

Corso di Dottorato in Scienze Psicologiche

School meeting

GIOVEDI' 23 MARZO 2017 - Ore 13.00 - Aula **Cesare Musatti**

presenta:

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Understanding others' actions early in life

Abstract:

Humans very successfully understand others' actions. The early origins and development of this competence will be the focus of my talk. By capitalizing on both behavioral (e.g., visual preference paradigm) and electrophysiological measures (e.g., EEG, EMG), I will present evidence from a series of studies showing that i) newborns are capable to discriminate others' hand gestures and bind the facial gesture they see with its correspondent sound; ii) sensory-motor experience and emotional context modulate infants' ability to process others' actions; iii) infants' motor system is recruited during observation and listening of others' actions. I will propose that adult-like action understanding mechanisms might result from a gradual tuning process similar to that documented in the development of other cognitive domains (e.g., language and face processing).