

# **Massimiliano Conson**

## **Curriculum Vitae**

### **Personal data**

Born in Cernusco sul Naviglio (Milan), Italy, June 27, 1974.

Associate Professor at the Department of Psychology, University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Via Vivaldi 43, 81100 Caserta, Italy. Phone: +39 0823275327; email:

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### **Education**

2010: Cognitive and Behavioral therapy specialization at the “Skinner Institute for Research and Training”, School of Cognitive and Behavioral Psychotherapy, Rome, Italy.

2004: PhD in Neuroscience, Department of Experimental Medicine, Second University of Naples, Italy.

1998: Master degree cum laude in Psychology, Second University of Naples, Caserta, Italy.

### **Current positions**

2016: Member of Steering Committee of the “Società Italiana di Neuropsicologia” [Italian Society of Neuropsychology”].

2015-now: Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Caserta, Italy.

2015-now: Chief of the Developmental Neuropsychology Laboratory, University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Caserta, Italy.

2014-now: Director of the II level University Master Course in “Developmental Neuropsychology and Neuropsychology of Learning Disabilities”, Department of Psychology, University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Caserta, Italy.

### **Previous position**

2000-2004: Clinical Psychologist at the Service of Neuropsychology, Stazione Climatica “Leonardo Bianchi”, Portici (Naples), Italy.

## **Awards and Fellowships**

2003-2006 - PhD fellowship from Department of Experimental Medicine, Second University of Naples, Italy.

2000-2003: European Master Fellowship in “Modelli di complessità ed Ecologia Umana. Strumenti per lo sviluppo di Comunità” [Models of complexity and human ecology. Tools for the community development] from the “Fondazione Laboratorio Mediterraneo”, Naples, Italy.

2001: “Vincenzo Cinanni” Award, from the Experimental Psychology Section of the Italian Association of Psychology, Alghero september 23-25, with a communication entitled “Allochiria nel disegno dell’orologio: un’alterazione della rappresentazione spaziale anche senza neglect” [Allochiria in clock drawing: a disorder of spatial representation in absence of spatial neglect].

## **Research Grants**

2016: “Egocentric perspective transformation in patients with cervical dystonia”, Second University of Naples, Principal Investigator.

2015: “Cognitive and affective social cognitive abilities in persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders”, Second University of Naples, Principal Investigator.

2014: “The role of dorsolateral prefrontal cortex in social cognition: a tDCS study”, Second University of Naples, Principal Investigator.

2012: “Neural basis of body awareness: evidence in normal subjects and in brain-damaged patients” MIUR-PRIN, Co-Investigator.

2010: “The role of motor system in egocentric spatial transformation: a study on patients with locked-in syndrome”, Second University of Naples, Principal Investigator.

2009: “Body parts recognition and motor imagery in patients with locked-in syndrome”, Second University of Naples, Principal Investigator.

2008: “Emotional processing in patients with locked-in syndrome”, Second University of Naples, Principal Investigator.

2007: “Assessment of spatial and planning abilities in children: the clock drawing task”, Second University of Naples, Principal Investigator.

2007: “Cognitive control and neural bases of action” MIUR-PRIN, Co-Investigator.

2005: “Plasticity of categorical perception”, MIUR-PRIN, Co-Investigator.

## **Teaching and Education Activities**

2014-2018: Methods of assessment in clinical neuropsychology (49 h).

2005-2018: Clinical Neuropsychology (30 h.).

2008-2009: Affective Neuropsychology (30 h.).

2007-2009: Forensic Psychopathology (30 h.).

2007-2010/2015-2016: Faculty Member of the PhD Program in Mind Sciences, Department of Psychology, University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Caserta, Italy.

### **Research interests**

i) developmental aspects of motor imagery, investigated both in typical individuals and in persons with autism; ii) relationships between motor imagery and mental representation of own body; iii) neuropsychological mechanisms of anxiety; iv) testing effectiveness of movement-based; v) multisystem aquatic treatment for autism.

### **Journals activity**

Ad hoc referee for several international peer reviewed journals such as: Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, Cortex, Cognition, Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology, Psychological Research, PLoSOne, Frontiers in Psychology, Frontiers in Human Neuroscience, Experimental Brain Research, Developmental Neuropsychology, Child Neuropsychology, Neuroscience Letters, Neurocase.

### **Scientific collaborations**

International: Antonia Hamilton, Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London, UK; John H. Riskind, Department of Psychology, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA; Mario Liotti, Department of Psychology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, Canada; Tasha R. Stanton, The Sansom Institute for Health Research Adelaide, University of South Australia.

National: Luigi Trojano and Daro Grossi, Department of Psychology, University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli. Francesca Pistoia, Department of Internal Medicine and Public Health, University of L'Aquila, L'Aquila, Francesca Garbarini, Department of Psychology, University of Turin, Turin, Italy; Pierluigi Zoccolotti, Department of Psychology, University of Rome "La Sapienza".

### **Peer-reviewed journal papers (2018-2011)**

Sarà, M., Cornia, R., **Conson**, M., Carolei, A., Sacco, S., Pistoia, F. (2018). Cortical Brain Changes in Patients With Locked-In Syndrome Experiencing Hallucinations and Delusions. *Frontiers in Neurology*, 9, 354.

- Pistoia, F., **Conson**, M., Carolei, A., Dema, M.G., Splendiani, A., Curcio, G., Sacco, S. (2018). Post-earthquake Distress and Development of Emotional Expertise in Young Adults. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, 12, 91.
- Santangelo, G., Vitale, C., Baiano, C., D'Iorio, A., Longo, K., Barone, P., Amboni, M., **Conson**, M. (2018). Interoceptive processing deficit: A behavioral marker for subtyping Parkinson's disease. *Parkinsonism and Related Disorders*, doi: 10.1016/j.parkreldis.2018.05.001.
- Conson**, M., Bianchini, F., Quarantelli, M., Boccia, M., Salzano, S., Di Vita, A., Guariglia, C. (2018). Selective map-following navigation deficit: A new case of developmental topographical disorientation. *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*, Apr 4:1-11. doi: 10.1080/13803395.2018.1451493.
- Caputo, G., Ippolito, G., Mazzotta, M., Sentenza, L., Muzio, M.R., Salzano, S., **Conson**, M. (2018). Effectiveness of a Multisystem Aquatic Therapy for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, doi: 10.1007/s10803-017-3456-y
- Piedimonte, A., **Conson**, M., Frolli, A., Bari, S., Della Gatta, F., Rabuffetti, M., Keller, R., Berti, A., Garbarini, F. (2017). Dissociation between executed and imagined bimanual movements in autism spectrum conditions. *Autism Research*, doi: 10.1002/aur.1902
- Conson**, M., Volpicella, F., De Bellis, F., Orefice, A., Trojano, L. (2017). "Like the palm of my hands": Motor imagery enhances implicit and explicit visual recognition of one's own hands. *Acta Psychologica (Amst)*, 180, 98-104.
- De Bellis, F., Trojano, L., Errico, D., Grossi, D., **Conson**, M. (2017). Whose hand is this? Differential responses of right and left extrastriate body areas to visual images of self and others' hands. *Cognitive, Affective & Behavioral Neuroscience*, 17, 826-837.
- Conson**, M., Salzano, S., Frolli, A., Mazzarella, E. (2017). The peer's point of view: Observing a peer performing an action enhances third-person perspective in adolescents. *Journal of Adolescence*, 56, 84-90.
- Pistoia, F., Cornia, R., **Conson**, M., Gosseries, O., Carolei, A., Sacco, S., Quattrocchi, C.C., Mallio, C.A., Iani, C., Mambro, D.D., Sarà, M. (2016). Disembodied Mind: Cortical Changes Following Brainstem Injury in Patients with Locked-in Syndrome. *Open Neuroimaging Journal*, 10, 32-40.
- De Lucia, N., Trojano, L., Senese, V.P., **Conson**, M. (2016). Mental simulation of drawing actions enhances delayed recall of a complex figure. *Experimental Brain Research*, 234, 2935-2943.
- Craig, F., Operto, F.F., De Giacomo, A., Margari, L., Frolli, A., **Conson**, M., Ivagnes, S., Monaco, M., Margari, F. (2016). Parenting stress among parents of children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders. *Psychiatry Research*, 242, 121-129.

- Riskind, J.H., Sagliano, L., Trojano, L., **Conson**, M. (2016). Dysfunctional freezing responses to approaching stimuli in persons with a looming cognitive style for physical threats. *Frontiers in Psychology, Psychology for Clinical Settings*, 7, 521.
- Conson**, M., Nuzzaci, C., Sagliano, L., Trojano, L. (2016). Relationship between closing-in and spatial neglect: A case study. *Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology*, 29, 44-50.
- Conson**, M., Hamilton, A., De Bellis, F., Errico, D., Improta, L., Mazzarella, E., Trojano, L., A., Frolli. (2016). Body constraints on motor simulation in Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 46, 1051-1060.
- De Bellis, F., Ferrara, A., Errico, D., Panico, F., Sagliano, L., **Conson**, M., Trojano L. (2016). Observing functional actions affects semantic processing of tools: evidence of a motor-to-semantic priming. *Experimental Brain Research*, 234, 1-11.
- Pistoia, F., Carolei, A., Sacco, S., **Conson**, M., Pistarini, C., Cazzulani, B., Stewart, J., Franceschini, M., Sarà, M. (2015). Contribution of Interoceptive Information to Emotional Processing: Evidence from Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury. *Journal of Neurotrauma*, 32, 1981-1986.
- Conson**, M., Errico, D., Mazzarella, E., Giordano, M., Grossi, D., Trojano, L. (2015). Transcranial Electrical Stimulation over Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex Modulates Processing of Social Cognitive and Affective Information. *PLoS One*, 10, e0126448.
- Conson**, M., Mazzarella, E., Esposito, D., Grossi, D., Marino, N., Massagli, A., Frolli, A. (2015). “Put Myself Into Your Place”: Embodied Simulation and Perspective Taking in Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Autism Research*, 8, 454-466.
- Conson**, M., Errico, D., Mazzarella, E., De Bellis, F., Grossi, D., Trojano, L. (2015) Impact of body posture on laterality judgement and explicit recognition tasks performed on self and others’ hands. *Experimental Brain Research*, 233, 1331-1338.
- Senese**, V.P., De Lucia, N., Conson, M. (2015). Cognitive Predictors of Copying and Drawing From Memory of the Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure in 7- to 10-Year-Old Children. *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, 29, 118-132.
- Frolli, A., Piscopo, S., **Conson**, M. (2015). Developmental changes in cognitive and behavioural functioning of adolescents with fragile-X syndrome. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, 59, 613-621.
- Lerna, A., Esposito, D., **Conson**, M., Massagli A. (2014). Long-term effects of PECS on social-communicative skills of children with autism spectrum disorders: a follow-up study. *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders*, 49, 478-485.

- Sagliano, L., Cappuccio, A., Trojano, L., **Conson**, M. (2014). Approaching threats elicit a freeze-like response in humans. *Neuroscience Letters*, 561, 35-40.
- Conson**, M., Trojano, L., Vitale, C., Mazzarella, E., Allocca, R., Barone, P., Grossi, D., Santangelo, G. (2014). The role of embodied simulation in mental transformation of whole-body images: evidence from Parkinson's disease. *Human Movement Sciences*, 33, 343-353.
- Conson**, M., Mazzarella, E., Frolli, A., Esposito, D., Marino, N., Trojano, L., Massagli, A., Gison, G., Aprea, N., Grossi, D. (2013). Motor imagery in Asperger syndrome: Testing action simulation by the hand laterality task. *PLoS ONE*, 8, e70734.
- Conson**, M., Ponari, M., Monteforte, E., Ricciato, G., Sarà, M., Grossi, D., Trojano, L. (2013). Explicit recognition of emotional facial expressions is shaped by expertise: evidence from professional actors. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 4, 382.
- Ponari**, M., Trojano, L., Grossi, D., Conson, M. (2013). "Avoiding or approaching eyes"? Introversion/extraversion affects the gaze-cueing effect. *Cognitive Processing*, 14, 293-299.
- Conson**, M., Mazzarella, E., Trojano, L. (2013). Developmental changes of the biomechanical effect in motor imagery. *Experimental Brain Research*, 226, 441-449.
- Mazzarella, E., Ramsey, R., **Conson**, M., Hamilton, A. (2013). Brain systems for visual perspective taking and action perception. *Social Neuroscience*, 8, 248-267.
- Sagliano, L., D'Olimpio, F., **Conson**, M., Cappuccio, A., Grossi, D., Trojano, L. (2013). Inducing closing-in phenomenon in healthy young adults: the effect of dual task and stimulus complexity on drawing performance. *Experimental Brain Research*, 225, 409-418.
- Trojano, L., Santangelo, G., **Conson**, M., Grossi, D. (2012). Towards a deeper comprehension of relationships among cognitive, behavioral and psychiatric symptoms in Parkinson's disease. *Behavioural Neurology*, 27, 463-467.
- Conson**, M., Mazzarella E, Donnarumma C, Trojano L. (2012). Judging hand laterality from my or your point of view: Interactions between motor imagery and visual perspective. *Neuroscience Letters*, 530, 35-40.
- Lerna, A., Esposito, D., **Conson**, M., Russo, L., Massagli, A. (2012). Social-communicative effects of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) in Autism Spectrum Disorders. *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders*, 47, 609-617.
- Mazzarella, E., Hamilton, A., Trojano, L., Mastromauro, B., **Conson**, M. (2012). Observation of another's action but not eye gaze triggers allocentric visual perspective. *The Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 65, 2447-2460.
- Ponari, M., **Conson**, M., D'Amico, N.P., Grossi, D., Trojano, L. (2012). Mapping correspondence between facial mimicry and emotion recognition in healthy subjects. *Emotion*, 12, 1398-1403.

- Cogliano, R., Crisci, C., **Conson**, M., Grossi, D., Trojano, L. (2012). Chronic somatoparaphrenia: A follow-up study on two clinical cases. *Cortex*, 48, 758-767.
- Conson**, M., Mazzarella, E., Trojano, L. (2011). Self-touch affects motor imagery: a study on posture interference effect. *Experimental Brain Research*, 215, 115-122.
- Conson**, M., Salzano, S., Grossi, D. (2011). Neuropsychological functioning of an Asperger child with exceptional skill in arranging picture stories. *Neurocase*, 10, 1-7.