

INFORMAZIONI PERSONALI

Claudia Mazzuca

ESPERIENZA
PROFESSIONALE

2021- **Assegnista di Ricerca (Post-doc)**
Attualmente nell'ambito del progetto di ricerca "DeCo" – Democratizing Concepts
Dipartimento di Psicologia Clinica, Dinamica e Salute, Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"

Research Associate

2019 – 2020
Department of Psychology, University of York

ISTRUZIONE E FORMAZIONE

2025 **Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale (ASN) a Professore di II Fascia**
Settore Concorsuale 11/E1 – PSICOLOGIA GENERALE,
PSICOBIOLOGIA E PSICOMETRIA

2022 **Summer School *Statistics for Linguistics***
University of Birmingham

2020 **Dottorato di Ricerca (*cum laude*) in Philosophy, Science, Cognition,
and Semiotics, curriculum *Cognitive Science* [M-PSI/01]**
Alma Mater Studiorum, Università di Bologna

2017 - 2018 **Visiting PhD Student**
Radboud University, Meaning, Culture, and Cognition Lab, Nijmegen

2015 - 2016 **Tirocinio formativo**
Istituto di Scienze e Tecnologie della Cognizione, Centro Nazionale delle Ricerche
(ISTC-CNR), Roma

2015 **Laurea Magistrale (*cum laude*) in Italianistica, Culture Letterarie
Europee e Scienze Linguistiche, curriculum *Scienze Linguistiche***
Alma Mater Studiorum, Università di Bologna

2013 **Laurea Triennale in Lettere**
Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"

COMPETENZE PERSONALI

Lingua madre Italiano

Competenze professionali

- Programmazione, raccolta dati e analisi dati esperimenti comportamentali e linguistici;
- EPrime, Qualtrics; E-LAN, PsychoPy
- Analisi statistiche (quantitative e qualitative) dati comportamentali e linguistici;
- SPSS; R; RStudio
- Ad hoc reviewer *Journal of Psycholinguistics, Cognitive Linguistics, International Journal of Language and Culture, PeerJ, Discourse Processes, Cognitive Science, Psychological Research, Journal of Psychological Science; Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, B, Behavior Research Methods*

- Review Editor *Frontiers in Cognitive Science*

ULTERIORI INFORMAZIONI

Pubblicazioni

Articoli in riviste internazionali peer-reviewed

De Livio, C., **Mazzuca, C.**, Fini, C. & Borghi, A.M. (2026) Gender identity impacts the perception of vocal congruence. *Frontiers in Cognition*, 5, 1638501. doi: 10.3389/fcogn.2026.1638501

Falcinelli, I., Fini, C., **Mazzuca, C.**, Alessandri, G., Alivernini, F., Baiocco, R., Chirico, A., Filosa, L., Palombi, T., Pistella, J., Tavolucci, S., Lucidi, F. & Borghi, A. M. (2025). Thinking climate change through the lens of abstractness: a multi-task and multi-setting investigation into generational differences in the conceptualization of ecology. *Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*, 10(79). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41235-025-00689-4>

Barca, L., **Mazzuca, C.**, & Borghi, A. M. (2025). Impact of pacifier use and parenting characteristics on toddlers' vocabulary development. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 16, 1599801.

Mazzuca, C., Arcovito, M., Falcinelli, I., Fini, C., & Borghi, A. M. (2025). Water Is and Is Not H₂O, Depending on Who You Ask: Conceptualizations of Water Vary Across Chemists and Laypeople. *Cognitive Science*, 49(8), e70094.

Borghi, A. M., **Mazzuca, C.**, & Tummolini, L. (2025). The role of social interaction in the formation and use of abstract concepts. *Nature Reviews Psychology*, 1-14.

Mazzuca, C.*, Villani, C*, Lamarra, T., Bolognesi, M. M., & Borghi, A. M. (2025). Abstractness impacts conversational dynamics. *Cognition*, 258, 106084.

Fini, C., Era, V., Cuomo, G., Falcinelli, I., Gervasi, A.M., Candidi, M., **Mazzuca, C.**, Liuzza, M.T., Winter, B., & Borghi, A.M. (2025). Digital connection, real bonding: brief online chats boost interpersonal closeness regardless of the conversational topic. *Heliyon*, e42526.

Mazzuca, C.*, Fini*, C., De Livio, C., Falcinelli, I., Maggio, F., Tummolini, L., & Borghi, A. M. (2025). Words as social tools (WAT): A reprise. *Physics of Life Reviews*, 52, 109 - 128.

Falcinelli, I., Fini, C., **Mazzuca, C.**, Alessandri, G., Alivernini, F., Baiocco, R., Chirico, A., Filosa, L., Palombi, T., Pistella, J., Tavolucci, S., Lucidi, F., & Borghi, A.M. (2024). What does "Internet" mean to us as we age? A multi-tasks investigation of the conceptualization of the technological domain across generations. *Computers in Human Behavior Reports*, 16, 100531.

Falcinelli, I., Fini, C., **Mazzuca, C.**, & Borghi, A.M. (2024). The geo domain: a review on the conceptualization of geographical and geopolitical entities. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 15, 1389581.

Falcinelli, I., Fini, C., **Mazzuca, C.**, & Borghi, A.M. (2024). The TECo Database: Technological and Ecological Concepts at the interface between abstractness and concreteness. *Collabra: Psychology*, 10(1).

Mazzuca, C., Villani, C., Lamarra, T., Bolognesi, M.M., & Borghi, A.M. (2024). Abstract sentences elicit more uncertainty and curiosity than concrete sentences. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, (Vol. 46).

De Livio, C., **Mazzuca, C.**, Fini, C., & Borghi, A. (2024). Perceived Vocal Congruence Varies Across Gender Identities. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (Vol. 46).

Mirabella, M.*, **Mazzuca, C.***, De Livio, C., Di Giannantonio, B., Rosati, F., Pistella, J., Baiocco, R., Lingiard, V., Borghi, A.M., Giovanardi, G. (2024). The role of language in non-binary identity construction: gender words matter. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*. Advance online publication. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1037/sdg0000729>. [* shared first co-authorship].

Banks, B., Borghi, A.M., Fargier, R., Fini, C., Jonauskaitė, D., **Mazzuca, C.**, Montalti, M., Villani, C. and Woodin, G. (2023). Consensus Paper: Current Perspectives on Abstract Concepts and Future Research Directions. *Journal of Cognition*, 6(1), p.62. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/joc.238>

Mazzuca, C., Borghi, A.M., van Putten, S., Lugli, L., Nicoletti, R. & Majid, A. (2023). Gender is conceptualized in different ways across cultures. *Language and Cognition*, 1-27. doi: 10.1017/langcog.2023.40.

Borghi, A. M., **Mazzuca, C.**, Gervasi, A. M., Mannella, F., & Tummolini, L. (2023). Grounded cognition can be multimodal all the way down. *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*, 1-5.

Borghi, A. M., & **Mazzuca, C.** (2023). Grounded Cognition, Linguistic Relativity, and Abstract Concepts. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 15 (4), 1-6. doi: 10.1111/tops.12663.

Mazzuca, C., & Majid, A. (2023). The semantic representation of food is shaped by cultural experience. *Language and Cognition*, 1-19.

Fini, C., Falcinelli, I., Cuomo, G., Era, V., Candidi, M., Tummolini, L., **Mazzuca, C.** & Borghi, A. M. (2023). Breaking the ice in a conversation: abstract words prompt dialogs more easily than concrete ones. *Language and Cognition*, 1-22.

Bellagamba, F., Borghi, A. M., **Mazzuca, C.**, Pecora, G., Ferrara, F., Fogel, A. (2022). Abstractness emerges progressively over the second year of life. *Scientific Reports*, 12(1), 20940.

Borghi, A.M., Fini, C., & **Mazzuca, C.** (2022). Abstract concepts, social interaction, and beliefs. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13, 919808.

Marinucci, L., **Mazzuca, C.** & Gangemi, A. (2022). Exposing implicit biases and stereotypes in human and artificial intelligence: state of the art and challenges with a focus on gender. *AI and Society*, 1-15.

Mazzuca, C. & Santarelli, M. (2022). Making it abstract, making it contestable: politicization at the intersection of political and cognitive science. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, 1-22.

Mazzuca, C., Falcinelli, I., Michalland, A.H., Tummolini, L., & Borghi, A.M. (2022). Bodily, emotional, and public sphere at the time of COVID-19. An investigation on concrete and abstract concepts. *Psychological Research*, 86(7), 2266-2277.

Mazzuca, C., Fini, C., Michalland, A.H., Falcinelli, I., Da Rold, F., Tummolini, L., & Borghi, A.M. (2021). From affordances to abstract words: the flexibility of sensorimotor grounding. *Brain Sciences*, 11(10), 1304.

Mazzuca, C., Falcinelli, I., Michalland, A.H., Tummolini, L., & Borghi, A.M. (2021). Differences and similarities in the conceptualization of COVID-19 and other diseases in the first Italian lockdown. *Scientific Reports*, 11(1), 18303.

Mazzuca, C., Benassi, M., Nicoletti, R., Sartori, G. & Lugli, L. (2021). Assessing the impact of previous experience on lie effects. Evidence from a transfer paradigm. *Scientific Reports*, 11 (1), pp. 1-9.

Borghi, A.M., **Mazzuca, C.**, Da Rold, F., Falcinelli, I., Fini, C., Michalland, A.H., & Tummolini, L. (2021). Abstract words as social tools: which necessary evidence? *Frontiers in Psychology*.

van Putten, S., O'Meara, C., Wartmann, F., Yager, J., Villette, J., **Mazzuca, C.**, Bieling, C., Burenhult, N., Purves, R. & Majid, A. (2020). Conceptualisations of landscape differ across European languages. *PLoS ONE*, 15(10): e0239858.

Mazzuca, C., Majid, A., Lugli, L., Nicoletti, R. & Borghi, A.M. (2020). Gender is a multifaceted concept: evidence that specific life experiences differentially shape the concept of gender. *Language and Cognition*, 12(4), 649-678.

Barca, L., **Mazzuca, C.** & Borghi, A.M. (2020). Overusing the pacifier during infancy sets a footprint on abstract words processing. *Journal of Child Language*, 1, 16.

Mazzuca, C., Lugli, L., Benassi, M., Nicoletti, R. & Borghi, A.M. (2018). Abstract, emotional and concrete concepts and the activation of mouth-hand effectors. *PeerJ*.

Barca, L., **Mazzuca, C.** & Borghi, A.M. (2017). Pacifier overuse and conceptual relations of abstract and emotional concepts. *Frontiers in Psychology*.

Mazzuca, C., Barca, L. & Borghi, A.M. (2017). The particularity of emotional words: A grounded approach. *Rivista Internazionale di Filosofia e Psicologia*, 8, 2.

Articoli e capitoli peer-reviewed in volume editi

Scorrolli, C. & **Mazzuca, C.** (2024). The grounding of concrete and abstract language: consolidated evidence, open issues, and new challenges. In Shapiro, L. (Ed.). *The Routledge Handbook of Embodied Cognition*. Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group.

Mazzuca, C. & Borghi, A. M. (2019). Abstract concepts and the activation of mouth-hand effectors. In M. Bolognesi & G. Steen, (Eds.). *Perspectives on abstract concepts: From cognitive processing to semantic representations*. Amsterdam: Benjamins Publishing Company.

Mazzuca, C. & Borghi, A.M. (2017). An embodied and grounded view on concepts and its possible implications for education. In F. Gomez-Paloma, D. Ianes, & D. Tafuri, (Eds.). *Embodied cognition. Theories and applications in education science*. New York: Nova.

Articoli sottoposti e in revisione

Mazzuca, C., De Livio, C., Giovanardi, G., Mirabella, M., & Borghi, A. M. (2026, January 26). Semantic Structure and Normative Ratings of Gender-Inclusive Role Nouns: The First Italian Database (GIRN-I).

Tesi di Dottorato

Mazzuca, C. (2020). Queering abstract concepts. A grounded perspective on Gender. Dipartimento di Filosofia e Comunicazione, Università di Bologna.
<http://amsdottorato.unibo.it/9306/>

Presentazioni

Talks

Mazzuca, C., Villani, C., Lamarra, T., Bolognesi, M.M. & Borghi, A. M. (2024, Luglio). Abstract sentences elicit more uncertainty and curiosity than concrete sentences. The 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Rotterdam, NL.

Santarelli, M. & **Mazzuca, C.** (2024, Marzo). Making it abstract, making it contestable. Politicization at the intersection of political and cognitive science. Invited talk at Language and Conflict Seminar Series, University of Bologna.

Mazzuca, C., Mirabella, M., De Livio, C., Di Giannantonio, B., Rosati, F., Pistella, J., Baiocco, R., Lingiardi, V., Borghi, A.M., & Giovanardi, G. (2023, Dicembre). The role of language in non-binary identity construction: gender words matter. Convegno: Tre anni di RID. Cosa ci ha insegnato la ricerca in dialogo. Università di Roma "La Sapienza".

Mazzuca, C., Arcovito, M., & Borghi, A. M. (2023, Dicembre). Is water H₂O? Differences and similarities in the conceptualization of water across chemists and non-chemists. 19th Annual Conference of the Italian Association of Cognitive Sciences (AISC), Università di Genova.

Mazzuca, C., (2022, Settembre). The concept of gender. Moving beyond the abstract-concrete dichotomy. XXX Congresso Nazionale Associazione Italiana di Psicologia. Simposio su Linguaggio, Memoria e Multisensorialità, Università di Padova.

Mazzuca, C. (2022, Aprile). Is gender an abstract concept? Insights from semantic fluency task. IMT-CNR conjoint sessions, Lucca, online.

Mazzuca, C. (2021, Settembre). The concept of gender. Moving beyond the abstract-concrete dichotomy. 13th Annual Embodied and Situated Language Processing Conference (ESLP). Current Directions and Future Perspectives, online.

Mazzuca, C., Falcinelli, I., Michalland, A.H., Tummolini, L., & Borghi, A.M. (2021, Settembre). Bodily, emotional, and public sphere at the time of COVID-19. An investigation on concrete and abstract concepts. XXVII Congresso Nazionale Associazione Italiana di Psicologia Sezione Sperimentale (AIP), Lecce, Italy, ibrido.

Mazzuca, C. (2021, Marzo). Natural Language Processing and conceptual representations. A situated approach. ALMA-AI, Seminari Wednesday, Humanities, Science and AI: a dialogue on knowledge and semantics. Università di Bologna, online.

Mazzuca, C. & Santarelli, M. (2020, Settembre). Politicized concepts as abstract concepts. The case of gender. MANCEPT Workshop What is Gender and What do we Want it to be. Manchester Centre for Political Theory, online.

Mazzuca, C., Borghi, A.M., Lugli, L., Nicoletti, R., & Majid, A. (2019, Dicembre). Is gender a flexible concept? A comparison of Italian and Dutch. 16th Annual Conference of the Italian Association of Cognitive Sciences (AISC), The complexity of Cognition: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Human Behavior, Rome, Italy.

Mazzuca, C. (2019, Marzo). Is gender an abstract concept? Insights from a free-listing task. Workshop Abstract Concepts differ: Numbers, Emotions and Dangerous things. Università degli studi di Roma "La Sapienza", Rome, Italy.

Mazzuca, C., Lugli, L., Nicoletti, R., & Borghi, A. M. (2017, Settembre). The influence of effectors activation on the processing of abstract, emotional and concrete words. 23rd Annual Conference of the Italian Association of Psychology (AIP), Experimental Psychology, Bari, Italy.

Mazzuca, C., Lugli, L., Nicoletti, R., & Borghi, A. M. (2017, Settembre). Abstract, Emotional and Concrete Concepts and the activation of mouth-hand effectors. 10th Annual Embodied and Situated Language Processing Conference, Moscow, Russia.

Mazzuca, C. & Borghi, A. M. (2016, Settembre). Sensorimotor influence in the processing of abstract words. 22nd Annual Conference of the Italian Association of Psychology (AIP), Experimental Psychology, Rome, Italy.

Mazzuca, C. & Borghi, A. M. (2015, Dicembre). Comprensione e ricordo di parole astratte: quando la "fantasia" passa per la bocca). 12th Annual Conference of the Italian Association of Cognitive Sciences (AISC), Language, Cognition and Society, Genoa, Italy.

Seminari e Insegnamento

2024
Corso di Laurea Magistrale Psicolinguistica, Università di Bologna,
Argomento: Differenze individuali e cross-culturali nella concettualizzazione
2022 – 2023
Tutoraggio M-PSI/01 Università di Tor Vergata, Roma

2023
Corso di Laurea Magistrale Psicolinguistica, Università di Bologna,
Argomento: Differenze individuali e cross-culturali nella concettualizzazione.
2021
Corso di Laurea Magistrale Psicolinguistica, Università di Bologna;
Argomento: Gender, concepts, and cultural variation.

2020
Corso di Laurea Magistrale Psicolinguistica, Università di Bologna;
Argomento: Sex/Gender concepts: from embodiment to cultural variation.
Corso di Laurea Magistrale in Psicologia, Università degli studi di Roma "La Sapienza";
Argomento: Sex/Gender concepts: from embodiment to cultural variation.
Corso di Laurea Magistrale in Psicologia della Comunicazione Interculturale,
Università di Bologna;
Argomento: Sex/Gender concepts: from embodiment to cultural variation

2019
Corso di Laurea Magistrale in Psicolinguistica, Università di Bologna;
Argomento: Sex/Gender concepts: from embodiment to cultural variation.
Corso di Laurea Magistrale in Psicolinguistica, Università di Bologna;
Argomento: Perceptual and sensorimotor grounding in conceptual representation.
Corso di Laurea Magistrale in Gender Studies, Università di Bologna;
Argomento: Sex/Gender concepts in Psychological Sciences.

Riconoscimenti e premi

2024 Premio giovane ricercatrice/ricercatore AISC (Associazione Italiana Scienze Cognitive)
2021 – Cultrice della materia per il corso "Cognizione, Corpo e Cultura", Dipartimento Psicologia Clinica, Dinamica e Salute, Università di Roma "La Sapienza"

Appartenenza a gruppi /
associazioni

2026 – Vicepresidente Associazione Italiana Scienze Cognitive (AISC)
2023 - Italian Reproducibility Network (ITRN), Steering Committee
2021- Italian Reproducibility Network (ITRN)
2020 - Cognitive Science Society, CSS
2019 - Association for Psychological Science, APS
ReproducibiliTea Journal Club at the University of York
2018 - Gender Diversities and Disparities Group (GdG, AIP)
2015 - Associazione Italiana Psicologia (Sezione Sperimentale), AIP
2015 - Associazione Italiana Scienze Cognitive, AISC

Dati personali

Autorizzo il trattamento dei miei dati personali ai sensi del Decreto Legislativo 30 giugno 2003, n. 196 "Codice in materia di protezione dei dati personali".

la sottoscritta dichiara di essere consapevole che il presente *curriculum vitae* sarà pubblicato sul sito istituzionale dell'Ateneo, nella Sezione "Amministrazione trasparente", nelle modalità e per la durata prevista dal d.lgs. n. 33/2013, art. 15.

Data 20/03/2026

f.to Dott.ssa Claudia Mazzuca

Il presente *curriculum vitae*, è redatto ai fini della pubblicazione nella Sezione "Amministrazione trasparente" del sito web istituzionale dell'Ateneo al fine di garantire il rispetto della vigente normativa in materia di tutela dei dati. Il C.V. in versione integrale è conservato presso gli Uffici della Struttura che ha conferito l'incarico.