HORIZON 2020

Speech-sound Processing in Infant Development and Evolution

Funded under

Actions

Total cost

€ 158 121,60

€ 158 121,60

Spain

EU contribution

Coordinated by

EXCELLENT SCIENCE - Marie Skłodowska-Curie

UNIVERSIDAD POMPEU FABRA

Fact Sheet

Project Information

SPIDE

Grant agreement ID: 707996

Project website 🗹

DOI 10.3030/707996

Project closed

EC signature date 17 February 2016

Start date 1 May 2016 End date 30 April 2018

This project is featured in...



Objective

"What are the uniquely human mechanisms of language acquisition that enable infants to start discovering the words and structures of their native language by the end of their first year? Language is undoubtedly a specifically human function, but it is crucial to disentangle between human-specific vs. general-processing skills that allow language acquisition. This project aims at exploring the developmental and evolutionary origins of one of the features of speech processing: the ability to assign specific functional roles to the different categories of sounds composing speech. Indeed, there is a Consonant/Vowel functional asymmetry in the world's languages as well as in speech processing, whereby consonants better fit the requirements of lexical processing (e.g. when writing abbreviations we tend to remove vowels and keep consonants to avoid compromising meaning, as in txt msgng), while vowels are better targets for syntax-related processes. It remains unknown where this "division of labour"" comes from: uniquely human predisposition playing a role in early syntax and lexical acquisition, or consequence of the asymmetry present in the input? In this work we will conduct experiments in infants as well as in rats, to test the hypothesis that the C/V asymmetry : (1) is not the by-product of the physical differences between vowels and consonants, (2) plays a significant role in early language acquisition; (3) derives from more general perceptual biases shared with other species.

This interdisciplinary project will use both behavioral and neuroimaging measures in infants and rats to investigate the origins of the C/V asymmetry in language acquisition and evolution.

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Fields of science (EuroSciVoc) (

natural sciences > biological sciences > evolutionary biology

social sciences > psychology > psycholinguistics

Programme(s)

H2020-EU.1.3. - EXCELLENT SCIENCE - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MAIN PROGRAMME) H2020-EU.1.3.2. - Nurturing excellence by means of cross-border and cross-sector mobility

Topic(s)

MSCA-IF-2015-EF - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF-EF)

Call for proposal

H2020-MSCA-IF-2015

See other projects for this call

Funding Scheme

MSCA-IF-EF-ST - Standard EF

Coordinator



UNIVERSIDAD POMPEU FABRA Net EU contribution

€ 158 121,60

Total cost

€ 158 121,60

Address

PLACA DE LA MERCE, 10-12 08002 Barcelona Spain

Region

Este > Cataluña > Barcelona

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links

Contact the organisation C Website C Participation in EU R&I programmes C HORIZON collaboration network

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European Union, 2025