

CURRICULUM VITAE

Pirrone Concetta

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Degree in Pedagogy, at the University of Catania, Faculty of Learning Sciences, 30/10/1997.
- ◆ Diplom in depth study (D.E.A.) “Social Psychology” at Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris, 03/10/2000.
- ◆ PhD in (XVI cycle) “Foundations and Methods for the Learning Process” in the faculty of Learning Sciences at the University of Catania, 12/03/2004.
- ◆ Degree in Psychological Science and Techniques, at Kore University, Enna, Faculty of Psychology and Learning Sciences, 14/04/2010.

PRESENT OCCUPATION

- ◆ Since 31/12/2010: Researcher in General Psychology (M PSI/01) in the Department of Learning Sciences, University of Catania
- ◆ Since 28/08/2014: Expert Consultant for LEGO Foundation and LEGO Education.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND TEACHING IN ACADEMIC FIELD

- ◆ November 2002: She won 2-year postdoctoral, for work on the program: “Communication and non-verbal language” (Faculty of Learning Sciences, University of Catania), SSD M-PSI/01. The postdoctoral was renewed for a further two years from 21st February 2004 until 3rd November 2006.
- ◆ July 2008: She won two-year post-doctoral for work on the program : “Universal values and personality dimensions.” SSD M-PSI/01.
- ◆ Since 2000: University Expert in the field of Psychological Learning.
- ◆ 2005-2007: Adjunct professor of “Education Psychology” II, CdL Psychological Sciences and Techniques, University of Catania., Enna branch.
- ◆ 2008-2009: Adjunct professor of “Cognitive Psychology” and the “Psychology of Thought”, post-graduate school for teachers (SISSIS, specializing 3, Humanities) University of Catania.
- ◆ 2008-2009: Adjunct professor of “Speech disorders and body language”, Post-graduate school for teachers (SISSIS) – support section, University of Catania.
- ◆ 2009-2010: Adjunct professor of “Scholastic Psychology” (6 cfu), Faculty of Learning Sciences, CdL School of Education for Psychology, University of Catania.
- ◆ 2011-2013: She obtained the Chair of “Psychology of Communication” (4 cfu), Faculty of Learning Sciences, CdL School of Education for Psychology, University of Catania.
- ◆ 2011-2013: She obtained the Chair of “General Psychology” (10 cfu), Faculty of Learning Sciences, CdL University of Catania.

- ◆ 2012-13: Adjunct professor for a laboratory teaching of Psychology (4cfu) for the TFA course (Active internship), class A036, University of Catania.
- ◆ 2013-14: Adjunct professor for a laboratory teaching of Psychology (4cfu) for the PAS course class A036, University of Catania.

During these years of teaching, a more profound knowledge was acquired concerning cognitive psychology, psychology of learning (particularly in schools), pupils' motivation, teachers' perception, ways of communicating and methodology related to these matters.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AND RESEARCH

- ◆ From January until July 2008: part-time university tutor for research into the introduction of non-European immigrant minors in schools conducted by the Psychology chair of the Faculty of Literature and Philosophy.
- ◆ From October 1998 until April 1999: - European Voluntary Service care of the "People and Culture" association in Montpellier (France), for the research project into cultural and social activities for young and adult illiterate immigrants.
- ◆ April 1999: won a two-year scholarship concerning subjects such as "Historic, Pedagogical and Psychological Sciences," with knowledge improvement classes in overseas university institutions.
- ◆ 1999-2000: Internship at the EHESS (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales), Laboratoire de apprentissage et contexte. Research work concerning "Analysis of family behaviour in the nutrition of Senegalese children, KRONOS program."
- ◆ 2000: Intern for UNESCO (Paris), *Education for all* sector, working on the project: "Monitoring Learning Achievement".
- ◆ 2001-2003: Member of assessment team regarding the project concerning the quality of services in the Riese council area (CI), conducted by Padova University, The department of General Psychology (Director: Prof. N.A. De Carlo).
- ◆ 2001-2003: She participated in the assessment phase for cognitive and motivational competences concerning the program "Independence, life skills, peer education" carried out with "La Sapienza" university, Rome and the interuniversity center for research into genesis and its development of pro-social and anti-social reasons.
- ◆ 2003: She conducted work for the acquisition, recognition and collection of documents to create the project "Prisons and new drugs" during the convention stipulated between the university of Catania and the ministry of Justice Department of Prison Administration; Professor Noto of the faculty of Medicine and Surgery.
- ◆ 2008: She worked in the interuniversity center for research into Genesis and the development of Pro-social and anti-social motivation, in the Values research project using the S. Shwartz model, coordinated by prof. GianVittorio Caprara of the Sapienza university, Rome. She was in charge of the collection and the elaboration of data in

the 'La Sicilia' newspaper's *Portrait Values Questionnaire*, participating in the standardization and adjustment of the instrument (see pertinent publications).

FOREIGN LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE

- ◆ French: Excellent written and spoken knowledge
- ◆ English: good written and spoken knowledge

COMPUTER AND STATISTICAL KNOWLEDGE

- ◆ Advanced Microsoft Windows
- ◆ Advanced Microsoft Office
- ◆ Advanced Apple Mac OS X
- ◆ Advanced knowledge of the Internet
- ◆ Advanced statistical analysis systems (SPSS)

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

- ◆ Research work was undertaken, after initially working on improving teaching methods. She completed her degree in 1997 in Paris followed by a PHD at the University of Catania. The research work was related to the psychology of learning and how learning ability can be affected by motivational and emotional variables.

- ◆ Particular attention was given to teachers' behavior relating to the learning process (topic of her EHESS diploma dissertation in Paris) and learning in "children with learning difficulties" following research conducted on this matter in the Psychology chair where relevant post-doctoral study has been carried out since 2002.

- ◆ A further research topic concerned values and their relationship with the psychology of personality, which in collaboration with the national group adapted Solomon Schwartz's 'personal values' model for Italy. Along with this particular research topic, further study was conducted using some research methods and data analysis, applied using the standardization of Schwartz's "Portrait Values Questionnaire".

- ◆ Since 2011 research activity has been aimed at deepening knowledge relating to scholastic psychology and learning. Following thorough research and study of international scientific literature regarding the relationship between building block play and learning. A great deal of experimental research was carried out exploring the relationship between cognitive learning aspects, mental imagination and play using LEGO as an indirect means of acquiring mathematic logic and problem solving skills.

Within this particular field of research, later investigation concerned the computerized version of LEGO ("Life of George") featuring a manipulative phase and a digital one. The intention was to study whether and to what extent cognitive skills such as memory, spatial, visual and mental imagery play a role in mediation between building block play and mathematic skills. Further research concerned the relationship between LEGO skills, learning styles and coherence strategy. Such studies were the subject of her psychology teaching degree thesis.

At present, she is engaged in the creation and formation of a teaching tool which uses imagination skills for teaching elementary school level mathematics using LEGO building blocks .

Along with research into these topics, Dottoressa Concetta Pirrone's scientific work involving the Chair of Pediatrics and Infant Neuropsychiatry has concerned the assessment of cognitive function in individuals, children and adults, affected by rare genetic metabolic and immune deficiency diseases, such as multiple sclerosis. This assessment has involved psychometric testing of cognitive functions, and in some cases the evaluation of behavior.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Di Nuovo S., Commodari E., Maglia R., **Pirrone C.** (1998).”*Introduction of Non-European immigrant minors into schools*”, The report based on the research financed by Sicily's regional government's department for cultural and natural heritage and education, 1998, pp.91. Report during the study day, organized by the Education faculty in Catania “Non-European immigrants. Between representation and possible intervention.
- **Pirrone, C.** (2001).*The quality of services: functions and spaces in work psychology.* Conference proceedings (23/24th March) national meeting for work and company psychologists 23-24th March.
- **Pirrone C.** (2002). Training as an instrument for assessment of individuals and organizations. Conference proceedings: flexibility, training quality, equal opportunities: The role of a psychologist. III seminar about work psychology. 29 June, Syracuse
- **Pirrone C.,** Di Corrado D., (2002). *Laterality and productive/receptive components of oral language in learning disabilities.* Fourth European Conference proceedings on “Psychological Theory and Research on Mental Retardation and Cognitive Developmental Disabilities (MRCD)” May 2002, Catania.
- **Pirrone C.,** et al. (2002).*Education services for infancy.* IV national conference proceedings aimed at: Research, training, application, Padova, 24-25-26th October.
- **Pirrone C.,** (2002). “*Cooperative Learning: a strategy for promoting of pro-social behaviour and improving classroom atmosphere,* 4th National conference proceedings. “Psychologists in Educational contexts: Research and training” Urbino 5-7th December.
- **Pirrone C.** (2005). *Investigation into the evaluation of work values in young students and young workers.* Conference proceedings: The importance of values, the University of Catania and the Kore university, Enna, the Cristina Mazzotti foundation Catania- Enna, 7-8th October 2005.
- **Pirrone C. ,** Di Nuovo S., (2011). *Are play and imagination useful for learning? An experimental study into the relationship among mathematic, mental images, and building block play.* XVII National conference AIP Experimental Psychology section, Catania, 14-16th September 2011.
- **Pirrone C. ,** Commodori E., (2011). *Implied intelligence and personality theories: the relationship with self-efficacy for problem solving and the perception of skills and knowledge in*

adolescents. XVII National Conference proceedings AIP Experimental Psychology section, Catania, 14-16th September 2011.

- **Pirrone C.**, (2013). *Who is the student who fails at school? The school's failure in implied teaching practice*. National conference proceedings. "In class I have a child who ... Learning and related aspects in schools." Florence, 8-9th February 2013.
- **Pirrone C.**, Nicolosi A., Di Nuovo S., (2014). *A study of interaction effectiveness between manipulation and computer tools in mathematic learning*. National conference proceedings AISC mid-term, 22-24th April 2014 – Enna.
- **Pirrone C.**, Di Grandi F. (2015). *Analysis of the psychological dynamics and the emotional experience seen from the dual perspective of men and women with diagnosis of infertility: an empirical study*. XI National Congress of "Psychology of the Health and Health of the Psychology" Catania, 28-30 may 2015.
- **Pirrone C.** (2015). *The therapeutic effect of playing with LEGO in a child with ADHD and Tourette Syndrome*. Conference "Diagnosis and intervention to DSA and BES between good practices and criticalities". Oasi di Troina (En), 11-12 September, 2015

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PAPERS

- **Pirrone C.** (2000). *L'immagine psicosociale de l'élève chez les enseignants en France et en Italie*, – tesi di D.E.A. presso l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris).
- **Pirrone C.**, (2001). *Education and learning, comparison of models*. Answers, Disability
- **Pirrone C.**, Commodari E., (2004). Perception of disability and school integration: The point of view of lower middle school pupils. Faculty annals, 2004.
- **Pirrone C.**, Santisi G., Dal Corso L., Vianello M., Ramaci T., (2004). Predictors of the perceived quality of school services: experiences compared. *TPM Testing Psicometria Metodologia*. vol. 11, n° 2, pp. 125-134.
- **Pirrone C.**, Rapisarda A. (2005). The development and the promotion of social skills in order to improve the atmosphere in class through Cooperative Learning, *Psychology of Education and Learning*, vol. 7, n.1 pp. 63-78.
- **Pirrone C.**, et al. (2005), The schools' failure in implied teaching practice. *Pedagogy problems*, Vol. 13.
- **Pirrone C.** (2005), Mediocre pupils, brilliant pupils, compared by teachers, in M. S. Tomarchio (by), *Analecta Humanitatis, Learning research*, Quaderno n.1, Bonanno Editore, Catania.
- **Pirrone C.**, Guarnera M., (2006). Students and workers compared in S. Di Nuovo (by) *Dalla Work training. Hypothesis and tools for vocational guidance*, Ed O.S. Iter, Firenze.
- **Pirrone C.**, Commodari E., (2007) General values and work values in tenured and support teachers, *Evolutionary cycle and Disability*, vol. 10 n° 1, pp. 85-101.
- **Pirrone C.**, Guarnera M., Castiglione F. (2008), The perception of the role of a psychologist in schools, *Scholastic Psychology*, vol. 7, n° 1, pp. 11-29.

- Di Nuovo S., **Pirrone C.**, Guarnera M. (2008), Career counseling, Beliefs and values: some empirical data, *Counseling*, vol. 1 n° 2, pp. 155-171.
- *Rediscovering values, research in Sicily* (2008) by S. Di Nuovo. Edizioni CittàAperta / Kore University Press, Enna.

Empirical research present in various chapters:

- **Pirrone C.**, Commodari E., (2008), Values and perception of quality of life in young students, pp.41-53.
 - **Pirrone C.**, Di Corrado D., (2008), Values and personality, pp. 67-81.
 - **Pirrone C.**, Commodari E., (2008), Values and self-efficacy noted in young adolescents at risk, pp. 91-103.
 - Di Nuovo S., **Pirrone C.**, (2008), Dimensions and test adjustment. Schwartz's Portrait Values Questionnaire on Sicilians, pp.207-226.
- Di Nuovo S., Hichy Z., **Pirrone C.** (2009) Comparison of Different Strategies Suitable for Data Analysis. Applications for the Search for Personality Correlates of Life Satisfaction. *Testing, Psychometrics, Methodology in Applied Psychology*, vol. 16, No. 4, 1-15.
 - Di Nuovo S., Hichy Z., & **Pirrone C.** (2011). Italian validation of the Portrait Values Questionnaire and an investigation into socio-demographic factors. In G.V. Caprara, E. Scabini, P. Steca, & S.H. Schwartz (Eds.) *Contemporary Italian values* (pp.322-346). Milano: Franco Angeli.
 - **Pirrone C.** (2011). Investigating bullies. An investigation into identity making, perceived emotional and emphatic self-efficacy in bullies. *Psychology and schools*, vol. 14, pp. 26-32. [ISSN: 0392-680X]
 - **Pirrone C.**, (2012). The Influence of Teachers' Pre-existing Notions about Students on Scholastic Achievement, *AASA Journal of Scholarship & Practice*, 9,2, pp. 18-29. [ISSN: 1550-9850]
 - **Pirrone C.**, (2013). Dyslexia, Self-help": intervention in a specific case.. *Psychology and schools on line*, Giunti Scuola.
 - **Pirrone C.**, Commodari E. (2013). Implicit Theories of Intelligence and Personality, Self-efficacy in Problem Solving, and the Perception of Skills and Competences in High School Students in Sicily, Italy. *AASA Journal of Scholarship & Practice*,10, 1, pp. 39-50. [ISSN: 1550-9850]
 - Passanisi A., Di Nuovo S., Urgese L., **Pirrone C.** (2014). The influence of musical expression on creativity and interpersonal relationships in children. *Procedia-Social and Behavioural Journal* (ISSN: 1877-0428).

- Passanisi A., Gensabella A., **Pirrone C.** (2014). Parental bonding, self-esteem and Theory of Mind among locals and immigrants. *Procedia-Social and Behavioural Journal* (ISSN: 1877-0428).
- **Pirrone C,** Di Nuovo S. (2014). Can playing and imagining aid in learning mathematics? An experimental study of the relationships among building-block play, mental imagery, and arithmetic skills. *Applied Bulletin of Psychology.* 62(251),30-39 (ISSN 0006-6761)
- Nicita F, Polizzi A, Spalice A, Salpietro V, Caltabiano R, D’Orazi V, Pavone P, **Pirrone C,** Cavallaro S, Muglia M, Ruggieri M. (2014). The natural history of Spinal Neurofibromatosis: A critical review of clinical and genetic features. *Clinical Genetics.* DOI: 10.1111/cge.12498.
- **Pirrone C,** Nicolosi A., Passanisi A., Di Nuovo S. (2015). Learning Potential in Mathematics through Imagination and Manipulation of Building Blocks. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences,* 6(4), 152-159. DOI: 10.5901/mjss.2015.v6n4s3p152

ARTICLES ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

- Caltabiano R, Magro G, Salpietro V, Polizzi A, Nicita F, Albanese V, Platania N, Pavone P, Distefano A, Parano E, Gabriele AL, Ortensi A, D’Orazi V, Panunzi A, Milone P, **Pirrone C,** Lanzafame S, Ruggieri M. (2014). A mosaic pattern of INI1/SMARCB1 protein expression is a reliable marker of sporadic schwannomatosis. *Journal of the Neurological Sciences.*
- Falsaperla R, Pavone P, Miceli Sopo S, Mahmood F, **Pirrone C,** Ruggieri M, Scalia F, Corsello G, Vitaliti G. (2014). Epileptic seizures as manifestation of cow's milk allergy: a studied relationship and description of our Paediatric experience. *Expert Review of Clinical Immunology.*

ARTICLES SUBJECTED A PEER-REVIEW

- Ruggieri M, Sesta M, Polizzi A, Bardini MR, Salpietro V, Pavone P, Santangelo G, , Castellano-Chiodo D, Romantschik O, **Pirrone C,** Milone P, Patti F, Mormina E, Granata F, Grimaldi LME. Natural history of multiple sclerosis with onset at or before 2 years of age. *New England Journal of Medicine* 2014.

Catania, 15th September , 2015

Signature:

Concetta Pirrone