The department welcomes back Dr Daniel Yon, who rejoined the department as a Lecturer in September 2021, as well as Dr Joanna Farr and Dr Chris Edgar who joined in September 2021, along with Dr Ori Ossmy who joined as a lecturer in November 2021. Welcome also to Helen Olawole-Scott who began her PhD with Dr Yon in October 2021.

Two new postdoctoral researchers have joined the Action and Perception lab: Dr Emma Ward will be asking how people distinguish between sensory information that is a useful basis for forming future expectations and that which is irrelevant or unreliable, and Dr Matan Mazor will be examining and resolving the paradoxes that arise when considering how predictions shape perception.

Dr Elisa Ferre joined the department in September 2021 when she took over as Director of the Psychology Undergraduate Programme. She is the Director of the Vestibular Neuroscience Laboratory which combines experimental psychology, cognitive neuroscience, neuroimaging, vestibular physiology and space science methods to understand how vestibular (gravity) signals shape behaviour on Earth and how they impact human performance during spaceflight.

The final report of the 2014-2017 TRIGGER project, on which Professor Belinda Brooks-Gordon was a member of the board, has been published.

Congratulations to Professor Iroise Dumontheil who was elected to become a board member of the International Mind, Brain and Education Society (IMBES) in September 2021.
Media Mentions

In January 2022, the Guardian published an article reporting on the newly opened Wohl Wolfson ToddlerLab at the CBCD. Professors Natasha Kirkham and Denis Mareschal were interviewed, and together they showcased the cutting edge developmental research taking place at the Toddlerlab.

In January 2022, Professor Iroise Dumontheil was interviewed by Dazed about a report suggesting we spend a third of our waking lives on mobile apps - and how this impacts our brains.

Professor Gillian Forrester was recently quoted in the New Scientist regarding exciting new research in Science about the evolution of language.

In January 2022, the Times reported on the ground-breaking new technology being used inside the CBCD’s Toddlerlab to understand the way children learn. Professor Natasha Kirkham was interviewed.

Public Engagement

Dr Fiona Tasker gave a talk entitled ‘LGBTQ+ Covid-19 Pandemic Problems & Positives: 3 Surveys & Interview Research’ at a Form+ Open Meeting in September 2021 giving some preliminary results from the programme of surveys and interviews on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Gillian Forrester took part in the Norwich Science Festival in November 2021 to present the Me, Human project, which was founded in 2019 and explores how humans are connected to the natural world. Professor Forrester, who is the Director of the project, also held a public engagement event at Twycross Zoo in July 2021 to educate the general public about great apes and the research project.

Dr Emma Meaburn was invited for a podcast-style interview with Professor Yulia Kovas (Goldsmiths) to talk about genes and education. These series of freely accessible ‘Coffee with an Expert’ podcasts are aimed at teachers, future teachers, and students more broadly.

In June 2021, Britney Chere took part in 'I'm a Scientist, Get Me Out of Here!', a month-long event where researchers spoke online directly with children about what it’s like to be a scientist. Its purpose was to empower students and make STEM more approachable. She also took part in a 'Mid-Week Mingle' interview in March 2021 presented by the Me, Human project, a 1-hour live-streamed interview about her research, the importance of good mentoring, and research within the field in general. Listen to it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2LItADaT1k

Leslie Tucker and Lisanne Schroer were interviewed for Vicon’s Magazine to talk about how motion capture technology is allowing researchers in the CBCD Babylab to study infant behaviour.
**Talks and Presentations**

**Professor Iroise Dumontheil** gave an online talk in July 2021 at the Teaching and Learning Conference of the Bloomsbury Institute on Individual Differences and Educational Neuroscience, and in November 2021 at the Cambridge Assessment International Education School Conference on The Adolescent Brain. She also gave the LEARN! interdisciplinary research institute (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam) seminar in February 2022 on Executive Functions and Academic Achievement.

**Dr Elisa Ferre** presented her research on the effects of non-terrestrial gravity on brain and behaviour at the Future of Space Medicine Conference organised by the University of Oxford in October 2021. Dr Ferre also delivered a talk aimed at children at the recent Neuromatch 4.0 conference, titled 'Getting ready for Mars: what happens to the brain in space?'

**Professor Denis Mareschal** was the invited speaker at 'The Active Child: the Uppsala-Göttingen Workshop on Active Learning' (Göttingen), and delivered a talk titled 'Visual-haptic cues and motor development' in December 2021. In February 2021 he was also the invited speaker at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (USA), with a talk titled 'Building cognition from recycled parts: The case of analogical reasoning'.

In January 2022, **Professor Angelica Ronald** was invited to give a talk about the ADHD polygenic score at the Autism Research Centre at the University of Cambridge.

In December 2021, **Professor Gillian Forrester** delivered an invited talk for the Evolutionary Anthropology Research Group, Durham University. The talk was titled 'Hand to Mouth: Insights into the Evolution and Development of Language'.

In June 2021, **Professor Mike Oaksford** gave a talk entitled 'Integrating Causal Bayes Nets and Inferentialism in Conditional Inference at the International Conference on Thinking in Paris, France. This was an online presentation at a Festshcrifft Symposium for Professor David E. Over.

**Dr Fiona Tasker** delivered a talk at the International Conference on Adoption Research 7th Conference entitled 'Adopted children from lesbian, gay, and heterosexual parented families in the United Kingdom: Drawing out family connections and relationships' in July 2021 at the Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, Italy. She also presented at the 10th Conference of the European Society for Family Relations at Oxford Brookes University in August 2021, with a talk entitled 'Children adopted by lesbian mothers, gay fathers or heterosexual parents: How adoptive parents experience ongoing contact with children’s birth families in the UK'.

In October 2021, **Dr Daniel Yon** gave a departmental seminar at Queen Mary, University of London.

**Brittney Chere, Giulia Serino, Allison Haack, and Professor Natasha Kirkham** delivered a talk, 'The effect of noise on cognitive development during infancy' at the International Commission on Biological Effects of Noise in June 2021. They also delivered a Data Blitz talk, 'The impact of environmental noise on selective attention' at the Attention & Memory in Development workshop in September 2021.

In August 2021, **Professor Natasha Kirkham** gave a keynote lecture at LCICD (Lancaster Conference on Infant & Early Child Development; the title was: 'Development occurs in the middle of things: Noise, distraction and attention in infant development'. She also gave a talk at the SRCD (Society for Research in Child Development) entitled 'The Interplay between Attention and the Environment'.

**Brittney Chere** also gave a talk at the SRCD conference, titled 'How In-Home Noise may be Affecting Learning at Home During the COVID-19 Pandemic'.
Awards and Recognition

Jason Burton, Ulrike Hahn, Abdullah Almaatouq and Amin Rahimian were awarded the Most Inspiring Research Paper Award by the attendees of the ACM Collective Intelligence conference in June 2021. Their paper was entitled 'Algorithmically Mediating Communication to Enhance Collective Decision-Making in Online Social Networks'.

Professor Gillian Forrester was awarded the Birkbeck ISSF Translational Award for Chimpanzee/Gorilla Field Site Training in Liberia and Congo.

In December 2021, Olga Sutskova was awarded an ISSF award within the Wellcome Trust initiative, towards dissemination of her findings as a post-doctorate.

Magdalena Kachlika was recently awarded the prestigious Language Learning Dissertation Grant for the doctoral research she is conducting under the supervision of Dr Adam Tierney. Her project titled "Perceptual strategies underlying second language acquisition" aims to enhance the understanding of speech learning mechanisms.

Dr Adam Tierney was awarded an ESRC grant to study the relationship between selective attention and second language learning.

Following a 6 year stint as Executive Editor of the journal Cognitive Science, Professor Rick Cooper has been made an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Cognitive Science Society, for “long and distinguished history of both scientific and service contribution to the field of Cognitive Science”.

Dr Fiona Tasker was recently granted Birkbeck Research Innovation Funding under the COVID Recovery Scheme (£4950). Her project is titled: 'Grandparents Granted Special Guardianship: Investigating psychosocial effects on multi-generational family relationships through family mapping.'

Dr Elisa Ferre has been awarded a BIAL Foundation Research Bursary for the project 'Luminous dancing fairies in weightlessness: How gravity shapes conscious experiences'.

In July 2021, Denise Cadete won the Best Poster prize at the BRNet3, the annual workshop by the Body Representation Network. Her poster was: “The long sixth finger illusion: the representation of the supernumerary finger is not a copy and can be felt with varying lengths”.

Magdalena Kachlika's dissertation grant award.

Professor Rick Cooper

Denise Cadete’s ‘Best Poster’
**Doctorates Awarded**

Dr Viktoria Csink was awarded her PhD for a thesis titled: ‘Selective memory and encoding of objects in infancy’. She was supervised by Professor Denis Mareschal and Dr Teodora Gliga. She was examined by Dr Jeanne Shinskey (Royal Holloway, University of London) and Dr. Kirsty Dunn (Lancaster University).

Dr Michael Papasavva was awarded his PhD for a thesis titled: ‘Variability in face recognition ability: Insights from social motivation, early perception and neural correlates’. He was supervised by Dr Marie Smith and Professor Anne Richards, and was examined by Dr Anthony Atkinson (University of Durham) and Dr Katie Gray (University of Reading).

Dr Syreen Hassan was awarded her PhD for a thesis titled: ‘The decision and determinants of adjuvant chemotherapy for stage III colon cancer’ (funded by a Bloomsbury College PhD Studentship). She was supervised by Professor Anne Miles and Dr Melanie Morris. Her examiners were Professor Lindsay Forbes (University of Kent) and Dr Chloe Grimmett (University of Southampton).

**Doctorates Examined**

In January 2022, Professor Iroise Dumontheil and Dr Wouter van den Bos (University of Amsterdam) examined a thesis by Alexander James Lloyd (Royal Holloway) entitled ‘Patch Foraging in Adolescence and Adulthood: Examining the Role of Developmental, Cognitive and Social Factors in Foraging Behaviour’.

Dr Daniel Yon was examiner for Thomas Hein’s PhD thesis ‘Anxiety and computations of uncertainty during reward learning in volatile environments' at Goldsmiths.

**Publications: Journal Articles**


Cadete, D., & Longo, M.R. (2022). The long sixth finger illusion: The representation of the supernumerary finger is not a copy and can be felt with varying lengths. *Cognition*, 218, 104948.


**Publications: Books**

**Dr Daniel Yon** is writing a book entitled *SEEING IS BELIEVING*. The book takes the reader on a tour through the predictive brain, explaining how the models in our heads control how we think, act and feel. It showcases some of the latest findings in psychology and neuroscience – including work conducted by him and other researchers at Birkbeck. The book will be published in 2024 by Penguin in the UK, Hachette in the US, and has also sold in translation in Chinese, Dutch, Korean, and Spanish.

![Image of a book]


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**Upcoming Events**

**Birkbeck Science Week**

We’re celebrating Birkbeck Science Week 2022! Come and join us at the University of London for a lively evening of Psychology on **29th March 6-8pm**.

Our Science Week events are for anyone with a passing interest in science and/or are considering studying science at university. We are also delighted to inform you that we have extended our undergraduate degree application deadline to study in 2022-23, while places remain!

You can attend our programme of free science talks on campus – right in the heart of central London – or join our global online audience as we live stream our Science Week events via Birkbeck’s YouTube channel. For more details, search the web for “Birkbeck Science Week 2022”.

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**Post-Graduate Specialist MSc Programmes: Meet the Course Director Event**

The department will be hosting an online "Meet the Course Director" event on **April 20th at 5pm**. The event is designed for prospective students and will allow them to meet the staff involved in running the MSc programmes, including the programme directors, and to have any questions related to the Birkbeck programmes answered. The guest link is: https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/80d9183e835141f5b3e37457c4860cf1

Prospective applicants to the following specialist MSc programmes are encouraged to attend:

- MSc Psychological Research Methods
- MSc / MA Cognition and Computation
- MSc / MA Cognitive Neuropsychology and Neuroscience
- MSc / MA Brain and Cognitive Development
- MSc / MA Health and Clinical Psychological Sciences
- MSc / MA Education Neuroscience

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**And lastly...**

We are looking for strong PhD candidates for a **Bloomsbury Colleges funded PhD studentship**, ‘Understanding polygenic and pre/post-natal environmental influences – and their interplay – in cognitive and behavioural development’ with Dr Emma Meaburn (Birkbeck) and Dr Bonamy Oliver (IOE, UCL’s Faculty of Education and Society). Further information and an application form can be found here: https://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services/financial-support/phd-funding/bloomsbury-colleges-phd-studentship-polygenic-scores-and-development