

Human cognitive abilities are strongly genetically influenced. Nevertheless they are very immature at birth and develop over a prolonged period through complex interactions between intrinsic and extrinsic factors. I am generally interested in the way human cognition is shaped by genetic factors, environmental influences, and their interactions. *How can the human genome build a brain that can acquire a language, and other typically human cognitive skills?*

My approach is to study developmental disorders insofar as they highlight complex causal chains between genetic factors, neural properties, and cognitive functions that are not apparent in normal development. I study mainly language disorders (dyslexia and specific language impairment), at the cognitive level using psycholinguistic and psychophysical methods, at the neural level using brain imaging, and at the genetic level, in collaboration with molecular genetics labs. More recently I have broadened my interests to social cognition, as well as to other neuro-developmental disorders (including autism and schizophrenia), insofar as they can inform us on the genetic and neural basis of cognitive development.