



Maria Carmen Usai

Full professor

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Education and training

1991

Master degree in Psychology

University of Padua

1996

PhD in Methodology of research in Psychology

University of Genoa

Academic experience

1996 - 2007

Scholarship for the completion of the doctorate program

University of Genoa

1998 - 2000

Post-doctoral fellow

University of Genoa

2000 - 2005

Researcher in Developmental Psychology

University of Genoa

2005 - 2022

Associate Professor in Developmental Psychology

University of Genoa

2022 - ONGOING

Full Professor

University of Genoa

Teaching activity

Teaching courses: Developmental Psychology (since 2001), Development of Individual Differences (from 2009), Developmental Psychology for preschool age (since 2020), Psychology of Disability (2000), Advanced Developmental Psychology (from 2004 to 2009) at the Department of Education Sciences of the University of Genoa.

Director of the first level Master's and Advanced course in Didactics and psycho-pedagogy for specific learning disorders (academic year 2011-12 and

2012-13)

Director of the advanced course in Difficulty and learning disorders (ay 2011-12).

Director of the advanced course in Learning psychopathology (ay 2009-10).

Postgraduate research and teaching activity

Supervision of PhD students, residents and post-doctoral fellows

Member of the PhD program in Psychology and Cognitive Sciences and Anthropology until 2012, she was tutor for the doctoral theses of Dr. Valentina De Franchis (XXII cycle) and Chiara Malagoli (XXVII cycle).

PhD committees membership

- Until 2012, member of the PhD program in Psychology, Cognitive Sciences, and Anthropology at the University of Genoa.
- From 2012 to today, member of the PhD program in Social Sciences at the University of Genoa.

Postgraduate (PhD) teaching activity

She has carried out teaching activities in the PhD programs 'Psychology, Cognitive Sciences, and Anthropology' and 'Social Sciences' at the University of Genoa.

Research interests

- Control mechanisms (executive functions) in the typical and in the atypical development
This field of research concerns the analysis of the construct of executive functions in the preschool period and the study of the relationship between executive functions and other aspects of child development, such as the acquisition of scholastic skills, the development of language and the development of the behavioral control. This field comprises the study of executive functions in the atypical development (autism, down syndrome) and the development of programs to promote executive function in preschoolers.
- Learning processes and difficulties/disorders
This area of research concerns the analysis of specific and general factors that influence learning, with particular attention to risk factors for learning difficulties and disorders.
- The relationships between temperamental characteristics, language development, and prerequisites of academic achievement

Editorial activity

- Scientific direction of the series 'Preparing for primary school' (with Barbara Carretti and Anna Maria Re) at the publisher Carocci.
- Guest Associate Editor for *Frontiers in Psychology - Developmental Psychology* (Special Topic: Training and Enhancing Executive Function, 2019).
- Member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Clinical & Developmental Psychology*
- Member of the editorial committee of the *Psychology of Disability and Developmental Disorders* series by Franco Angeli
- Member of the scientific committee of the *DIS - Learning and behavioral disorders*, editor Erickson
- Member of the scientific committee of the annual AIRIPA National Congress of the Italian Association of Research and Intervention in Learning Psychopathology (www.airipa.it).
- Referee for national and international journals (<https://publons.com/researcher/1512333/maria-carmen-usai/peer-review>)

Other professional activities

- Since 2009, founding member of the IDEE SrL, Intervention on the Disorders of the Evolutive Age, Spin-off of the UNI.T.I. Project at the University of Genoa (<http://www.unige.it/unimprese/Idee.shtml>)
SECTOR: Treatment of language and learning disorders
- Expert in the Consensus Conference on specific learning disorders for the implementation of the 2018 Guidelines.