

Irene Russo

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Personal Information

Address

1225 Cornell Avenue,
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Working Permit- Permanent Resident

Education

Ph. D. Candidate, Special Education

November 2017- Current

University of Salerno, Italy - Department of Humanities, Philosophy and Education (DISUFF)

Research Project - EVERY CHILD

Advisor - Professor Paola Aiello

M.S. Clinical Psychology for Individuals, Organizations and Communities

July 2014

Sapienza University of Rome - Department of Medicine and Psychology

Grades Average: **29/30**

Final Grade: **110/110 summa cum laude**

Thesis Topic: *Attachment and Developmental Psychopathology*

Experimental Thesis: Early Intervention on Autism: Analysis of Relationship in Dyads of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Thesis Advisor: Professor Annamaria Speranza

Thesis Advisor at University of California, Davis: Professor Sally J. Rogers

B.S. Psychology

July 2011

Sapienza University of Rome - Department of Medicine and Psychology

Major: Health Psychology and Psychology of Disability

Thesis: *Services for Disabled Students: Comparative Analysis between University of Rome "Sapienza" and University of California Berkeley.*

Advisor: Professor Rosa Ferri

Training and Work Experiences

Research Coordinator and Clinical Supervisor

September 2017 - Current

Early Days Autism Center, Sacramento (CA)

Sacramento Extension

Expertise:

- training and supervision for therapists and interventionists;
- creating programs and treatment plans based on ESDM;
- Individual and Parent-coaching Playgroup;
- Group-based implementation of ESDM;
- G-ESDM Research and Dissemination;

- Teacher training and data analysis;
- business management.

Clinical Supervisor

July 2016 - Current

Early Days Autism Center, Sacramento (CA)

San Francisco Bay Area Extension

Expertise:

- training and supervision for therapists and interventionists;
- creating programs and treatment plans based on ESDM;
- Group-based implementation of ESDM;
- data analysis;
- business management.

Marriage and Family Therapy Intern

April 2016 - Current

Intern #92506

Early Days Autism Center, Sacramento (CA)

Supervisor Dr. Cynthia Zierhut, Ph.D

Expertise:

- Establishing relationship with families;
- Supporting for diagnosis process and transitions to other services;
- Parent coaching - ESDM.

Early Start Denver Model Certified Therapist

April 2016 - Current

Early Days Autism Center, Sacramento (CA)

Supervisor Dr. Cynthia Zierhut, Ph.D

Expertises:

- creating programs and treatment plans;
- direct therapy 1:1, in group, and with families;
- data analysis.

Early Start Denver Model - Parent Coaching Workshop

January 2017

University of California - Davis

MIND INSTITUTE (Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders)

Trainer Vanessa Avila-Pons, MA

Early Start Denver Model Certification Process

December 2015 - April 2016

Early Days Autism Center, Sacramento (CA)

Supervisor Dr. Cynthia Zierhut, Ph.D

Early Start Denver Model Introductory and Advanced Workshops

December 2015

Early Days Autism Center, Sacramento (CA)

Trainer Dr. Cynthia Zierhut, Ph.D

Studies Abroad

MA Honor Thesis Abroad

January 2014 – May 2014

MIND Institute (Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders)

University of California, Davis

Thesis Topic: *Attachment and Developmental Psychopathology*

Advisor at UC Davis: Professor Sally J Rogers

Advisor at University La Sapienza: Professor Annamaria Speranza

IVEO - The International Visitor and Exchange Office

Academic Year 2012/2013

Enrollment: Concurrent Enrollment - **University of California, Berkeley** - Extension

Hosting Department: **Psychology**

GPA: 4

BA Honor Thesis Abroad

February 2011 – May 2011

Thesis: *Services for Students with Disabilities: Comparative Analysis between University of Rome “Sapienza” and University of California Berkeley.*

Advisor: Professor Rosa Ferri

Research Experiences

Visiting Student - Assistant Researcher

January 2014 - October 2014

University of California - Davis

MIND INSTITUTE (Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders)

Professor Sally J Rogers

- Joined the PATH Project (Parents and Toddlers at Home), parent-coaching approach of the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM)
- Conducted literature review of recent studies on cognitive, behavioral, social and relational aspects of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Early Intervention on ASD, Early Start Denver Model, Maternal Behavior with children with ASD
- Trained for Learning Opportunities Coding System (Davlantisi, unpublished) and Maternal Behavior Rating Scale (MBRS Revised - Mahoney, 1986; Mahoney, 2008)
- Quantitative Assessment of Dyadic Relationship with Learning Opportunities Coding System (Davlantisi, unpublished)
- Qualitative Assessment of Dyadic Relationship with Maternal Behavior Rating Scale (MBRS Revised - Mahoney, 1986; Mahoney, 2008)
- Data Analysis with R, R-Cran, R-Studio (open sources)
- Wrote and presented the MA thesis

Visiting Student - University of California - Berkeley

January 2013 - May 2013

Department of Public Health

Professor Emily Ozer

- Conducted literature review of recent studies on Developmental Psychopathology and Contextual Factors
- Coauthor in handbook chapter *Development and Context Across the Life Span* (see also publications)

Visiting Student - University of California - Berkeley

January 2013 - May 2013

Department of Education

Professor Laura Sterponi

Thesis Seminar: Autism and Communication

- Conducted literature review of recent studies on ASD
- Developed educational materials on the state-of-the-art of research on ASD
- Presented current research articles at the group
- Led weekly discussion sessions presenting questions and critical points of the articles

Health Psychology and Psychology of Disability

Dec 2010 - July 2011

Chair Professor Rosa Ferri

Sapienza University of Rome - Department of Medicine and Psychology

- Administered questionnaires and computerized tasks to participants

- Data Analysis
- Wrote and presented the BA thesis
- Participated to weekly discussion sessions with Ph.D. candidates

Laboratory on “Process of Internship”

Spring Semester 2010

Chair Professor Rosa Ferri

Sapienza University of Rome - Department of Medicine and Psychology

Instructor Doctor Valentina Di Sarno

- Wrote clinical cases reports observed during the internship
- Located sources for developing research intervention initiatives
- Developed educational material supporting students during the internship

Laboratory on “Intervention Research”

Fall Semester 2011

Chair Professor Marco Cecchini

Sapienza University of Rome - Department of Medicine and Psychology

- Theoretical and Practical Principles for intervention research in Clinical Psychology
- Group discussion on intervention research in psychopathology
- Conducted literature review of recent intervention studies

Laboratory on “Statistics for Analysis of the Text”

Spring Semester 2009

Chair Professor Barbara Cordella

Sapienza University of Rome - Department of Medicine and Psychology

- Study on interview techniques in Clinical Psychology
- Administered the Emotional Analysis of the Text
- Proposed research intervention for individuals, communities, and organizations

Laboratory on the “Analysis of the Demand”

Spring Semester 2009

Chair Professor Rosa Maria Paniccia

Instructor Doctor Lucia Sesto

Sapienza University of Rome - Department of Psychology

- Observed clinical cases of individuals and families
- Role playing
- Wrote clinical cases reports
- Discussed the “analysis of the demand” for different cases
- Led a small group for intervention proposals

Laboratory for Clinical Case Report

Sapienza University of Rome - Department of Psychology

Fall Semester 2007

Chair Professor Laura Carla Galante

- Observed Clinical Cases
- Conducted literature review on case studies
- Wrote and presented clinical reports

Internships

Azienda Sanitaria Locale (ASL) - Public Health Services

December 2009 - June /2010

Department of Child Neuropsychiatry - *Complex Unit (Unità Operativa Complessa)*

- Assisted to individual therapy with children and adolescents
- Administered and coded tests (Wechsler's Scales, personality tests, projective tests)
- Wrote clinical cases reports
- Observed family therapy and family mediation
- Established relationships with juvenile court

Azienda Sanitaria Locale (ASL) - Public Health Services

December 2009 - June /2010

Department of Child Neuropsychiatry - *Simple Unit (Unità Operativa Semplice)*

- Assisted and participated to meetings with schools
- Assisted to diagnosis processes
- Assisted to care presentation
- Established relationships with teachers
- Monitored children's school improvement

Honors & Awards

Honor Abroad Thesis Scholarship

January 2014 – May 2014

Thesis: Attachment and Psychopathology
Advisor: Professor Annamaria Speranza

Publications

Invited Coauthor

Ozer, E. J., & Russo, I. (2017). Development and context across the lifespan: A community psychology synthesis.

Aiello, P., Agrillo, F., Russo, I., Zappalà, E., & Sibilio, M. (2019). Group-based Early Start Denver Model: An educational approach for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Italian preschools. *ITALIAN JOURNAL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR INCLUSION*, 7(1), 155-170. Teaching Experiences

Psycho-pedagogy and didactics for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders - DIDATTICA E PSICOPEDAGOGIA PER ALUNNI CON DISTURBO AUTISTICO (10701), University of Salerno, Italy. Fall 2018

Group-based Early Start Denver Model, didactics strategies for preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Psycho-pedagogy and didactics for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders - DIDATTICA E PSICOPEDAGOGIA PER ALUNNI CON DISTURBO AUTISTICO (10701), University of Salerno, Italy. Spring 2017 Fall 2018

Early Diagnosis and Treatment, the Early Start Denver Model.

Presentations

Zappalà, E.; Aiello, P.; Agrillo, F.; **Russo, I.** (2019). Teachers' perspective on in-service education towards the implementation of the Group-based Early Start Denver Model. Network: 01. Continuing Professional Development: Learning for Individuals, Leaders, and Organisations. EERA abstract retrievable at: <https://eera-ecer.de/ecer-programmes/conference/24/contribution/48663/>

Agrillo, F.; **Russo, I.**; Aiello, P.; Zappalà, E.; Di Tore, S. (2019). An exploration of Italian teachers acceptability of the Group-based Early Start Denver Model implementation. Network: 01. Continuing Professional Development: Learning for Individuals, Leaders, and Organisations. EERA abstract retrievable at: <https://eera-ecer.de/ecer-programmes/conference/24/contribution/48501/>

Russo, I.; Zierhut, C.; Agrillo, F.; Aiello, P.; Sibilio, M, "Does attitudes toward autism affect the results on teachers training?" - ECER 2019 - Hamburg (Gr), 3-6 Settembre 2019. Network: 04. Inclusive Education. EERA abstract retrievable at: <https://eera-ecer.de/ecer-programmes/conference/24/contribution/48825/>

Russo, I.; Zierhut, C.; Agrillo, F.; Aiello, P.; Sibilio, M, "Do Affective Teachers' Variables influence Group-based Early Start Denver Model implementation in inclusive classrooms with children with autism?" - Autism Europe - 12th Autism Europe International Congress, Nice (FR), 12-15 Settembre 2019.

Zappalà, E., Agrillo, F., **Russo, I.**, Zierhut, C., Aiello, P. "Implementing the Group-based Early Start Denver Model at school to foster inclusive teaching". ABAl – 13th Annual Autism Conference, San Francisco (CA), 18-20 gennaio 2019

Russo, I., Zierhut, C., Agrillo, F., Sibilio, M., "Implementation and teacher training of Group-based Early Start Denver Model in a mainstream preschools". ABAl – 13th Annual Autism Conference, San Francisco (CA), 18-20 gennaio 2019

Russo, I. (2018, March). Group-based *Early Start Denver Model, Principles*. Presentation at the meeting on "Didactics for children with autism Spectrum Disorder: the importance of teachers training and research" - Salerno School District.

Russo, I. (2016, May). *Early Start Denver Model, Principles*. Presentation at the meeting on "Early diagnosis and treatment: strategies for Autism Spectrum Disorder - ESDM and ABA. Azienda Sanitaria Locale (ASL) - Public Health Services.

Russo, I. (2016, May). *Early Start Denver Model, Case Study*. Presentation at the meeting on "Early diagnosis and treatment: strategies for Autism Spectrum Disorder - ESDM and ABA. Azienda Sanitaria Locale (ASL) - Public Health Services.

Presentation of the thesis: **Early Intervention on Autism: Analysis of Relationship in Dyads of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.**

Advisor Professor Annamaria Speranza

Sapienza University of Roma - Department of Medicine and Psychology

July 2014

Presentation of the study: **"Intersubjective Theory and Attachment Theory in Autism"**

Thesis Seminar: Autism and Communication

Associate Professor Laura Sterponi

Graduate School of Education - University of California, Berkeley

Goals: reviewed ASD research, introduced interpersonal approach on child-parents relationship, examined milestones of cognitive development in relation to self/other awareness and relationship.

May 2013

Presentation of the thesis: **Services for Disabled Students: Comparative Analysis between University of Rome "Sapienza" and University of California Berkeley.**

Advisor Professor Rosa Ferri

Sapienza University of Roma - Department of Medicine and Psychology

July 2011

Other Experiences

Every child, 5013C

April 2018 - Current

Vice-President

Goals: fundraising for inclusion of children with ASD in preschool, teacher training, dissemination of the G-ESDM, Research

Scientific Coordinator

December 7th, 2019

EVERY CHILD 3rd Annual Conference- Special Interest Group Collaborative Channels, Engage the Stakeholders
San Francisco

Scientific Coordinator

November 3rd, 2018

EVERY CHILD - 2nd Annual Conference- Social and Emotional Development
San Francisco

Scientific Coordinator

October 7th, 2017

EVERY CHILD - 1st Annual Conference - Professional Development Workshop on Early Childhood Education
University of California, Berkeley

Visited member of the Diversity Committee

January 2013 - May 2013

Psychology Department - University of California, Berkeley

Goals: recruitment and enrollment of students, improvement of diverse environment, proposals for new initiatives.