

Olga Capirci

Olga Capirci is currently senior researcher at the [CNR's Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies](#) and Head of the Action, Gesture, and Sign language (AG&S) Research Unit. She has been working at ISTC since 1992, her work centering on the co-development of language and perceptuo-motor processes and on understanding language acquisition as semantically driven and embodied. In particular, her research has contributed to enhancing importance of multimodal approaches to communication, by considering different modalities of expression (e.g., speech, gesture, signs) in children with typical and atypical development (e.g., deaf children, Down syndrome, Williams syndrome, and autism spectrum disorders) at different ages and within different interaction contexts and cognitive tasks (e.g., interaction with caregivers, lexical naming tasks, narration tasks). She has also contributed to the development of better taxonomies and use of novel tools to code multimodal communication (e.g., ELAN coding grids, use of body worn-sensors, use of optical motion capture and robotic applications). Her current efforts are focused on the study of the progression from action to language - spoken and signed - and on the continuity from gesture to sign. Furthermore, within an embodied approach to semantics, she is currently investigating the role of highly iconic structures in Sign Languages. In particular, her aim is to analyse formal features that appear to be influenced by the visual-gestural modality and differentiate such aspects from functionally comparable forms in verbal languages. She is author of over 60 publications and member of: the Directive board of "Italian Psychologist Association" (AIP), the ISTC's Board, the ISTC's Ethic Committee, the Editorial Board of the peer-reviewed, open access journal *Child Development Research*.