



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

**University of Bologna and University of Pittsburgh  
Departments of Psychology  
Joint International Workshop**



**UNDERSTANDING AND PROMOTING CHANGE FROM  
EARLY TO COMPLEX SKILLS IN TYPICAL AND ATYPICAL  
DEVELOPMENT: A CROSS-POPULATION APPROACH**

**October 10-11, 2018**

**Main Hall**

**Department of Psychology  
University of Bologna**

The workshop was organized by the Developmental Psychology Lab and the Psychometrics Lab of the Department of Psychology, University of Bologna, in collaboration with the Infant Communication Lab and the Online BabyLab, Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, and the Kids' Thinking Lab, Learning Research and Development Center, University of Pittsburgh.

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

Alessandra Sansavini, Annalisa Guarini, Mariagrazia Benassi, Giacomo Faldella, Luigi Corvaglia, Antonella Brighi, *University of Bologna, Italy*  
Jana Iverson, Klaus Libertus, Melissa Libertus, *University of Pittsburgh, US*

**LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Alessandra Sansavini, Annalisa Guarini, Mariagrazia Benassi, Mariagrazia Zuccarini, Marta Dell'Omo, Felicia Roga, *University of Bologna, Italy*

**BEST POSTER AWARD COMMITTEE**

Daniela Brizzolara, *IRCCS Stella Maris, University of Pisa, Italy*  
Klaus Libertus, *University of Pittsburgh, US*

**SPONSORSHIPS AND GRANTS**

The workshop was funded by University of Bologna innovative project *Progetto Innovativo nell'Ambito degli Accordi di Cooperazione Internazionali "Implementing a cross-cultural, cross-population and Interdisciplinary methodology for studying development"*, PI: Alessandra Sansavini.

The Italian Association of Psychology (AIP)- Section of Developmental and Educational Psychology, sponsored the event and funded the best poster award. The event was also sponsored by Communication and Language Acquisition Studies in Typical & Atypical populations (CLASTA).

The European Association for Developmental Psychology (EADP) and the International Society on Infant Studies (ICIS) contributed to disseminating the event.



Associazione  
Italiana  
di Psicologia



Communication & Language Acquisition  
Studies in Typical & Atypical Populations

**The workshop focused** on new research perspectives and methodologies for understanding and promoting change in typical and atypical development. It brought a cutting edge view on the interplay between early skills and the environment and the connections between theoretical and intervention models with an interdisciplinary and cross-population approach.

It included **17 lectures** with speakers from 15 EU and extra-EU Universities and Research Institutes, and **24 posters** with speakers from 18 EU and extra-EU Universities and Research Institutes (see attached Flyer, Brochure, Poster program, Best poster award).

**Main addressed topics** were: *Developmental trajectories and consequences of early motor skills* (K. Libertus, U. Pittsburgh), *Verbal and nonverbal communication in parent-child interaction* (J. Iverson, U. Pittsburgh), *Early communication, language and cognitive development in preterm and full-term children* (A. Sansavini, U. Bologna), *Late talking toddlers* (M. C. Caselli, A. Bello, ISTC-CNR & U. Roma Tre), *Language intervention under 3 years* (L. Girolametto, U. Toronto), *Learning by observation or by doing* (D. Menghini et al., Bambin Gesù Hosp.), *Motor consistencies between action and gesture imitation* (Capirci et al., ISTC-CNR and U. Campus Biomedico), *Sleep, bio-behavioral regulation and change* (S. Berger & A. Scher, City U. of NY and U. Haifa), *Early life adversity, epigenetics and parental intervention* (R. Montirosso et al., IRCCS E. Medea), *Development of relational skills in preterm babies* (F. Agostini, U. Bologna), *Emotion regulation development in preterm and full-term infants* (M. Spinelli et al., U. Chieti-Pescara), *Motion and form perception in preterm children* (M. Benassi et al., U. Bologna & Karolinska Inst.), *Preterm birth and academic achievements* (A. Guarini, U. Bologna), *Brain development and cognition following preterm birth* (C. Nosarti, King's College), *From early neuroplasticity to early intervention* (A. Guzzetta, IRCCS Stella Maris), *Early literacy and numeracy skills and intervention* (P. Bonifacci, U. Bologna), *Role of parents in the development of numeracy skills* (C. Tomasetto, U. Bologna). Behavioral and neurophysiological measures were presented in lectures and posters.

**Around 200 participants** (undergraduate, graduate and PhD students, post-doc fellows, researchers, psychologists, speech therapists, physiotherapists, child neuropsychiatrists, teachers, educators) from **EU and extra-EU Universities and Institutions** attended the workshop and had the opportunity to discuss new approaches, methodologies and protocols for studying typical and atypical development and transfer this knowledge to clinical and educational settings. Scientific discussions were conducted both after the lectures and during the poster session where PhD students, post-doc fellows and young researchers have been actively engaged.

**The poster award** Committee discussed posters with each presenter and assigned the poster award to two equal merit posters. Two other posters were awarded with an honorable mention.

The workshop contributed to strengthen existing scientific collaborations and expand scientific networks among EU and extra-EU Universities and Research Institutes.

We built a **web site** where the materials of the workshop are available:

<https://eventi.unibo.it/understanding-and-promoting-change-in-typical-and-atypical-development>

**To continue** to share and discuss findings and perspectives on the above topics, we have proposed a Research Topic in *Frontiers in Psychology* that will be open until September 15, 2019

<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/9453/understanding-trajectories-and-promoting-change-from-early-to-complex-skills-in-typical-and-atypical>

The scientific referent  
Alessandra Sansavini