standards.

Expert advisor for Virtual Sapiens Solutions (March 2022- Present)

- Conducted comprehensive reviews of existing and new nonverbal communication metrics, refining thresholds for real-time user feedback.
- Evaluated and refined educational content related to nonverbal communication, including website copy, product descriptions, blog topics, and guest posts.
- Provided strategic guidance on best practices for data collection and analysis in nonverbal communication, enhancing the accuracy and reliability of user insights.

Professor of Psychology, University of Northampton (April 2021- April 2022)

- Designing, updating, and teaching courses in psychology. This may include preparing lectures, assignments, exams, and overseeing lab work.
- Conducting original research, publishing findings in academic journals, and presenting at conferences.
- Supervising undergraduate and postgraduate research, advising on academic progress, and mentoring students.

Membership of professional bodies, national committees

- **Member of CREST (Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats)**

We conduct world-class, independent research, taking a leading role in stimulating public and professional debate; connecting disciplinary communities; informing security policy and practice; and providing training to research leaders of the future.

- **Networkplus for Analytical Behavioural Science (ECR Mentoring Scheme)**

As a mentor, I help foster the personal and professional growth of mentees of early career researchers.

- **Member of ReBSA (Researchers in behaviour sequence analysis)**

We conduct research into understanding the progression of behaviors in applied and real-world settings. Our focus is on providing clear and accessible insight into complex behaviors.

- **Member of SPRITE+ (Security, Privacy, Identity, Trust in the Digital Economy)**

We bring together people involved in research, practice, and policy with a focus on digital contexts, in the areas of security, privacy, identity and trust.

- **Member of HEBC (Health, Education and Behaviour Change)**

We conduct applied research to advance understanding of behavior change and address real world problems in the areas of health and education.

Additional roles

Associate of JNForensics

I work alongside the World's leading expert in nonverbal communication, Mr. Joe Navarro, to provide professional nonverbal communication and interpersonal skills training.

Volunteer for The Innocent Lives Foundation

The Innocent Lives Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to unmasking anonymous online child predators to help bring them to justice. Their mission involves leveraging the expertise of skilled cybersecurity professionals who volunteer their time to track, identify, and report these predators to law enforcement agencies.

Advisor for Green Light (Behavioural Analysis)

Green Light are security specialists in the areas of behavioral analysis, passenger profiling, hijack management, unruly passenger restraint and aviation security screening.

Reviewer for academic journals

I evaluate article submissions to journals, such as The Journal of Experimental Psychology and The Journal of Criminal Psychology, based on the requirements of that journal, predefined criteria, and the quality, completeness and accuracy of the research presented.

Renowned International Speaker

Expertly addresses topics including behavior analysis, nonverbal communication, and information elicitation, captivating audiences worldwide with profound insights and expertise.

Featured Media Contributor

Frequently interviewed by esteemed platforms, including Women of Impact, Fox News, CourtTV, WIRED, BBC, and Forbes, providing expert insights on topical issues.

Published Writer

Regular contributor to renowned publications such as Forbes, Apple News, Psychology Today, and National Geographic, covering a range of subjects in psychology and behavior analysis.

Selected Publications

- Maroño, A. (2025). *The Upper Hand: Mastering Persuasion and Getting What You Want with the Science of Social Engineering*. BenBella Books.
- Papagathonikou, T., & Marono, A. (2025). The relationship between psychopathy and sexual sadism: a mixed-methods study. *The Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology*, 36(3), 407-429.
- Knight, S., Maroño, A., & Keatley, D. (2024). The age of extremism: a crime script analysis of violent and nonviolent extremists according to age of first extremist act. *Journal of Criminal Psychology*, 14(2), 157-179.
- Maroño, A. (2024). *Work in Progress: The Road to Empowerment, The Journey Through Shame*. Morgan James Publishing.
- Keatley, D., Marono, A. J., & Clarke, D. D. (2023). Prevalence scores: an addition to behaviour sequence analysis. *Journal of criminal psychology*, 13(4), 394-404.
- Marono, A., & Keatley, D. A. (2023). An investigation into the association between cannibalism and serial killers. *Psychiatry, psychology and law*, 30(4), 447-458.
- Marono, A., Bartels, R. M., Hill, K., Papagathonikou, T., & Hitchman, G. (2023). Exploring the stigmatisation of offending and non-offending paedophiles: a terror management approach. *Journal of criminal psychology*, 13(3), 157-172.
- Keatley, D. A., Knight, S., & Marono, A. (2023). A crime script analysis of violent and nonviolent extremists. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 46(11), 2285-2302.
- Abdelrahman, Y., Alt, F., Dingler, T., Hadnagy, C., Maroño, A., & Distler, V. (2024). Defining and Fortifying Against Cognitive Vulnerabilities in Social Engineering (Dagstuhl Seminar 23462).
- Keatley, D. A., Knight, S., & Marono, A. (2021). A Crime Script Analysis of Violent and Nonviolent Extremists. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 1-18.
- Marono, A. J., Reid, S., Yaksic, E., & Keatley, D. A. (2020). A behaviour sequence analysis of serial killers' lives: From childhood abuse to methods of murder. *Psychiatry, psychology and law*, 27(1), 126-137.
- Marono, A., & Bartels, R. M. (2020). Examining the judgments of pedophiles in relation to a non-sexual offense. *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 26(9), 887-901.
- Marono, A., Clarke, D. D., Navarro, J., & Keatley, D. A. (2018). A sequence analysis of nonverbal behaviour and deception. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, 33(2), 109-117.
- Keatley, D. A., Marono, A., & Clarke, D. D. (2018). Unmaking a murderer: behaviour sequence analysis of false confessions. *Psychiatry, psychology and law*, 25(3), 425-436.
- Marono, A., Clarke, D. D., Navarro, J., & Keatley, D. A. (2017). A behaviour sequence analysis of nonverbal communication and deceit in different personality clusters. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 24(5), 730-744.