

Francesco Ruotolo graduates in Psychology at the Second University of Naples (S.U.N., now University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli") in 2005, with a thesis on how people mentally represent spatial information of familiar and unfamiliar environments. Afterwards, he continues to carry out research studies in the field of spatial cognition during the PhD in Sciences of Mind at the Department of Psychology of the S.U.N. obtaining the PhD in 2009.

In 2010, he carries out research activities as post-doctoral researcher at the Laboratory of Cognitive Science and Immersive Virtual Reality (directed by Prof. Tina Iachini) of the Department of Psychology of the S.U.N. Here he begins to deal with multisensory environments in virtual reality and investigate the influence of noise on the human beings' cognitive abilities. The results of this research activity are awarded by the European Acoustics Association (EAA) in 2010.

In 2014, Francesco Ruotolo gets one of the most prestigious European grants, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Intra-European Fellowship. This allows him to work at the Department of Experimental Psychology of the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands until December 2016. In collaboration with Prof. Albert Postma, he investigates the role of reference systems and spatial relations in action and recognition tasks. The studies are conducted in collaboration with the University Medical Centre of Utrecht. Thanks to this collaboration part of the research is conducted with functional magnetic resonance imaging (7T-fMRI).

From February 2017 until October 2019, Francesco Ruotolo works at the Laboratory of Cognitive and Affective Sciences (SCALab) of the University of Lille (France). Here, thanks to MAuVE funding, obtained through the Contrat de Plan Etat-Région (CPER) 2015-2020, he conducts research on semantic memory, action representation and the link between spatial and semantic memory in collaboration with Prof. Angela Bartolo.

Since November 2019 he works at the Department of Psychology of the University of Campania in collaboration with Prof. Tina Iachini and Prof. Gennaro Ruggiero.

Main research interests:

- Space Memory: the role of metric and non-metric relationships and of egocentric and allocentric reference systems
- The role of Emotions on space-time representations of routes
- The relationship between Semantic and Spatial Memory
- Mental Imagery and Action Representation
- Immersive Virtual Reality and Multisensory Perception

International Collaborations:

- Prof. Albert Postma, University of Utrecht (Netherlands)
- Prof. Ineke van der Ham, University of Leiden (Netherlands)

- Prof. Angela Bartolo, University of Lille (France)