

Laura Sparaci

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EDUCATION

2005-2008 PhD in Cognitive Science
University of Siena, Italy

2006 Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Sciences
University of Central Florida, USA

2003-2004 M.A. Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Distinction
Sussex University, UK

1998-2003 Lauream in Philosophy, 110/110 cum laude
University of Rome 'La Sapienza', Italy

EMPLOYMENT

2016 - to date **Marie Curie European Research Fellow**
Division of Psychology and Language Sciences
University College London (UCL)

2016 - to date **Research Associate**
Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies (ISTC)
National Research Council of Italy (CNR), Rome

2010-2015 **Researcher fixed term**
Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies (ISTC)
National Research Council of Italy (CNR), Rome

2015 **Lecturer**
John Cabot University, Rome

2010 **Research Associate**
Neuropsychiatric Unit
Paediatric Hospital Bambino Gesù, Rome

2008-2010 **Post-doctorate Research Fellowship**
Department of Neuroscience
University of Parma, Parma

2008-2009 **Visiting Research Fellow**
Department of Philosophy
University of Hertfordshire

2007-2008 **Graduate Research Fellowship**
Department of Neuroscience
University of Parma, Parma

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Developmental psychology: language acquisition, gestures, motor skills, procedural learning, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Williams syndrome, high-risk infants, embodied cognition, intentionality, mirror neurons.

ICT: magneto-inertial sensors, digitalized tablets, smart toys.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Projects led as PI

EU Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowship (grant n. 660468, MSCA-IF-2014) (Supervisor: Gabriella Vigliocco, University College London): *FORGE – From new objects to new words through gesture: how sensory-motor experiences of objects and tools influence word acquisition in children*, February 2016 – to date, 183 454,80€.

US-Italy Fulbright Commission “Fulbright Scholar” Project (Host: Jana Iverson, Psychology Department, University of Pittsburgh, USA): *FRATER – From grasping objects to grasping others in infants at high-risk for autism spectrum disorders*, May 2015 – October 2015, 9000\$.

Ministry of Education, University and Research of Italy (MIUR), FIRB Projects, (grant n. RBFR086HEW, FIRB 2008) (Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies, CNR; Partner institution: Laboratory of Biomedical Robotics and Bio-microsystems, University Campus Bio-Medico): *TOUM – The Other Understanding in Movement: gesture analysis in children with autism using non-obtrusive wearable technologies*, December 2010 – March 2014, 495 500€.

Projects engaged in as Experienced Researcher

EU FP7 Marie Curie International Staff Exchange Scheme (grant n. 61256, PIRSES-GA-2013) (PI: Jean-Marc Colletta, University of Grenoble Alpes): *GEST_LAN_D – Gesture and language development across Romance and Bantu languages*, mobility to University of Cape Town, South Africa July-September 2014, December 2015, and to University of Witwatersrand Johannesburg, South Africa November 2015, 222 600€.

EU FP7 Lifelong Learning Program (grant n. 543264, LLP-1-2013) (PI: Pasquale Rinaldi, Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies, CNR): *Sign_MET – Sign Language – Methodologies and Evaluation Tools*, January 2014 – December 2015, 378 042€.

Fellowships & studentships

US-Italy Fulbright Commission, Student Fellowship, January 2006-December 2006, 25000\$

University of Siena, Italy, PhD Studentship covering University fees, travel and living expenses during the PhD

Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB), UK, MA Studentship (n. 102507/Pan8), covering University fees during the MA

University of Rome ‘La Sapienza’, Rome, Studentship to work as a librarian at the Department of Philosophy Library.

ACADEMIC REVIEWING

Research Grants

Member of the Panel of Experts for the evaluation of German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) P.R.I.M.E. 2016 Projects

Member of the Panel of Experts for the evaluation of Ministry of Education, University and Research of Italy (MIUR) "Future in Research 2012" Projects MIUR, Area SH1

Editorial Board "Topoi. An International Review of Philosophy" Springer;
Journals *Research in Developmental Disabilities, Developmental Psychology, Child Development Research, Neuropsychologia, Frontiers in Psychology, Gesture, Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, Synthese, AphEx, IEEE Development and Learning on Epigenetic Robotics*

Translator for Raffaello Cortina Publishers (English to Italian) (translating: Gazzaniga, M.S. (2009) **Human: The Science Behind What Makes Your Brain Unique**: Harper Collins Publishers).

PUBLICATIONS

Journal papers

- Volterra, V., Capirci, O., Caselli, M.C., Rinaldi, P. & **Sparaci, L.** (2017-in press). Developmental evidence for continuity from action to gesture/sign. *Language Interaction and Acquisition*, 8(1).
- Sparaci, L.**, Formica, D., Lasorsa, F.R, Mazzone, L., Valeri, G. & Vicari, S. (2015). Untrivial Pursuit: Measuring Motor Procedures Learning in Children with Autism, *Autism Research*, 8(4), 398-411, Impact Factor: 4.432; Citations: 3
- Sparaci, L.**, Stefanini, S., D'Elia, L., Vicari, S. & Rizzolatti, G. (2014). What and why understanding in autism spectrum disorders and Williams syndrome: similarities and differences. *Autism Research*, 7(4), 421-432, Impact Factor: 4.432; Citations: 8
- Ricci, L., Formica, D., **Sparaci, L.**, Lasorsa, F.R., Taffoni, F., Tamilia, E., & Guglielmelli, E. (2014). A New Calibration Methodology for Thorax and Upper Limbs Motion Capture in Children Using Magneto and Inertial Sensors. *Sensors*, 14(1), 1057-1072, Impact Factor: 2.474; Citations: 11
- Bello, A., **Sparaci, L.**, Stefanini, S., Boria, S., Volterra, V. & Rizzolatti, G. (2013). A Developmental Study on Children's Capacity to Ascribe Goals and Intentions to Others. *Developmental Psychology*, 50(2), 504-513, Impact Factor: 4.286; Citations: 5
- Sparaci, L.** (2013). Beyond the point: a basic guide to literature on pointing abilities in children with autism. *Humana.Mente Journal of Philosophical Studies*, 24:177-202, Citations: 1
- Ricci, L., Formica, D., Tamilia, E., Taffoni, F., **Sparaci, L.**, Capirci, O. & Guglielmelli, E. (2013). An experimental protocol for the definition of upper limb anatomical frames on children using magneto-inertial sensors. *IEEE International Engineering in Medicine and Biology Magazine*, 2013:4903-6, Impact Factor: 1.526, Citations: 2
- Campolo D., Taffoni F., Formica D., Iverson J., **Sparaci, L.**, Keller F. & Guglielmelli E. (2012). Embedding inertial-magnetic sensors in everyday objects: Assessing spatial cognition in children. *Journal of Integrative Neuroscience*, 11(1), 103-116, Impact Factor: 0.931; Citations: 14
- Sparaci, L.**, Stefanini S., Marotta L., Vicari S. & Rizzolatti G. (2012). Understanding motor acts and motor intentions in Williams syndrome. *Neuropsychologia*, 50 (7), 1639-1649, Impact Factor: 3.673; Citations: 10
- Sparaci, L.** (2011). Approccio fenomenologico e scienze cognitive. *Sistemi Intelligenti*, 1 (aprile), 75- 92.

- Sinigaglia, C. & **Sparaci**, L. (2010). Emotions in action through the looking glass. *Journal for Analytical Psychology*, 55, 3-29. Impact Factor: 0.430; Citations: 16
- Boria, S., Fabbri-Destro, M., Cattaneo, L., **Sparaci**, L., Sinigaglia, C., Santelli, E., Cossu, G. & Rizzolatti, G. (2009). Intention Understanding and Autism, *PLoSOne*, 4(5), e5596, Impact Factor: 3.535; Citations: 60
- Sparaci**, L. (2009). Rappresentazioni orientate all'azione: il ruolo delle rappresentazioni deittiche in contesti sociali. *Teorie & Modelli*, vol. XIV, 119-134.
- Sparaci**, L. (2008). Embodying Gestures. The Social Orienting Model and the study of early gestures in autism. *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, 7, 203-223, Impact Factor: 1.257, Citations: 3.
- Sinigaglia, C. & **Sparaci**, L. (2008). The Mirror Roots of Social Cognition. *Acta Philosophica*, 17, 307-330, Citations: 6.
- Sparaci**, L., (2006). Autismo, simulazione incarnata e neuroni-specchio. *Elites*, 4, 67-78.

Manuscripts under review/in preparation

- Sparaci**, L., Northrup, J., Capirci, O. & Iverson, J.M. (submitted) From grasping tools to grasping words in infants at high-risk for Autism Spectrum Disorders, *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- Di Cesare, G., **Sparaci**, L., Pelosi, A., Mazzone, L., Ruffaldi, E., Giovagnoli, G., Menghini, D. & Vicari, S. (submitted). Vitality forms recognition in children with autism spectrum disorders, *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*
- Formica, D., Lasorsa, F., Capirci, O. & **Sparaci**, L. (in preparation) Motor constants from actions to gestures in elementary school children, *Frontiers in Psychology*
- Colletta, J. M., Brookes, H., Kunene-Nicolas, R., Hadian-Cefidekanie, A., **Sparaci**, L. & Capirci, O. (in preparation). Lexical development across Bantu and Romance Languages: Comprehension and production of nouns and predicates in Italian, French, South Sotho and Zulu children aged 24 to 36 months

Book chapters

- Sparaci**, L. & Volterra, V. (2017-in press). Hands shaping communication: from gestures to signs. In: *The Hand and Human Identity: Perception, Cognition, Action*, Bertolaso, M. & Di Stefano, N. (Eds.), Springer
- Lasorsa, F., **Sparaci**, L. & Capirci, O. (2017-in press). I gesti nei bambini con Disturbo dello Spettro Autistico: deficit o risorsa comunicativa? In: *Neuropsicologia dello Sviluppo*, Vicari, S. & Caselli, C. (Eds.), Il Mulino: Bologna
- Sparaci**, L., Rinaldi, P., Volterra, V. (2012) Profili cognitivi e nuove prospettive sui rapporti con il sistema motorio. In: *La Sindrome di Williams. Genetica, clinica e riabilitazione*, Dallapiccola, B. & Vicari, S. (Eds.), (pp. 143-158), Franco-Angeli, Milano, ISBN/ISSN: 978-8820408022
- Sparaci**, L. & Valeri, G. (2012). La dimensione intersoggettiva: autismo e interazioni sociali primarie, In: *L'autismo. Dalla diagnosi al trattamento*, Vicari, S., Valeri, G. & Fava, L. (Eds.), (pp. 43-65), Bologna: Il Mulino, ISBN/ISSN: 978-8815237668.
- Sparaci**, L. (2010). Discourse and action: analysing the possibility of a structural similarity. In *SILFS - New Essays in Logic and Philosophy of Science*, D'Agostino, M., Giorello, G., Laudisa, F., Pievani, T. & Sinigaglia, C. (Eds.), (pp. 493 - 504), London: College, ISBN/ISSN: 9781848900035.

Romano, G. & Sparaci, L. (2009). Il problema dell' intersoggettività negli studi sull'autismo. In: *Filosofia della medicina. Metodo, modelli, cura ed errori*, Giarretta, P., Moretto, A., Gensini, G.F. & Trabucchi, M. (Eds.), (pp.661-689), Bologna: Il Mulino, ISBN/ISSN: 978-8815127112

Sparaci, L., (2006). Due modelli di spiegazione in scienza cognitiva: modularismo e dinamicismo. In: *L'architettura della mente. Saggi sulla modularità*, Ferretti, F. & Marraffa, M. (Eds.), (pp. 273-298), ISBN/ISSN: 88-83-24-108-8.

Conference proceedings/online abstracts

Sparaci, L., Formica, D., Lasorsa, F., Ricci, L., Venuti, P. & Capirci, O. (2013). Primary Data On Using Sensors to Analyze Motor Aspects of Gesture Behavior in Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. Abstracts of *The International Meeting for Autism Research*, San Sebastian, 2013.

Sparaci, L., Vespignani, M., Formica D., D'Elia L., Valeri G. & Vicari S. (2012). Using a Newly Developed Computer-Based Program to Evaluate Learning of Visuo-motor Procedures in Children with Autism: A Pilot Study. Abstracts of *The International Meeting for Autism Research*, Toronto, 2012.

Sparaci, L., Stefanini, S., D'Elia, L., Rizzolatti, G. & Vicari S. (2011). Intersubjectivity and Understanding Motor Intentions: Evidence From Autism and Williams Syndrome. Abstracts of *The International Meeting for Autism Research*, San Diego, 2011

Sparaci, L. (2008). Intersubjectivity Interrupted. Motivating and reviewing the literature on gesture behaviour in autism through a phenomenological approach. In *Proceedings of the 2007 International Human Science Research Conference*, Tarozzi, M. & Bertolani, J. (Eds.), University of Trento, Rovereto, 13-16 June 2007, ISBN/ISSN: 9878884432186.

INVITED TALKS

Sparaci, L. From actions to language: an embodied approach to communication in development. International Symposium "Acquisition, Multilingualism and Gesture in Typical and Atypical Populations", Department of Linguistics, Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg, November 2015 (language: English).

Sparaci, L. From actions to language: an embodied approach to language in development. Department of Philosophy, University of Memphis, Memphis, October 2015 (language: English).

Sparaci, L. From grasping objects to grasping others: an embodied approach to communication in development. Psychology Department, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, USA, October 2015 (language: English).

Sparaci, L. Through the looking glass: gestures and actions in typically developing children. Infant Communication Lab, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, June 2015 (language: English).

Sparaci, L. Analyzing the relationship between motor skills and intersubjective communication in children with autistic spectrum disorders. International Symposium "Speech, Gesture and Action in Language Development: Typical and atypical development in children", Department of African Languages, Communication Sciences and Disorders and Linguistics, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, September 2014 (language: English).

- Sparaci, L. & Formica, D.** The Other Understanding in Movement Project - TOUM: use of wearable sensors to measure motor and communicative behaviours in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. National Symposium PAED, University Campus Bio-Medico Rome, Rome, November 2013 (language: Italian).
- Sparaci, L.** Analyzing differential learning of motor procedures in children with autistic spectrum disorders. Hertfordshire International Roundtable Meeting, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, UK, September 2012 (language: English).
- Valeri, G., & Sparaci, L.** Imitation and models for the development of intersubjective understanding. National Conference: "Imitation: between motor development and social development in Autism Spectrum Disorders", Castel'Ivano Association, University of Trento, Trento, October 2011 (language: Italian).
- Sparaci, L.** Embodied motor practices: a developmental perspective. International Conference: "Embodied and Narrative Practices: Clinical and Practical", University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, UK, July 2011 (language: English).
- Sparaci, L.** Intersubjective understanding: grasping motor intentions from action observation. International Workshop "PAUR", University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, UK, March 2009 (language: English).
- Andr n, Quaeghebeur & Sparaci** Embodied perspectives on gesture. "IHSRC Social cognition and social narrative" Collegium/Summer School, University of San Marino, San Marino, July 2008 (language: English).
- Sparaci, L.** A phenomenological approach to the study of autism. National Workshop "The problem of empathy: phenomenology and the neurosciences", University of Parma, Parma, Novembre 2007 (language: Italian).
- Sparaci, L.** invited Session Moderator and Discussant at the International Conference "BROKEN MINDS/BROKEN BODIES: What cognitive science can learn from neuro-psycho-pathologies", University of Central Florida, Orlando, February 2006 (language: English).
- Sparaci, L.** invited Discussant at The National Conference: First Italian Meeting of Professors and Researchers in Philosophy of Mind, Universit  Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, October 2006 (language: Italian).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Sparaci, Northrup, Capirci & Iverson,** From Grasping Tools to Producing Words in Infants at High-Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorders. Presentazione orale presso l'International International Convention of Psychological Science (ICPS), Vienna Centre, Vienna, 25 marzo 2017.
- Sparaci, Brookes, Kunene-Nicolas, Capirci, Cefidekhanie & Colletta,** Preliminary Data on Representational Gesture in Romance and Bantu Languages using PinG. Talk given at the International Society for Gesture Studies (ISGS), Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris, July 2016 (language: English).
- Sparaci, Formica, Lasorsa, Guglielmelli, & Capirci,** Motoric characteristics of gestures and actions in elementary school children. Poster presented at the International Society for Gesture Studies (ISGS), Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris, July 2016 (language: English).
- Sparaci, Northrup, Capirci & Iverson,** From Grasping Tools to Functional Actions in Infants at Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorders. Poster presented at the

- International Congress on Infant Studies (ICIS), Hilton Riverside, New Orleans, USA, May 2016 (language: English).
- Sparaci**, Formica, Lasorsa, Mazzone, Valeri & Vicari, Measuring motor procedures learning in children with autism using the Virtual Pursuit Rotor task. Poster presented at the National Developmental Neuropsychology Conference X Edition, University of Bolzano, Brixen, January 2015 (language: Italian).
- Sparaci**, Formica, Lasorsa, Ricci, Guglielmelli & Capirci, Building new tools to compare actions and gestures in children. Poster presented at the National Developmental Neuropsychology Conference X Edition, University of Bolzano, Brixen, January 2015 (language: Italian).
- Sparaci**, Formica, Lasorsa, Ricci, Guglielmelli & Capirci, Moving from actions to gestures: using a new sensor-based platform to analyse the relation between actions and gestures in elementary school children. Talk given at the National Conference of the Italian Association for Cognitive Sciences (AISC), University of Rome "Roma Tre", Rome, December 2014 (language: Italian).
- Lasorsa, Formica, Ricci & **Sparaci**, Writing in movement: a pilot study on motor skills and early handwriting. Poster presented at the National Conference "Communication & Language Acquisition Studies in Typical & Atypical Development (CLASTA)", University of Bologna, Bologna, May 2014 (language: Italian).
- Sparaci**, Lasorsa, Formica, D'Elia, Valeri & Vicari, Visuo-motor procedure learning in children with autism: a pilot study. Poster presented at the National Conference "Communication & Language Acquisition Studies in Typical & Atypical Development (CLASTA)", University of Bologna, Bologna, May 2014 (language: Italian)
- Sparaci**, Lasorsa & Capirci, Gesture and words in development: a strong and dynamic partnership. Poster presented at the National Conference of the Italian Psychological Association (AIP), University G. D'Annunzio, Chieti, September 2012 (language: Italian).
- Sparaci**, Vespignani, Formica, D'Elia, Valeri & Vicari, Using a Newly Developed Computer-Based Program to Evaluate Learning of Visuo-motor Procedures in Children with Autism: A Pilot Study. Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), Sheraton Centre, Toronto, May 2012 (language: English).
- Sparaci**, Stefanini, D'Elia, Rizzolatti & Vicari, Intersubjectivity and Understanding Motor Intentions: Evidence from Autism and Williams Syndrome. Poster presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, May 2012 (language: English).
- Sparaci**, Marotta, Stefanini, Vicari & Rizzolatti, Sociability out of grasp: understanding others' motor intentions in Williams syndrome and autism. Poster presented at the International Conference "Embodiment, Intersubjectivity and Psychopathology", Department of General Psychiatry, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, September 2010 (language: English).
- Boria, Fabbri-Destro, **Sparaci**, Cossu & Rizzolatti, What and why understanding in children with autism. Poster presented at the National Developmental Neuropsychology Conference IV Edition, University of Bolzano, Brixen, January 2008 (language: Italian)

- Sparaci**, The Social Orienting Model and gesture studies. Talk given at the International Conference of the Italian Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science (SILFS), University of Milan, Milan, October 2007 (language: Italian).
- Sparaci**, Missing Narratives. An embodied approach to the analysis of gestures in autism. Talk given at the International Conference "Narratives Alternatives to Theories of Mind", University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, UK, July 2007 (language: English).
- Sparaci**, Intersubjectivity interrupted. How can the phenomenological method inform studies on autism. Talk given at the International Conference: Human Science Research Conference (IHSRC) "New frontiers of phenomenology. Beyond postmodernism in empirical research", Univeristy of Trento, Rovereto, June 2007 (language: English).
- Sparaci**, Embodying Gestures. Motivating the importance of an embodied approach to the analysis of gesture emergence in intersubjectivity. Talk given at the UCD Graduate Philosophy Conference "Perspectives on the Body and Embodiment", University College Dublin, Dublin, June 2006 (language: English).
- Sparaci**, Gesture studies & autism: building a new method. Talk given at the International Workshop "Roots of Intersubjectivity: The Complex Paths Towards Understanding Others", University of Siena, Siena, March 2003
- Sparaci**, The problem of intersubjectivity in studies on autism. Talk given at the International Conference "Philosophy of Medicine, Ontology, Models, Clinical methods, and errors", University of Verona, Verona, February 2007 (language: Italian).
- Sparaci**, Gestures, intersubjectivity and autisms: an embodied perspective. Talk given at the National Conference of PhD Students in Philosophy, Banfi Istitute, Reggio Emilia, December 2006, (language: Italian).

ORGANIZED EVENTS

- Organizer Symposium, "How Hands Shape Communication from Motor Actions, to Gestures and Sign Languages", International Convention of Psychological Science - ICPS, March 2017
- Co-organizer International Workshop: "Roots of Intersubjectivity: The Complex Paths Towards Understanding Others", University of Siena, Siena, Italy, March 2007
- Organizer Invited Seminar Talks Institute of Cognitive Science and Technologies - ISTC, Rome: Iannetti, G., "Avoiding pain: a defensive space surrounding the body", February 2014; Hutto, D. "Folk Psychology: sticking to the high road" September 2012; Gallagher, S., "Thoughtful gestures", March 2013

STUDENT SUPERVISION

- Post-doc researcher: Francesca Romana Lasorsa (main supervisor, TOUM Project, 2011-2013)
- PhD students: Gaby Siphon Dlamini (secondary supervisor GEST_LAN_D Project, 2014); Thato Natasha Nteso (secondary supervisor GEST_LAN_D Project, 2015)
- BSc students: Morgana Proietti (secondary supervisor GEST_LAN_D Project, 2015).

TEACHING AND TUTORING

Taught Courses

Cognitive Psychology (PS307, John Cabot University, 2015, 35 course hours and 45 contact hours)

Single lessons/tutorials

Communication and the motor system (MA in Developmental Neuropsychology, University Maria Ss. Assunta - LUMSA, 2013, 2015).

Autism, motor procedures and intention understanding (Developmental Psychology and New Technologies, Uninettuno, 2015);

Communication and the motor system: theoretical approaches and applied research (MA in Developmental Neuropsychology, University Maria Ss. Assunta - LUMSA, 2013).

Co-verbal gestures in typical and atypical development (MA in Developmental Language and Learning Delays, University of Rome Tor Vergata and Santa Lucia Foundation Rome - 2013).

Intersubjective understanding (MA in Developmental Language and Learning Delays, University of Rome Tor Vergata and Santa Lucia Foundation Rome - 2013).

Action, gesture and word: theoretical and research approaches (MA in Developmental Neuropsychology, University Maria Ss. Assunta - LUMSA, 2013).

Intersubjective understanding in children (MA in Developmental Language and Learning Delays, University of Rome Tor Vergata and Santa Lucia Foundation Rome - 2012).

Theories and models in developmental neuropsychology neuropsicologia (Master for Therapists working with children with autism, University Pontificia Salesiana and Paediatric Hospital Bambino Gesù, Rome - 2011).

MAIN ONGOING RESERACH COLLABORATIONS

Prof Gabriella Vigliocco, research on the role of actions and gesture in word learning, Experimental Psychology, University College London - UCL, UK

Prof Jana Iverson, research on motor skills and language in infants at high-risk for Autism Spectrum Disorders, Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, USA

Prof Giacomo Rizzolatti, research on mirror neurons and motor intention understanding in typical and atypical development/research on the vitality effect, Neuroscience Department, University of Parma, Italy

Prof Virginia Volterra, research on motor skills and gestures in children with typical and atypical development, Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies (ISTC) Rome, CNR, Italy

Prof Olga Capirci, research on gesture in children with typical development and in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies (ISTC) Rome, CNR, Italy

Dr Giacomo Vivanti, research on functional action production in children with typical and atypical development, A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, Drexel University, USA

Prof Stefano Vicari, research on the vitality effect in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Neuroscience Department, Paediatric Hospital Bambino Gesù, Rome, Italy

Dr Domenico Formica, research on the use of magneto-inertial sensors, digitalized tablets and smart toys with children with typical and atypical development, Laboratory of Biomedical Robotics and Bio-microsystems, University Campus Bio-Medico - UCBM Rome, Italy

Prof Heather Brookes, research on language acquisition and gestures in French, Italian, Zulu and South Soto children, School of Education, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Prof Ramona Kunene-Nicolas, research on language acquisition and gestures in French, Italian, Zulu and South Soto children, Linguistics Department, University of Witwatersrand Johannesburg, South Africa

Prof Jean-Marc Colletta, research on language acquisition and gestures in French, Italian, Zulu and South Soto children, University of Grenoble Alpes, France

Prof Shaun Gallagher, research on embodied cognition, Philosophy Department, University of Memphis, USA.

Affiliations

Centre for Research in Cognitive Science - COGS, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK;

International Society for Gesture Studies (ISGS)

International Congress for Infant Studies (ICIS)

LANGUAGES

English (fluent, TOEFL 290/300, TSE 60/60), Italian (native), Italian Sign Language-LIS (Level I)

COMPUTER AND STATISTICAL SKILLS

Office, ELAN, SPSS, Excel, HTML, basic C++, basic R Studio

Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (A.D.O.S.) course certificate, San Paolo Hospital, Milan, Italy