

## Code B\_2739

<b>Department</b>	Pedagogy, Psychology, Philosophy
<b>UniCa reference person</b>	Loredana Lucarelli
<b>Project title in English</b>	The missing link between early social abilities in infancy and later Theory of Mind development: the possible contribution of the longitudinal studies.
<b>Project title in Italian</b>	Il legame mancante tra le prime abilità sociali nell'infanzia e lo sviluppo della Teoria della Mente in età successive: il possibile contributo degli studi longitudinali.
<b>Subject area of reference (World University Ranking)</b>	SOCIAL SCIENCES (inc. Education, Law, Politics & International Studies, Sociology, Psychology, Geography)
<b>Project summary and VPS' profile</b>	<p>The roots of Theory of Mind abilities can be identified in early infancy when children begin to comprehend actions in terms of intentions and share their interest in objects and events in contexts of shared attention with others. Theory of Mind continues to evolve throughout one's life, facilitated by the development of recursive thinking at increasing levels of complexity, the influence of language, and executive functioning, all of which mediate interactions during socio-communicative exchanges. However, longitudinal studies capable of demonstrating actual developmental continuity among various processes are still rare, and the results do not all point in the same direction. This project aims to define the possible link between early social abilities and later Theory of Mind development, through the analysis of the data gathered from longitudinal studies from infancy to childhood and even later, run at the University of Cagliari and in other Universities that will collaborate at the project. Specifically, we will focus on the understanding of False Belief, which represents a significant shift in Theory of Mind (ToM) skills, typically emerging around the age of four. This ability has been extensively investigated in the literature through the unexpected transfer task (Wimmer, Perner, 1983). To achieve this aim, we will call a Visiting Professor with long-lasting experience in longitudinal studies from infancy to childhood and even to later ages and outstanding worldwide experience in developing successful research projects to study the development of social abilities and their link with people's quality of life, from a clinical and a developmental perspective.</p>
<b>Proposed length of stay</b>	Short visit of 10 days
<b>Expected period of activity</b>	October-December 2024
<b>Academic position of the VPS'</b>	Professor
<b>Course of Study</b>	Laurea triennale (1st cycle University Degree), Laurea magistrale (2nd cycle University Degree), Laurea magistrale a ciclo unico (5-6-year Master Degree), Dottorato di ricerca (PhD Course), Scuola di specializzazione (Specialization Course)
<b>Language of instruction</b>	English