

CURRICULUM VITAE

SERENA MESSINA

Dept. of Educational Psychology
1912 Speedway, Austin, Texas, 78712

Dept. of Human Development and Family Science
108 Dean Keaton Street, Austin, Texas, 78712

Austin Child Guidance Center
810 W45th Street, Austin, Texas, 78751

Place of birth: Rome, Italy

Education:

Fall 2010- August 2016	Ph.D student in School Psychology	Department of Educational Psychology	University of Texas at Austin
2004-2008	Ph.D. in Clinical and Developmental Psychology	Department of Clinical Psychology	University of Rome, “Sapienza”, Italy
August 2007- September 2007	Visiting PhD Student	Department of Human Ecology and Family Sciences	University of Texas at Austin
2004-2005	Research Assistant to Professor Giulio Cesare Zavattini	Department of Clinical Psychology	University of Rome, “Sapienza”, Italy
1998-2003	B.A. /M.A., with honors	Developmental Psychology	University of Rome, “Sapienza”, Italy
2001-2002	Erasmus student	Department of Social and Developmental Psychology	University of Cambridge, England, U.K.

Academic and Professional Appointments:

December 2016-	Visiting Scholar and Lecturer	University of Texas at Austin, Dept. Human Development and Family Science/Dept. of Educational Psychology
September 2016-	Post-Doctoral Fellow	Austin Child Guidance Center
July 2015- July 2016	Psychology Intern	Fort Worth Independent School District
September 2010- December 2010	Graduate Research Assistant at Priscilla Pond Flown Child and Family Laboratory	University of Texas at Austin, Dept. Human Ecology and Family Sciences
September 2010- December 2010	Teaching Assistant for the course Guidance in Adult-Child Relationships	University of Texas at Austin, Dept. Human Ecology and Family Sciences
2009 - 2010	Post-Doctoral Fellow and Visiting Scholar	University of Texas at Austin, Dept. Human Ecology and Family Sciences
August 2009 – December 2009	Lecturer in Child Development	University of Texas at Austin, Dept. Human Ecology and Family Sciences
January 2010- May 2010	Lecturer in Developmental Psychopathology	University of Texas at Austin, Dept. Human Ecology and Family Sciences

Practicum experiences:

August 2013- May 2014	Advanced Practicum in Psychological Services	Austin State Hospital- Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services (CAPS)
August 2013- May 2014	Advanced Practicum in Psychological Services	Austin Child Guidance Center
January 2013- May 2013	Family Assessment and Intervention Practicum	Galindo Elementary School
August 2012- May 2013	Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Advanced Practicum	Galindo Elementary School
January 2012- May 2012	Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Practicum	Georgetown High School
August 2012- December 2012	School Consultation and Intervention Practicum	Galindo Elementary School
January 2012- May 2012	Neuropsychological Assessment Practicum	University of Texas at Austin

August 2011- May 2012	Social Emotional Assessment of Children and Adolescents	Del Valle Independent School District
January 2011- May 2011	Academic Assessment and Interventions Practicum	University of Texas at Austin

Professional Affiliations

American Psychological Association, Member

Society for Research in Child Development, Member

Fellowships and Awards:

2013 Student Travel Award, Society for Research in Child Development

2011 Handerson Scholarship; Department of Educational Psychology, University of Texas at Austin

2011 Student Travel Award, Society for Research in Child Development

2010 Departmental Fellowship; Department of Educational Psychology, University of Texas at Austin

2009 Research fellowship in Medical Sciences awarded by “Sapienza” Rome University, Italy

2001 Erasmus fellowship awarded by “Sapienza” Rome University

Clinical Trainings and Workshops:

June 2009 **Training on the “Mentalization Based Family Therapy”,** Anna Freud Center, London, England.

June 2007 **Training on the “Reflective Functioning” coding scale (Fonagy, Steele, Steele, Target, 1997) applied to the Parental Development Interview,** Graduate Center of the City University of New York, New York, NY.

Dec. 2010 **Training on the “Reflective Functioning” coding scale (Fonagy, Steele, Steele, Target, 1997) applied to the Adult Attachment Interview (Main, Goldwyn & Hesse, 2003),** Anna Freud Center, London, England. Reliability Certification obtained in 2008.

May 2005 **Training on the administration and the coding of the “Lausanne Triadic**

Play” (Fivaz-Depeursinge, Corboz-Warney 1999), Family Study Centre, University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

Jan. 2005 **Training on the administration and the coding of the Manchester Child Attachment Story Task** (Green, Stanley, Smith, Goldwyn, 2000), University of Manchester. Reliability Certification obtained in 2012.

June 2004 **Training on the administration and the coding of the Adult Attachment Interview** (Main, Goldwyn & Hesse, 2003). Reliability Certification obtained in 2005.

Jan.2004- **Training in Psycho diagnostics**, Institute of Higher Education

July 2004 “Visconti”, Rome, Italy

Publications:

Duschinsky, R. & **Messina, S.** (2017) “They might just decide that I am without sense. Childhood is lived under this threat”: Attachment and doubt in the work of Stanley Cavell. In Jonathan Burke ed. *A Hard Act to Follow: Living in the Shadow of the Parent*, London: Karnac, in press

Di Folco, S., **Messina, S.**, Zavattini, G.C., Psouni, E. (2016). Attachment to mother and father at transition to Middle Childhood. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*. DOI 10.1007/s10826-016-0602-7

Messina, S., Zavattini, G. C. (2013) How do children make sense of their experiences? Children’s memories of wellbeing and distress from an attachment perspective. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, 38(3) 209-218.

Umemura, T., Jacobvitz, D., **Messina, S.**, Hazen, N. (2013). Do Toddlers Prefer the Primary Caregiver or the Parent with Whom They Feel More Secure? The Role of Toddler Emotion, *Infant Behavior and Development*, 36, 102-114.

Jacobvitz, D., Hazen, N., Zaccagnino, M., **Messina, S.**, & Beverung, L. (2011). Frightening maternal behavior, infant disorganization, and risks for psychopathology. In D. Cicchetti & G. I. Roisman (Eds.), *Minnesota symposia on child psychology: The origins and organization of adaptation and maladaptation*, Vol. 36. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Messina, S. (2010). The ability to describe events of wellbeing and distress in six-year-old children: The role of attachment. *Giornale Italiano di Psicologia*, 1, 347-355. (In Italian).

Messina, S., Ronconi, S., Zavattini, G.C. (2009). The attachment disorders in childhood: Diagnostic assessments and interventions. *Psicologia Clinica dello Sviluppo*, 2, 255-283. (In Italian).

- Pace, C.S., Castellano, R., **Messina, S.**, Zavattini, G.C. (2009). Can relationships repair relationships? An investigation about the attachment models of adoptive mothers and their late-adopted children. *Psicologia Clinica dello Sviluppo*, 3, 485-514. (In Italian).
- Velotti, P., Castellano, R., **Messina, S.**, Zavattini, G.C. (2008). Multi-dimensional aspects in the evaluation of the parental functions. *Studi Familiari*, 2, 18-31. (In Italian).
- Messina, S.**, Zavattini, G.C. (2007). The meaning of relationship: Notes about interpretation. In E. Nicolini (Ed.) *Quaderni di Psicoterapia di Coppia*, 93-103. Borla: Roma. (In Italian).
- Pace, C.S., **Messina, S.** (2007). The Adult Attachment Interview. In A. Santona, G.C. Zavattini (Eds.). *La Relazione di Coppia: Strumenti di Valutazione*, 44-68. Borla: Roma. (In Italian).
- Zaccagnini, C., **Messina, S.**, Zavattini, G.C. (2007). Couple relationships and Reflective Functioning. In In A. Santona, G.C. Zavattini (Eds). *La Relazione di Coppia: Strumenti di Valutazione*, 125-165. (In Italian).
- Messina, S.** (2005). Parents' disciplinary techniques and their parenting styles. *Eta' Evolutiva*, 82, 119-128. (In Italian).

Presentations at Conferences and Seminars:

- Messina, S.**, Hazen-Swan, N. & Jacobvitz, D. (2016). *Do all the roads lead to Rome? Investigating pathways leading to children's development of anxious depression and ADHD symptoms*. Paper accepted at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, United States.
- Messina, S.**, Jacobvitz, D., Reisz, S., Garza, N. & Hazen-Swan, N. (2014). *Early predictors of children's emotional wellbeing: the role of feeding interactions between mothers and their 8-month-old infants*. Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Human Development, Austin, United States.
- Messina, S.**, Zavattini, G.C. (2013). *An attachment perspective on children's development of internalizing symptoms*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, United States.
- Messina, S.**, Reisz, S., Garza, N., Jacobvitz, D. (2013). *Mothers-babies feeding interactions: Another bridge on the transmission gap?* Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, United States.

- Messina, S.,** Cupellaro, S., Li Volsi, V. (2011, August). *Beyond attachment categories: A pilot study of trans-generational transmission*. Poster presented to the International Attachment Conference, Oslo, Norway.
- Messina, S.,** Zavattini, G. C. (2011, March). *Attachment and Emotional Development: What can we Learn From Children's Descriptions of Well-being and Distress?* Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Canada.
- Messina, S.,** Castellano, R., Velotti, P., Zavattini, G. C. (2011, March). *Family Resources in Coping with Stressful Events: Attachment Representations at Childbirth*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Canada.
- Umemura, T., Jacobvitz, D., Bichteler, A., **Messina, S.,** Hazen, N. (2011, March). *Toddlers' Preferences for Mothers Versus Fathers During Triadic Interactions: Links with Toddlers' Emotions and Attachment History*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Canada.
- Messina, S.** (2010, April). *Attachment in middle childhood: Developmental Considerations and risk factors*. Seminar presented within the Spring Colloquia Series at the Department of Human Ecology and Family Science, University of Texas at Austin.
- Messina, S.** (2010, March). *Tell me how you felt: Children's ability to describe memories of wellbeing and distress from an attachment perspective*. Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Human Development, San Antonio, TX.
- Umemura, T., **Messina, S.,** Jacobvitz, D.B., & Hazen, N. (2009, April). *The Effects of a Toddlers' Attachment History With Their Mother and Father on Their' Triadic Interactions. Effects on caregiving with two-year olds*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Denver, CO.
- Delogu, A., **Messina, S.,** Tortolani, D., Zavattini, G.C., (2009, September). *Parents' mentalization ability and anorexia nervosa in adolescence*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Italian Psychologists Association, Chieti, Italy. (In Italian).
- Messina, S.** (2008, October). *Children's representation of wellbeing and distress from the attachment perspective*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Italian Psychologists Association, Padova, Italy. (In Italian).
- Delogu, A., **Messina, S.,** Tortolani, D. (2008, October). *The Reflective Function in families with anorexia*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Italian

Psychologists Association, Padova, Italy. (In Italian).

Pace, C.S., **Messina, S.** (2007, September) *Generalized and Specific attachment in couples willing to adopt a child*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Italian Psychologists Association. (In Italian).

Messina, S., Piras, R. (2007, September). *The attachment representation in six-year-old children: the Manchester Attachment Story Task*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Italian Psychologists Association. (In Italian).

Ronconi, S., **Messina, S.**, Pace, C.S. (2007, July). *Towards a clinical use of the AAI: Analysis and comprehension of the psychological functioning in the severe personality disorders*. Poster presented at the International Attachment Conference, Braga, Portugal.

Delogu, A., **Messina, S.**, Ronconi, S., Tortolani, D., Zavattini, G.C. (2007, July). *Parents and daughters with anorexia: a comparison between Reflective Function and Internal Working Models*. Poster presented at the International Attachment Conference, Braga, Portugal.

Messina, S., Pace, C.S., Ronconi, S., Santona, A. (2007, June). *The attachment during school years: A comparison between two mother-child dyads*. Paper presented at the European Congress of the European Association of Child and Adolescent Psychopathology, Lugano, Switzerland.

Messina, S., Pace, C.S., Zavattini, G.C. (2006, September). *The MCAST in six- and seven-year old children*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Italian Psychologists Association, Rovereto, Italy. (In Italian)

D'Onofrio, E., **Messina, S.** (2006, September). *Attachment of late-placed children in the first period after adoption*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Italian Psychologists Association, Rovereto, Italy. (In Italian).

Pace, C.S., **Messina, S.**, Zavattini, G.C., Santona, A. (2006, July). *Diagnosis about attachment relationships between mothers and children in adoptive families during the first eight months of adoptions*. Poster presented at the International Congress of the World Association of Infant Mental Health, Paris, France.

Ronconi, S., **Messina, S.**, Zavattini, G.C. (2005, September). *The self-report instruments as a tool for the psychodynamic diagnosis: The IPPA and the PBI in the consultation with two adolescents*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Italian Psychologists Association, Cagliari, Italy. (In Italian).

Di Norcia, A., **Messina, S.**, Piras, R., Longobardi, E., Zavattini, G.C. (2005, September). *Gender differences in the Family Drawing test and in the psychological lexicon in school age children*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Italian

Psychologists Association, Cagliari, Italy. (In Italian).

Messina, S., Ronconi, S. (2005, May). *The couple relationship according to the attachment theory: a review*. Poster presented at the International Congress “Couple Love and Attachment”, Genova, Italy.

Pace, C.S., **Messina, S.** (2005, May). *Association between adoptive mothers’ states of mind and the ones of their adoptive children*. Poster presented at the International Congress “Couple Love and Attachment”, Genova, Italy.

Di Norcia, A., Fanizzi, M., **Messina, S.**, Zavattini, G.C. (2004, September). *The family representation in primary school children*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Italian Psychologists Association, Aosta, Italy. (In Italian).

Castellano, R., Delogu, A., **Messina, S.**, Pace, C.S., Santona, A., Vismara, L., Zavattini, G.C. (2004, September). *A process of assessment and training for the couples willing to adopt a child*. Poster presented at the International Congress “Attaccamento e psicopatologia, strumenti valutativi a confronto”, Padova, Italy.

Languages:

English Excellent oral and written knowledge. Obtained Cambridge Proficiency Certification in 2003.

Spanish Very good oral and good written knowledge.

French Basic knowledge.

Italian Excellent oral and written knowledge.

REFERENCES UPON REQUEST.