

CURRICULUM VITAE

ANTONIOS I. CHRISTOU, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor in Child Neurocognitive Development
Department of Special Education
University of Thessaly

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ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΙΑΣ
ΣΧΟΛΗ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΙΣΤΙΚΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΩΝ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΩΝ
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΙΚΟ ΤΜΗΜΑ ΕΙΔΙΚΗΣ ΑΓΩΓΗΣ

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1. ACADEMIC CAREER

CURRENT POSITION

Name	Antonios I. Christou, Ph.D., SFHEA, AFBPsS
	Assistant Professor in Child Neurocognitive Development Department of Special Education University of Thessaly
Address	Argonafton & Filellinon, Volos, Greece PC. 38221 Tel: 24210-74885 Email: antchristou@uth.gr
DOB	09/08/1987
Place of Birth	Ioannina
Google Scholar:	https://scholar.google.com/citations?user= U5OWcQAAAAJ&hl=el
Scopus Author ID:	56653180200

Milestones of Academic Development

- 2009: BSc Degree in Psychology (Major), University of Ioannina
- 2010: 3-year full-time studentship for postgraduate studies abroad, Greek State Scholarships Foundation
- 2011: MA in Inclusion and Special Educational Needs, University of Birmingham, UK, School of Education
- 2012: Research Excellence Award, Hilary Green Research Fund, University of Birmingham, UK
- 2013: PhD in Psychology, University of Birmingham, UK, School of Psychology
- 2014: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, University of Birmingham, UK, Behavioral Brain Sciences Centre
- 2015: Appointment on the position of Senior Lecturer of Cognitive & Biological Psychology, De Montfort University UK, Institute of Psychological Sciences
- 2016: Award of the title of Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, UK
- 2017: Award of the title of Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society, UK
- 2018: Invitation as Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Cyprus, Department of Psychology
- 2019: Award of the first Research Grant as Principal Investigator, Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation
- 2020: Award of the Annual 'Teaching Excellence Award' from the Open University of Cyprus
- 2021: Unanimously Elected Assistant Professor of Child Neurocognitive Development, Department of Special Education, University of Thessaly
- 2022: Unanimously Elected Coordinator of the Section of Neuropsychology for the Hellenic Psychological Society for the period 2022-2024

1.1. STUDIES

PhD in Developmental Cognitive Psychology	University of Birmingham, School of Psychology	2015
Master of Arts in Inclusion and Special Educational Needs	University of Birmingham, School of Education, UK	2011
Bachelor in Psychology (Major)	University of Ioannina, Greece	2009

1.2. STUDENTSHIPS & AWARDS

- 1.2.1. Open University of Cyprus: Teaching Excellence Award for the Academic Year 2019-2020
- 1.2.2. Guarantors of Brain Travel Grant awarded to attend the EBBS-EBPS Joint Meeting, Took place in Verona, Italy between 12-15 September 2015, May 2015
- 1.2.3. Hilary Green Research Fund, UK, PhD Research Excellence Award for the project: Genetic influences of emotional processing in young children: the role of empathy, 2012
- 1.2.4. College of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham, UK, Training Grant awarded for the organisation of the Conference entitled: The Birmingham eMind Conference: is technology rewiring young minds? 2013
- 1.2.5. Greek State Scholarships Foundation, lab expenses fund for the collection and analysis of biological material, 2013
- 1.2.6. Greek State Scholarships Foundation, 3-year full-time studentship for postgraduate studies abroad, 2011-2013

1.3. ACADEMIC CAREER

Position	Institution	Dates
Assistant Professor of Child Neurocognitive Development	University of Thessaly Department of Special Education	2022-to date
Collaborating Teaching Staff	Hellenic Open University MEd in Education	2020-to date
Permanent Secondary School Teacher (PE02)	Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs Greece	2021-2022
Supply Secondary Special Education Teacher (PE02)	Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs Greece	2020-2021
Teaching Fellow	University of Ioannina, Greece Department of Psychology	2020-2021
Postdoctoral Research Fellow	University of Cyprus, Cyprus Department of Psychology, Developmental Psychopathology Laboratory	2020-2021
Visiting Assistant Professor	University of Cyprus, Cyprus Department of Psychology	2018-2019
Collaborating Teaching Staff	ASPATTE, Rhodes, Greece	2019-2021

Collaborating Teaching Staff	Open University of Cyprus, Cyprus MSc in Cognitive Systems	2019-2021
Senior Lecturer of Cognitive & Biological Psychology	De Montfort University, UK Institute of Psychological Science	2015-2018
Collaborating Teaching Staff	European University Cyprus, Cyprus Department of Psychology	2017-2019
Collaborating Teaching Staff	Frederick University, Cyprus MEd in Special Education	2016-2020
Associate Lecturer	The Open University, UK STEM Faculty	2015-2020
Postdoctoral Research Fellow	University of Birmingham, U.K. Behavioural Brain Sciences Centre	2013-2015
Postgraduate Demonstrator	University of Birmingham, U.K. School of Psychology	2012-2013

1. RESEARCH WORK

2.1. Research Interests

- Early neurocognitive mechanisms of sensitivity: neurophysiological, behavioural and genetic mechanisms of stimuli processing and later cognitive and emotional development
- Neurocognitive mechanisms of emotion regulation: early indicators of emotion regulation in early childhood
- Gene-environment interaction and resilience: mechanisms of emotional adaptation and applications to differentiated teaching.

2.2. Research Programs

- Principal Investigator: Lifespan perspectives on Affective Neurodevelopment: an investigation across GENERations (LANGEN). Funding organisation: Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation: € 159.600. (2019-2022)
- Principal Investigator: Enhancing students' active engagement with feedback via online facilitation of academic literacy. Teaching Innovation Program Small Internal Grant, De Montfort University, UK. 2017-2019 / £5,000. (2017-2018)
- Research Collaborator 'Cerebellar-cortical interactions in health, aging and disease. The Wellcome Trust': £350,000. (2011-2015)

2. PUBLICATIONS

- 1 Ph.D. Thesis
- 1 M.A. Thesis
- 25 Publications
 - 7 papers on scientific Journals
 - 10 published abstract
 - 9 presentations on international conferences
 - 2 translated standardized measures

3.1. M.A. Thesis

Christou, A.I. (2011). Meeting the individual needs of children with joint autism and visual impairment: cognitive-behavioural overlaps and the school practice in England, UK. MA Thesis. University of Birmingham, UK, School of Education.

3.2. Ph.D. Thesis

Christou, A.I. (2015). Neurophysiological, behavioural and genetic markers of behavioural problems in early childhood, PhD Thesis, University of Birmingham, UK, School of Psychology.

3.3. Journal Publications

3.4.1. Christou A.I., Fanti K., Mavrommatis I., Soursou G. (in press). Sensory Processing Sensitivity in early childhood: neurocognitive mechanisms and future directions. Psychology.

3.3.2. Christou A. I., Wallis Y., Bair H., Zeegers M. & McCleery J. P. (2018). 5-HTTLPR genotype is associated with visual scanning patterns of adverse scenes in young children. Frontiers in Behavioural Neuroscience. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnbeh.2017.00118>

3.3.3. Christou A. I., Beggs A., Galea J., & Miall R. C. (2017). Effects of multi-gene profile on individual differences in motor adaptation. Brain and Neuroscience Advances. <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2398212817705279>

3.3.4. Christou A. I., Miall R.C., McNab F., & Galea, J. (2017). Individual differences in explicit and implicit visuomotor learning and working memory capacity. Scientific Reports, 6, 36633. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/srep36633>

3.3.5. Christou, A. I., Endo, S., Wallis, Y., Bair, H., Zeegers M. P., & McCleery J. P. (2016). Variation in serotonin 5-HTTLPR short/long genotype modulates resting frontal EEG asymmetries in children. Development and Psychopathology. 1-12. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0954579415000413>

3.3.6. Christou A. I., Wallis Y., Bair H., Crawford H., Frisson S., Zeegers M. & McCleery J. P. (2015). BDNFVal66Met and 5-HTTLPR genotype are each associated with visual scanning patterns of faces in young children. Frontiers in Behavioural Neuroscience, 9, 175. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fnbeh.2015.00175>

3.3.7. Christou, A. I., & Soulis S-G. (2012). Autism and Visual Impairment: individual educational needs and the school practice in England. *European Journal of Intellectual Disability*, 1 (12).

3.4. Published Conference Abstracts

3.4.2. Christou A.I., Fanti K., Mavrommatis I., Soursou G. (2022). Sensory Processing Sensitivity and affective neurodevelopment: investigation of neurocognitive mechanisms in early childhood. 18th Panhellenic Conference of Psychological Science, 5-10 October 2022, Athens, Greece.

3.4.3. Christou A.I. (2018). Designing and implementing a novel journal club: stimulating multidisciplinary. 'Brain Camp', Royal College of Psychiatrists, 1st June 2018, Birmingham, UK.

3.4.4. Christou A. I., Beggs A., Galea J., & Miall R. C. (2017). Effects of multi-gene profile on individual differences in motor adaptation. Abstract presented at the BNA Festival of Neuroscience, 5-12 April 2017, Birmingham, UK

3.4.5. Christou A. I., Wallis Y., Bair H., Zeegers M. & McCleery J. P. (2016). 5-HTTLPR genotype is associated with visual scanning patterns of adverse scenes in young children. Abstract presented at the FENS Forum 2016, 2-6 July 2016, Copenhagen, Denmark.

3.4.6. Christou A. I., Wallis Y., Bair H., Crawford H., Frisson S., Zeegers M. & McCleery J. P. (2015). BDNF Val⁶⁶Met and 5-HTTLPR genotype differentially influence visual scanning of faces in children. Abstract accepted as oral presentation at the Joint EBBS-EBPS Meeting 2015, 12-15 September 2015, Verona, Italy.

3.4.7. Christou A. I., Galea J. M., & Miall R.C. (2015). Association between individuals' motor learning parameters across distinct adaptation tasks: visuomotor and force field comparisons. Abstract presented at the NCM Meeting 2015, 20-24 April 2015, Charleston, SC, USA.

3.4.8. Christou, A. I., Endo, S., Wallis, Y., Bair, H., Zeegers M. P., & McCleery J. P. (2014). Variation in serotonin 5-HTTLPR short/long genotype modulates resting frontal EEG asymmetries in young children. Poster presented at the FENS Forum, 5-9 July 2014, Milan, Italy.

3.4.9. Christou, A. I., Endo, S., Wallis, Y., Bair, H., Zeegers M. P., & McCleery J. P. (2014). 5-HTTLPR short/long genotype influences patterns of frontal EEG asymmetries in early childhood. Poster presented at the PERCAT Research Gala, University of Birmingham, 2nd of October 2014, Birmingham, U.K.

3.4.10. Christou A. I., Endo S., & McCleery J. P. (2013). Frontal EEG asymmetry and affective regulation in early childhood. Poster presented on the 45th European Brain and Behaviour Society Meeting, 6-9 September 2013, Munich, Germany.

3.4.11. Christou, A. I., & McCleery, J. P. (2012). Association between brain asymmetries, and

genetic variations as a developmental risk for psychopathology. Poster presented on the Annual Research Event, University of Birmingham, School of Psychology, 1-2 May 2012, Birmingham, U.K.

3.5. Conference Presentations

3.5.1. Χρήστου Α.Ι. (2022). Ευαισθησία Αισθητηριακής Επεξεργασίας και συναισθηματική νευροανάπτυξη: διερεύνηση νευρογνωστικών μηχανισμών. 18^ο Πανελλήνιο Συνέδριο Ψυχολογικής Έρευνας. 5-10 Οκτωβρίου 2022, Αθήνα.

3.5.2. Χρήστου Α.Ι. (2022). Από την έμμεση στην άμεση μέτρηση της ευαισθησίας στην παιδική ηλικία: νευρογνωστικές συνιστώσες. Ιστοδιάλεξη Κλάδου Νευροψυχολογίας ΕΛΨΕ, 29/01/2022

3.5.3. Christou A.I., (2018). Designing and implementing a novel journal club: stimulating multidisciplinary. 'Brain Camp', Royal College of Psychiatrists, 1st June 2018, Birmingham, UK.

3.5.4. McCleery, J., & Christou, A.I. (2017). The impact of normal genetic variation on brain and behavioral functioning in typically developing children, indexed via EEG and eye-tracking technologies. Invited talk at the Department of Genetics, Rutgers University, USA, 17th November 2017.

3.5.5. Christou A. I. (2017). 'Threat processing in early childhood: genetics and susceptibility'. Invited talk at the 'Be the Change Research Festival', De Montfort University, UK, 27th June 2017.

3.5.6. Christou A. I. (2017). 'The role of cognitive neuroscience into child mental health treatment and prevention'. Invited talk at the British Council-funded workshop Building Resilience in Mental Health across the Lifespan, Dubai, UAE, 25-27th April.

3.5.7. Christou A. I. (2016). Are some young brains more vulnerable than others? Insights from Cognitive Neuroscience. Invited talk at the ESRC Festival of Social Sciences 2016, 7th November 2016.

3.5.8. Christou A. I. (2015). BDNF Val66Met and 5-HTTLPR genotype differentially influence visual scanning of faces in children. Oral presentation as part of a mini symposium in Affect and Anxiety at the Joint EBBS-EBPS Meeting 2015, 12-15 September 2015, Verona, Italy.

3.5.9. McCleery, J., Crawford, H. Christou, A.I., Oliver, C., Moss, J., & Anderson, G. (2015). Reduced eye-looking for static face stimuli is associated with amygdala and serotonin functioning. Invited talk at the Annual Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, March 18th 2015, Philadelphia, USA.

3.5.10. Christou A. I. (2013). Association of Frontal EEG asymmetries and affective regulation in early childhood. Oral presentation on the Annual Research Event, University of Birmingham, School of Psychology, 1st May 2013, Birmingham, U.K.

3.6. Translation of standardized measures in Greek

3.6.1. Christou, A. I. (2020). Highly Sensitive Person Scale (HSP). Adapted with the consent of the authors, Aron, E.N. and A. Aron, Sensory-processing sensitivity and its relation to introversion and emotionality. *J Pers Soc Psychol*, 1997. 73(2): p. 345-68.

3.6.2. Christou, A. I. (2020). The Highly Sensitive Person Scale – Brief Version (HSP-12), Adapted with the consent of the authors, Pluess, M., Lionetti, F., Aron, E.N., & Aron, A. (2020). People Differ in their Sensitivity to the Environment: Measurement of Sensitivity, Association with Personality Traits and Experimental Evidence.

3.6.3. Christou, A. I. (2020). Highly Sensitive Child Scale- Self Report. Adapted with the consent of the authors, Highly Sensitive Child Scale (HSC). Pluess, M., Assary, E., Lionetti, F., Lester, K. J., Krapohl, E., Aron, E. N., & Aron, A. (2018). Environmental sensitivity in children: Development of the Highly Sensitive Child Scale and identification of sensitivity groups. *Developmental Psychology*, 54(1), 51-70. doi: 10.1037/dev0000406

3.6.4. Christou, A. I. (in preparation). Highly Sensitive Child Scale - Parent Version (HSC)- In preparation

4. RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC WORK

4.1. Peer reviewer on academic Journals:

- Nature Communications Biology
- Frontiers in Evolutionary Psychology & Neuroscience
- Frontiers in Emotion Science
- Frontiers in Behavioural Neuroscience

4.2. Member of Scientific Societies

- Hellenic Psychological Society (ELPSE)
- British Psychological Society (BPS)
- Hellenic Neuroscience Society
- Federation of European Neuroscience Societies
- International Brain Research Organization

4.3. Academic Recognitions

- Coordinator of the Neuropsychology Section, Hellenic Psychological Society (2022-2024)
- Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, UK (SFHEA)
- Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society, BPS, UK (AFBPsS)
- Chartered Psychologist & Member of the Division of Neuropsychology, BPS, UK
- Member of the Standing Conference Committee, British Psychological Society, UK (2017-2018)
- External Examiner, University of Bolton, UK, BSc in Psychology (Bolton, UK & Ras Al Khaimah, UAE), School of Education & Psychology (2017-2018)

4.4. References on Media

- 4.4.1. Ιστοδιάλεξη Κλάδου Νευροψυχολογίας ΕΛΨΕ: Από την έμμεση στην άμεση μέτρηση της ευαισθησίας στην παιδική ηλικία.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OrnzKS9u_k&t=8s&ab_channel=%CE%95%CE%9B%CE%A8%CE%95-%CE%95%CE%BB%CE%BB%CE%B7%CE%BD%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AE%CE%A8%CF%85%CF%87%CE%BF%CE%BB%CE%BF%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AE%CE%95%CF%84%CE%B1%CE%B9%CF%81%CE%B5%CE%AF%CE%B1 [29/01/2022]
- 4.4.2. Ολοκληρώθηκε με επιτυχία η Διαδικτυακή XIII Τελετή Αποφοίτησης του Ανοικτού Πανεπιστημίου Κύπρου: Απονομή Βραβείων Εξαιρετικής Διδασκαλίας ΑΠΙΚΥ.
<https://www.ouc.ac.cy/index.php/el/news-events-menu-2/nea/374-news-general/1614-afterxiiiigradcerenomy> [Published: 14.12.2020]
- 4.4.3. DMU psychologists invited to contribute at international mental health summit- See more at: <http://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/news/2017/april/dmu-psychologists-invited-to-contribute-at-international-mental-health-summit.aspx> [Published: 11.04.2017]
- 4.4.4. DMU psychologist sees paper appear in world-renowned publication- See more at: <http://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/news/2017/february/dmu-psychologist-sees-paper-appear-in-world-renowned-publication.aspx> [Published: 21.02.2017]
- 4.4.5. DMU academic's research features in distinguished world 'Top 100' list - See more at: <http://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/news/2016/march/dmu-academics-research-features-in-distinguished-world-top-100-list.aspx> [Published: 23.03.2016]
- 4.4.6. Paper on the genetic effects in children's face processing featured in Frontiers 'Top 100 articles from 2015 in the spotlight' out of 12,500 publications
<https://blog.frontiersin.org/2015/12/22/spotlight100/> [Published: 22.12.2015]
- 4.4.7. Media coverage of a study investigating the effects of a genetic variant that modulates serotonin availability and frontal brain activity in healthy young children. <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/294270.php> [Published: 21.05.2015]
- 4.4.8. Media coverage: Greek State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) a major research funding body in Greece, and research and academic profile (in Greek).
<https://www.iky.gr/el/component/k2/item/2300-antonis-xristou-metaptyxiakos-ypotrofos-eksoterikoy-1ou-kai-2ou-kyklou> [Published: 30.06.2015]

- 4.4.9. University of Birmingham, U.K. Researchers identify a genetic marker, which influences brain activity patterns that place children at higher risk of psychological problems later in life <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/psychology/news-events/2015/18May15-genetic-marker.aspx> [Published: 19.05.2015]

4.6. Citations

2015-2022:

128 citations based on Google Scholar (h-index: 3):

<https://scholar.google.gr/citations?user=U5OWcQAAAAJ&hl=en>

5. ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

5.1. Institute Representative on External Organizations

1. Representative of De Montfort University, UK at the British Neuroscience Association (Local Group Coordinator) (2016- 2018).

5.2. School Administration

1. Member of the Workload Committee, School of Life and Health Sciences, De Montfort University, UK (2016-2018).
2. Member of the Equality and Diversity Committee, School of Life and Health Sciences, De Montfort University, UK (2016-2018).

5.3. Department Administration

1. Member of the Plagiarism Committee, School of Life and Health Sciences, Department of Psychology, De Montfort University, UK (2016-2018).
2. Member of the Research Ethics Committee, School of Life and Health Sciences, Department of Psychology, De Montfort University, UK (2016-2018).

5.4. Program Administration

1. Coordinator of two module of the program MSc Cognitive Systems, Open University of Cyprus.