University of Birmingham

Dr Kerstin Wittemeyer

Lecturer in Autism

School of Education

Contact details

Telephone **+44 (0) 121 415 8148**

Email **k.wittemeyer@bham.ac.uk**

School of Education
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston, Birmingham
B15 2TT, United Kingdom

About

Kerstin has been appointed as a lecturer and researcher in the Autism Centre for Education and Research. She previously worked for several years in the Oxford Autism Research Group, where she managed the work programme of the International Molecular Genetics Study of Autism Consortium (IMGSAC). As a member of staff at the Oxford Neurodevelopmental Magnetoencephalography (MEG) Centre, Kerstin used MEG to measure the brain responses of individuals with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) whilst completing language tasks. During her undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Toulouse France, Kerstin was part of a multidisciplinary team that provided an eclectic educational programme to young children with autism. During her PhD, Kerstin investigated the effects of early intervention on the communication abilities of young children with autism. She has also worked in a diagnostic service for many years and is a certified trainer for the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS).

Qualifications

- PhD
- MAS Developmental Psychopathology
- BSc Psychology

Teaching

Kerstin has been appointed as a lecturer on the current autism courses at the University of Birmingham's School of Education. Kerstin's primary responsibility is teaching on the WebAutism course, which is a unique teaching programme that uses the latest technologies to reach a large group of students. Teaching is provided over the internet and combines the use of online forums for discussion, web-based power point presentations and audiovisual materials. The course aims to form a virtual community for students so they can share experiences, information updates and provide feedback to tutors.

Kerstin also contributes to other teaching programmes within the School of Education.

Postgraduate supervision

Kerstin is interested in the following research topics: Autism and education; autism and early intervention; autism and diagnosis; neuroscience of education

She currently supervises a number of students including the following:

- Sara Curran - **"Why aren't we doing more with music?" An exploration of the outcomes and possible viability of secondary mainstream-special school collaborative links using music and the performing arts.**
- Rebecca Wood - **Can Children with Autism in Mainstream Primary Schools be Fully Included in the Curriculum?**
- Marilena Mademtzi - **The Use of Innovative Technology to Promote Movement and Self-regulation Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Condition in School-Based environments: The Pictogram Room Paradigm.**
- Damian Milton - **Educational discourse and the autistic student: a study using Q-sort methodology**

Research

Kerstin's research interest are:

- Evidence-based early intervention programmes for children with an autism spectrum condition (ASC).
- Development of communication skills in ASC.
- Diagnosing ASC.
- Neurophysiological responses to language input in ASC.

Other activities

Kerstin is member of the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR), the Oxford Autism Research Group at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford and the interdisciplinary research unit Octogone, Université de Toulouse (France). She has recently been appointed as academic advisor of the Centre for Behavioural Science, School of Medicine Nankai University (China). Kerstin is also a certified trainer for the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS).

Publications

Wittemeyer, K., Mantoulan, C., Rogé, B. (in preparation) *The development of communication forms and functions in children with autism: a comparative early intervention study.*

Weiss, L., Arking, D., Gene Discovery Project of Johns Hopkins & the Autism Consortium (Wittemeyer, K.), Daly, M., Chakravarti, A. (2009) A genome-wide linkage and association scan reveals novel loci for autism. *Nature,* 461, pp.802-808.

Liu X., Paterson A., Szatmari P., Autism Genome Project Consortium (2008) Genome-wide linkage analyses of quantitative and categorical autism subphenotypes. *Biological Psychiatry*, 64(7):561-70.

The Autism Genome Project Consortium (2007) Mapping autism risk loci using genetic linkage and chromosomal rearrangements. *Nature Genetics,* 39: 319-28.

Wittemeyer, K., Rogé, B., Mars, P., Côme, M., Magerotte, G. (2006) Etude des effets d'un programme d'intervention précoce sur les habiletés pragmatiques d'un groupe d'enfants atteints d'autisme, *Le bulletin scientifique de l'arapi,* 17.

The International Molecular Genetic Study of Autism Consortium (IMGSAC) (2001) Genome Wide screen for Autism: Strong evidence for linkage to chromosomes 2q, 7q and 16p. *American Journal of Human Genetics,* 69: 570-581.

Batty, M., Rogé, B., Wittemeyer, K., Taylor, M. (2003) Perception des émotions faciales: mesures des potentiels évoqués au cours du développement normal et autistique. *Le bulletin scientifique de l'arapi,*11.

Publications 2001 - 2010 (pdf 257KB, opens new window)

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