



Martina Zaharieva,
PhD Candidate

Dr. Ingmar Visser,
Assistant Professor
Developmental
Psychology


Dr. Cristina Colonesi,
Research Institute of
Child Development &
Education



Baby Lab,
University of
Amsterdam

06-5371-6577

INFORMATION BROCHURE GEAR: A LONGITUDINAL RESEARCH PROJECT

The Baby Lab at the University of Amsterdam (UvA) welcomes you to join our ongoing research on how babies develop attention and emotion control during the first two years of life. In this information brochure, we explain all procedures that are involved in the GEAR research. If you decide that you would like to participate, you can enroll via this [sign-up link](#)  and then we will get in touch with you shortly. No further action is needed in case you prefer not to partake.



**GROWING
EMOTION &
ATTENTION
REGULATION**

Sarphati
amsterdam research for
healthy living

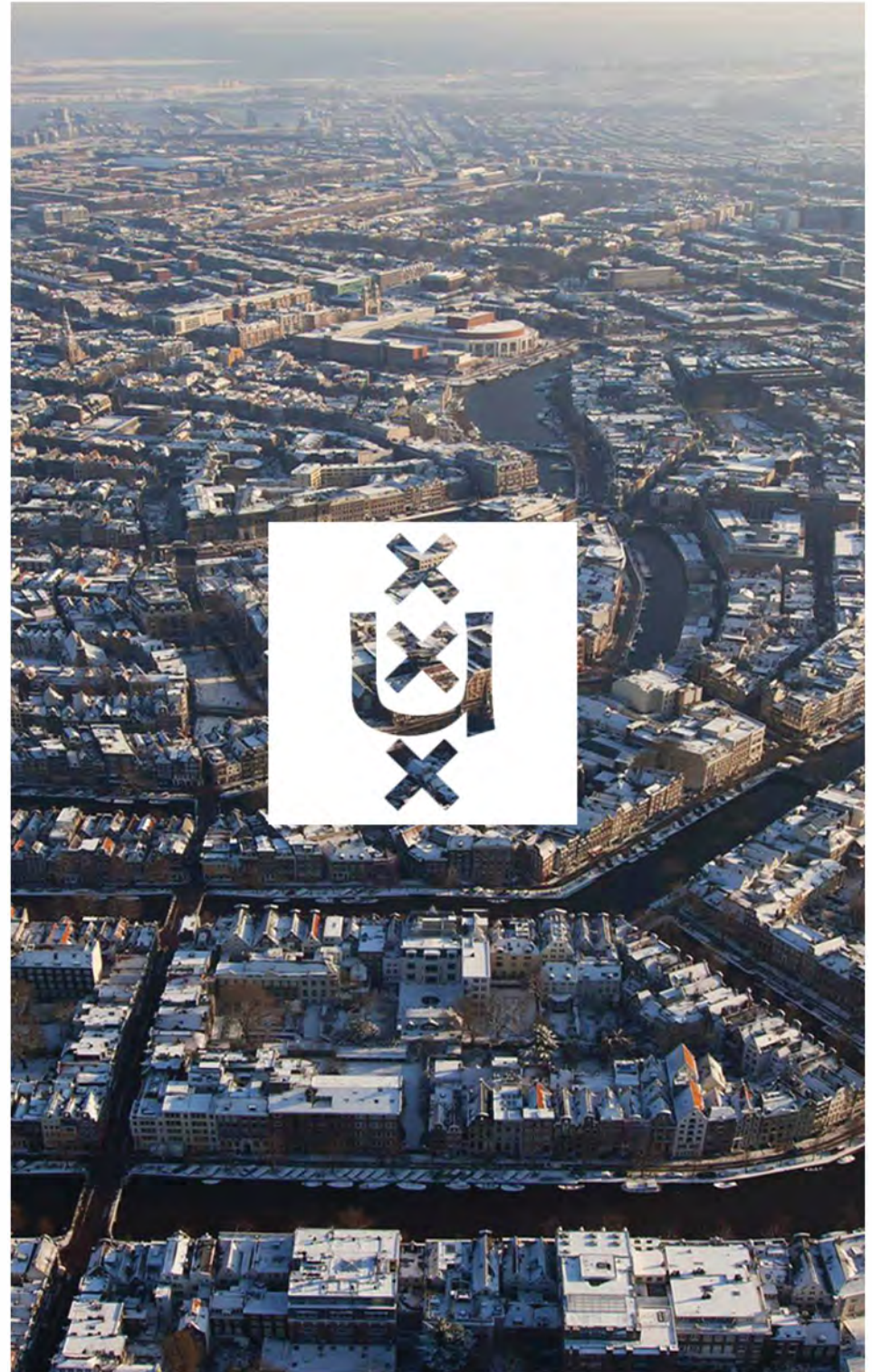


INFANT ATTENTIONAL CONTROL

As young infants are unable to move around on their own or to manipulate objects easily, among the earliest behaviours infants learn to control in a purposeful way are their eye movements. Thus, the way infants explore their visual environment can tell us a lot about the way they build knowledge about the world. From earlier research, we know that over the first year of life, infants develop a number of social and non-social attentional mechanisms allowing them to become increasingly more proactive in selecting what kind of information to process and when. In this longitudinal study, we will look at the eye movement patterns of young infants as they turn 3, 12, and 18 months of age. We use three infant-friendly tasks in order to learn more about the strategies they use to process incoming information. We are warmly welcoming infants aged between 3 and 4,5 months, together with their caregivers, to join our longitudinal study at UvA's Baby Lab.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

In this study, we are developing new ways to understand the various strategies young infants use to control their attention to and away from objects that interest them. For this, we study infants' patterns of looking behavior while also measuring how cognitively engaging a certain task is for them. Then we will analyze the infant's attentional behavior in relation to other important developments such as motor skills, temperament and the ability to regulate emotion during social interactions. That is why we ask your permission to couple your data collected at UvA's lab with relevant data collected within the Sarphati Cohort.



TESTING PROCEDURE

We invite you and your baby at three measurement points - 3, 12, and 18 months of age. At each measurement point, the study consists of the same two parts - a lab visit at UvA's Baby Lab and a brief questionnaire (15-20 min) which you can complete online at home a week after your lab visit.

The lab visit will begin with a brief discussion between you and the test leader. During this talk, we will explain what the tasks entail and we will have the time to discuss any questions you might have. We will initiate each task once your baby is at ease and also take short breaks in-between. The session will start with three brief attentional tasks, during which we record the infant's eye-movements. For this, we will seat the infant in front of a computer screen with a built-in eye-tracker. With the help of this special camera, we will then record precisely where and for how long the infant looks on the screen while watching a series of animated cartoons. The testing session will end on a semi-structured free-play interaction between you and the infant, during which we will prompt you to remain unresponsive to your baby for about a minute. This interaction will be recorded via a mobile camera. The total duration of the testing session will not exceed an hour and you will remain in close proximity of the infant throughout. We will make sure to pause the testing procedure at any point, at which your baby appears not at ease or whenever you judge necessary. This way, we really hope to make the time at the Baby Lab a joyful experience for both you and your baby!

About a week after the testing session, you will receive the online questionnaire asking you to report on some skills and behaviors you have observed your infant perform during the past two weeks.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

Should you agree to participate in this study, we will request you to sign an informed consent form. Participation in this study is entirely voluntary and can be terminated at any point during the experiment without having to provide an explanation and without any consequences for you and your child. If you withdraw your participation or consent, your child's details and yours will be removed from our files and destroyed.



DISCOMFORT, RISKS, AND INSURANCE

Because this research does not entail any risks for the health or safety of your child, no special insurance is involved.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE RESEARCH DATA

All data collected within the GEAR project will be securely processed and stored on UvA's password-protected servers with a reference to the participant number that has been assigned to you. The video data will be kept apart from any other personal data and will be destroyed until after publication in a scientific journal. Anonymously derived measures from the video, questionnaires, and eye-tracking data will be stored for further analyses and use in scientific publications.

GEAR & THE SARPHATI COHORT

For this study, the UvA collaborates with Sarphati Amsterdam and the Public Health Service (GGD) of Amsterdam. We therefore request your permission to couple demographic and questionnaire data of you and your child gathered via the GGD Amsterdam within the Sarphati Cohort to the data collected under the GEAR project. The coupling will follow secure protocols.

CONTACT

For more information or questions regarding the study, before or after the testing session, please contact me (Martina Zaharieva) via email: m.zaharieva@uva.nl or phone: 0653716577. For any complaints about this research, you can contact Dr. Helle Larsen, member of the Ethics Committee of the Developmental Psychology Department of the University of Amsterdam, at h.larsen@uva.nl.

REACHING THE BABY LAB

The study will take place at UvA's Baby Lab Plantage Area, below are the address and directions:

Nieuwe Prinsengracht 130

1018 VZ, Amsterdam

This building has several entrances (and hence the risk to miss each other). The entrance that we always use is the most child-friendly as it offers a ramp, no stairs, and access to an elevator. Click [here](#) to directly create a personal route description to this entrance in Google Maps.

From the Roetersstraat, turn right into the Nieuwe Achtergracht. One of the researchers will be waiting for you here and will guide you to the correct lab space (Rooms L1.02 and L1.03). The entrance to the Baby Lab is in a courtyard (the white entrance door):



RESEARCH PRIORITY AREA YIELD

