

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME Annalisa Lella		POSITION TITLE Research fellow	
eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login)		Department of Basic Medical Science, Neuroscience and Sense Organs (University of Bari), Italy	
EDUCATION/TRAINING <i>(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable.)</i>			
INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	MM/YY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Bari Aldo Moro (UNIBA), Italy	B.Sc.	07/2016	Psychological Science and Techniques
University of Bologna "Alma Mater Studiorum", Italy	M.Sc.	07/2018	Clinical Psychology
University of Bologna "Alma Mater Studiorum", Italy		02/2020	Psychologist License (Albo sez A)

A. Personal Statement

My long term research interests involve the development of a comprehensive understanding of various relationships and links between psychological and neural factors and how functional and structural brain alterations contribute to psychopathology. My academic training and research experience have provided me with an excellent background in applied neuroscience, as well as an in-depth understanding and growing interest in cognitive and neural correlates of clinical disorders. During my bachelor studies, I conducted research with the Group of Psychiatric Neuroscience of Prof. Alessandro Bertolino at the University of Bari on functional brain dysfunctions connected with emotion dysregulation as an intermediate phenotype of schizophrenia. This academic experience triggered my interest for neuroimaging and neurodevelopmental disorders, which led me to conduct independent research at the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour (Radboud University, Nijmegen) with the supervision of Jan Buitelaar. During these academic trainings, which provided me with new conceptual and technical skills, the focus of my research was on abnormal brain activation and functional connectivity underlying diverse socio-cognitive deficits in neurodevelopmental disorders, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD). My strong motivation to combine clinical practice and research activities led me to earn the professional experience necessary to qualify for a license as a clinical psychologist. I carried out part of this formative experience at Karakter kinder- en jeugdpsychiatrie, the largest centre for child- and adolescent psychiatry in The Netherlands. Following this strong interest, I have also been working with children affected by neurodevelopmental disorders and with behavioral problems in collaboration with a Dutch foundation, Stichting IJSiq Foundation, to provide them with functional skills in order to enable them to develop a healthier personality.

In August 2020, I obtained a fellowship from University of Bari Aldo Moro (Bari, Italy) to study the factors that may influence real-life functioning of people with a diagnosis of schizophrenia. For this fellowship, my focus of research interest has expanded beyond the functional brain abnormalities to now include the structural brain network alterations in psychiatric patients. Overall, I believe that the training I will get from this fellowship will give me a solid foundation for my long-term goal to become an academic researcher and will open up new lines of inquiry for this field that could also be used as foundation for a fruitful clinical career.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

2020 - Research fellow, Department of Basic Medical Science, Neuroscience and Sense Organs (University of Bari), Bari, Italy

Professional Experience

- 2020 Special Educational Needs Assistant, Stichting IJSiq Foundation, Vught, The Netherlands
2019 - Traineeship, Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour (Radboud University), Nijmegen, The Netherlands
2019 Post Graduate Professional Internship for Psychologists, Karakter Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
2018-2019 Post Graduate Professional Internship for Psychologists, Dedalus di Jonas, Bologna, Italy
2015-2016 Traineeship, Psychiatric Neuroscience Group (GNP), University of Bari, Bari, Italy

Professional Memberships

- 2020- Albo Professionale degli Psicologi della Regione Puglia n.6678 (Albo sez. A) (Professional Register of Psychologists of Puglia Region)

Honors

- 2018 Study abroad scholarship for master thesis, Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour (Radboud University), Nijmegen, The Netherlands
2017 Erasmus Plus Mobility Programme for traineeship, Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour (Radboud University), Nijmegen, The Netherlands
2017 International conference scholarship, 15th European Congress of Psychology - Psychology addressing society's greatest challenges, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2017-2018 Top Student Prize, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy
2017 Top Student Award, University of Bari, Bari, Italy