

Developmental Psychology

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Developmental Psychology

Introduction

Is the branch of psychology studying systematic psychological, cognitive, and neurobiological (brain) changes that occur throughout a person's life

Looks at life-span development across infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood



Developmental Psychology

Master focus

The **focus** of the Master in Developmental Psychology at
Maastricht University is on:

Understanding how the development of certain **behaviors and cognitive** functions relates to a person's **psychological and biological** constitution and the development of **the brain**.

Developmental Psychology

Study Topics

1. Development of cognitive skills such as:

- *Language acquisition*
- *Perception*
- *Attention*
- *Memory*
- *Motor skills*
- *Problem solving*
- *Executive control*

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Study Topics

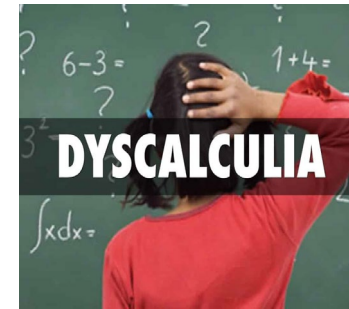
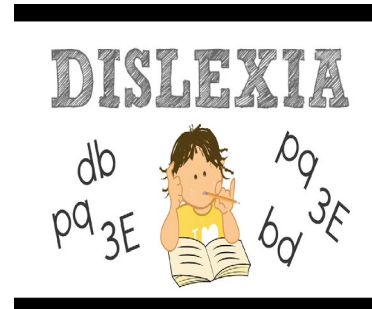
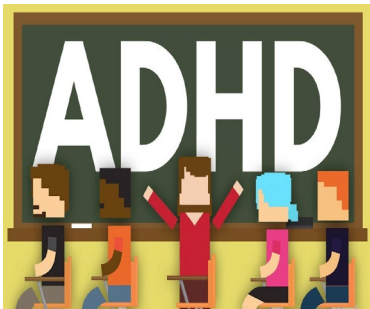
2. Development of other psychological processes such as:

- *Social-emotional development*
- *The forming of self-concept*
- *The forming of identity*

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Study Topics

- You will learn which **biological** (*genes, brain, psychopharmacological*) and **environmental** factors are underlying typical development
- You will also study **psychopathological development** in for example:



**williams
syndrome**

Developmental Psychology

Research Methods



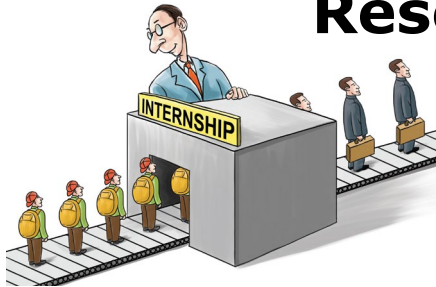
Developmental Psychology *programme*

4 core course, 2 research practicals

<i>Sept-Oct: 7 weeks</i>	<i>Nov-Dec: 7 weeks</i>
Infancy 	Development of Cognition & Language 
Perception, Attention & Motor Development 	Social & Emotional Development 
Experimental Practicum or EEG/ERP Practical	Practicum Psychological Testing

Developmental Psychology *programme*

Go
the **extra**
mile 



Research Internship & Master-thesis

- **February – August**
- **This can be done:**
 - **In research group at FPN (see later slide)**
 - **Elsewhere at FPN**
 - **Outside UM in clinical setting**
 - **Outside UM at other university**

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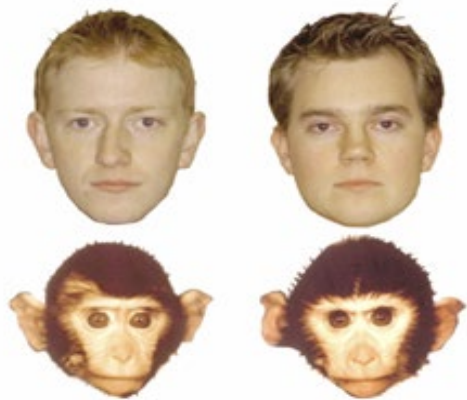
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Some examples of the type of topics
you will learn about in the courses

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"Infancy Course"

Is face perception species-specific from birth on or is it learned?



Pascalis et al., 2001

Learning plays a role: **6-month** old babies **can** discriminate different human and monkey faces. However, **9-month** olds **can't**. They only discriminate human faces!



9-month old babies can **regain** the ability to discriminate monkey faces when **trained** to do so. This points to the big **role of experience** on visual perception development.

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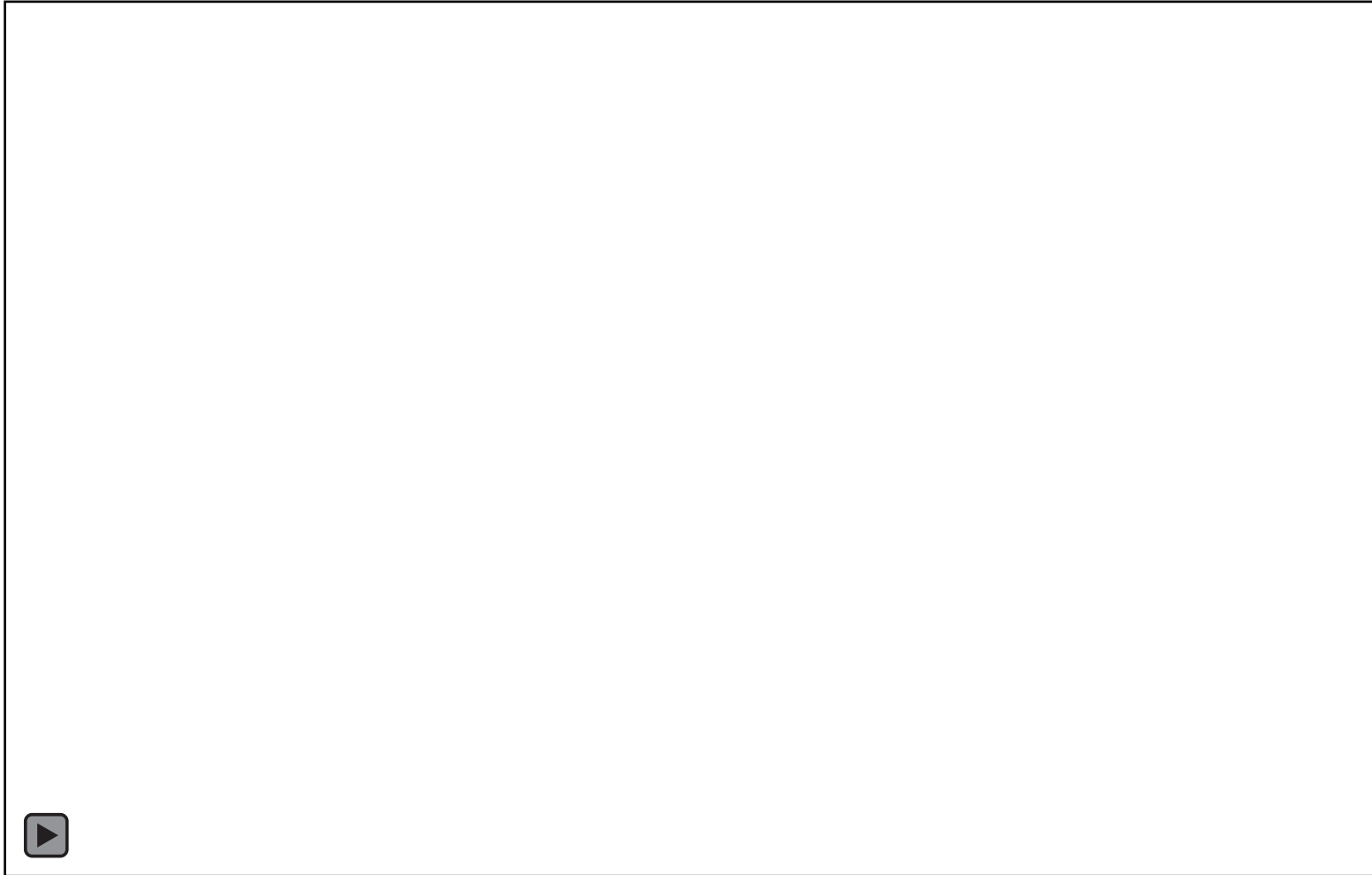
"Perception attention & motor development"

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Infants around 2 years of age sometimes make scale errors

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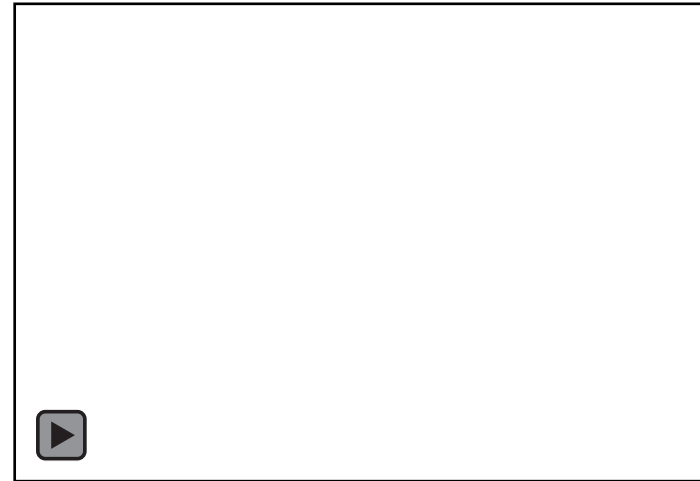
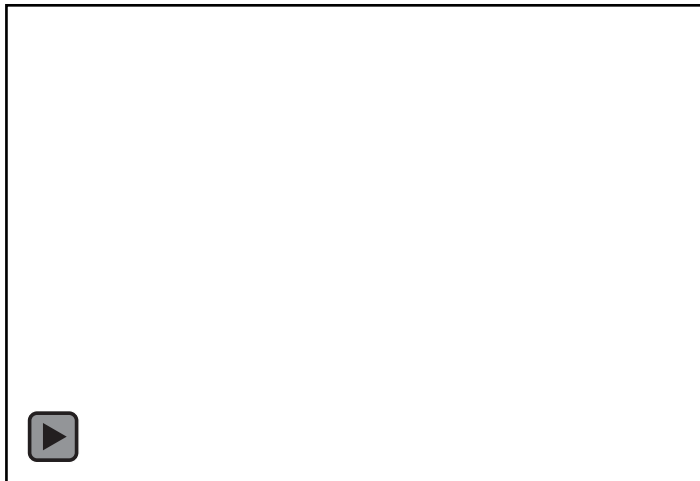
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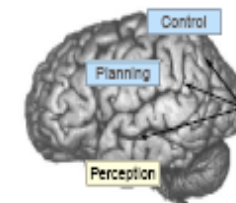
"Perception attention & motor development"

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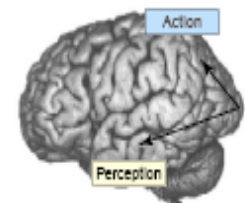


This is related to yet immature communication between brain areas that regulate perception and action

(a) Planning vs. Control



(b) Perception vs. Action



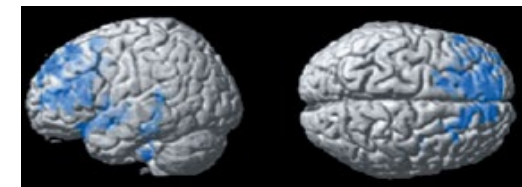
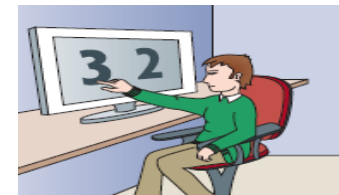
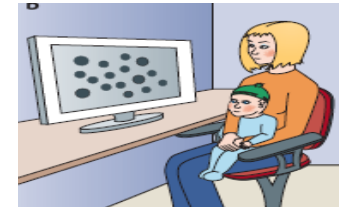
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"Development of Cognition & Language"

Number sense is crucial for mathematics development

What do we know about the development of number sense?

- Intuitive sense of number, (small quantities) present in infancy
- Understanding of symbolic numbers starts at preschool age
- School age children activate more frontal areas when doing calculations -> more effort, less automated



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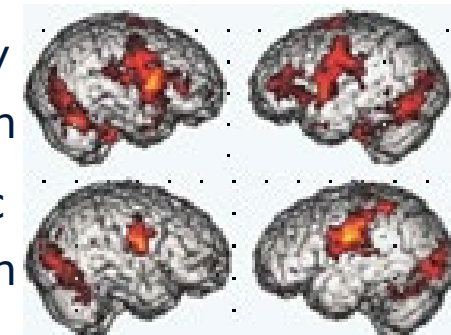
"*Social-emotional development*"

Imitation is highly important for learning of motor actions, but also for emotional development:

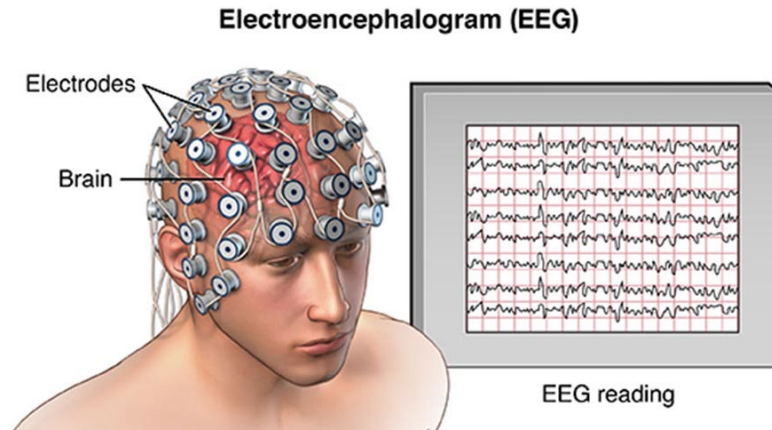
- Biological basis of imitation of actions and emotions: **mirror neurons**
- Autistic children have problems with imitation and understanding others
- Role of mirror neuron system?



Healthy
children
Autistic
children



EEG-ERP practical

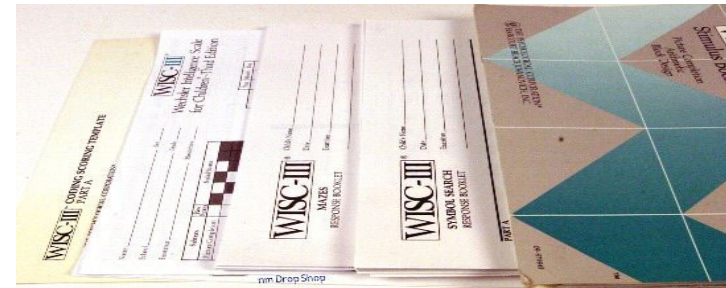


- Learn the basics of EEG/ERP analyses
- Learn what you can do with EEG/ERPs
- Learn how to apply cap and electrodes and perform your own EEG measurements
- Learn when to apply EEG




Test practical

- Testing a child (e.g. IQ test)
- Interpreting results (e.g. Bayley)
- Developing your own test



Developmental Psychology: Internship topics

Some examples of topics within our own developmental group:

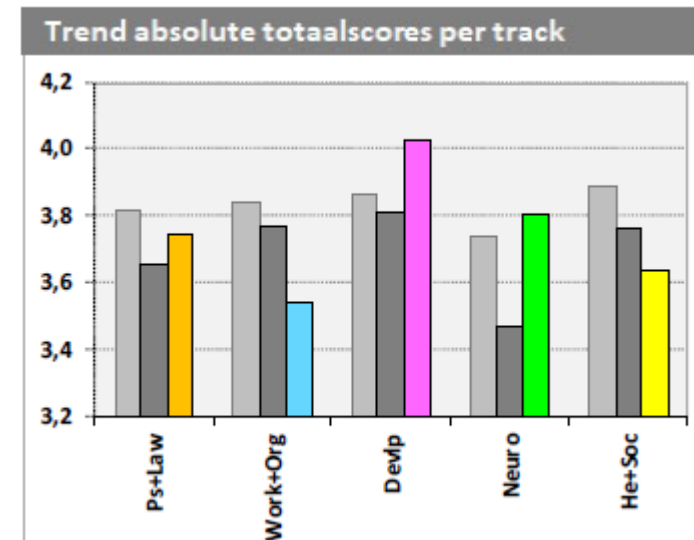
- ADHD, attention & executive control development and mindfulness/cognitive training (L. Jonkman)
 - Autism, attention & perception development (H. Stauder)
 - Learning and Memory development (F. Donkers)
 - Number development & dyscalculia (L. Jonkman)
 - Genetics and Development (H. Smit)
 - Motor development (H. Van Mier)
 - But of course also possible to select your own topics; internships in one's own country, with other colleagues, at other universities, lots of possibilities!
- 

Evaluations

Student course evaluations:

	2018
	(N= 37)
Infancy:	8.6
Perception:	8.1
Cognition:	8.4
Social-emot:	8.0
Practical 1:	7.4
Practical 2:	7.1

National student evaluation C.H.O.I.
2018



Information for Dutch speaking students that want to do an extracurricular clinical internship (NOT part of 1-year DP Master):

- To get “Basis Aantekening-Psychodiagnostiek (BAPD-NIP)”, you need to do a NIP-approved Psychology Master (which the Developmental Master is) **and** a clinical internship under guidance of a certified clinician.
- You need the BAPD to be able to enroll in the post-master clinical education programmes in the Netherlands (GZ-opleiding), and to become a NIP member.
- Note that also in Germany (Landesprüfungsamt Nordrhein-Westfalen) our students have been approved to enroll in their post-master clinical educational programme (do research internship on an applied developmental topic)

Two choices for clinical internship (in NL/Dutch): (NOT part of the 1-year developmental master!)

- Do it extra-curricular (**after** finishing the Developmental Master) as a contract-student (costs 75% of normal master fee).
- Do a second Dutch clinical/mental health Master (f.e. Kinder en Jeugd-Psychologie or Volwassenen-Psychologie) at FPN faculty for reduced costs after the Psychology (developmental) master. Advantages: extra Masters degree, long clinical internship and 1 day a week extra education.

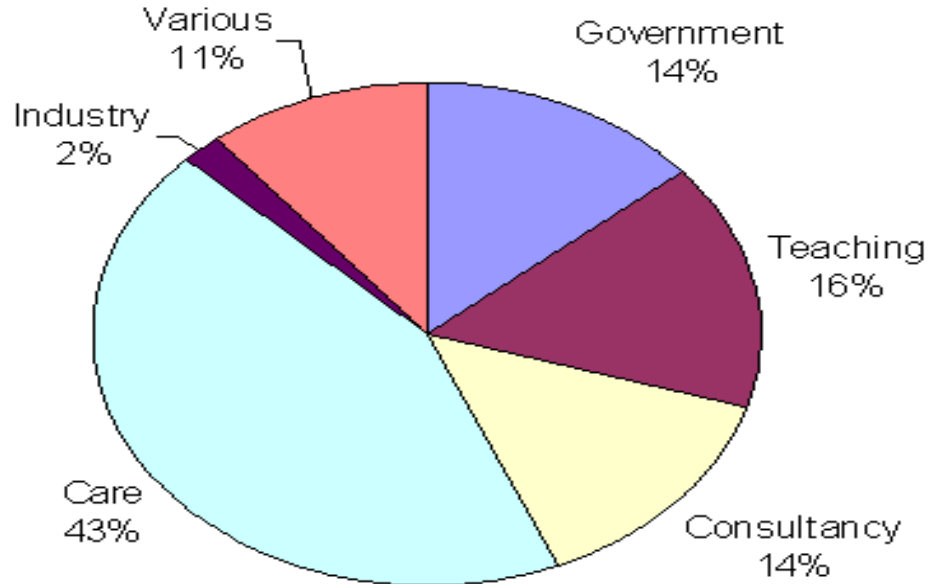
Career-perspectives

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- **Psychologist** (diagnostics and/or treatment)
 - at schools (psychological/educational assistant)
 - in mental health care institutions (in Netherlands)
 - government agencies (counsel for child protection, clinical institutions, etc.)
 - revalidation clinics
 - (neuro)psychologist in hospitals
- **Lecturer**
 - at vocational level (e.g applied university or “hogeschool”)
 - at university
- **Researcher**
 - at university
 - in industry or consultancy
 - other research institutions (in Netherlands e.g. TNO)

Career perspectives

Enkele gegevens over hoe het de afgestudeerden op de arbeidsmarkt is vergaan:



Bruto maandloon	€ 2667.96
Tijd voordat men een baan vond	2,73 maanden
% Werkend	87.05 %
% Studerend	6.64 %
% Vaste baan	24.74 %
% Voltijd baan	75.1 %
% Baan op niveau	72.21 %
% Tevreden over aansluiting	41.1 %
% Tevreden over studiekeuze	84.18 %

Link of Dutch site to read more about possible jobs in NL as psychologist and job prospects, salary range etc.:

<https://www.nationaleberoepengids.nl/studierichting-psychologie?page=2&q=>

Admission Requirements

Bachelor's degree		Remarks
Dutch University Bachelor Psychology	Admissible	
Non-Dutch University Bachelor Psychology	Check by Board of Admissions	
All other University Bachelors*	Check by Board of Admissions	
University of Applied Science (HBO)	Not admissible	The Faculty does not offer any pre-master programmes

* *Additional requirements*

- *Courses in Statistics (min. 18 ECTS);*
- *Knowledge of Psychology (min. 4 courses);*
- *The Bachelor's degree must be substantially relevant to the Master's specialisation of your choice;*
- *You are requested to write a one-page motivation letter which specifies why you want to follow the master's programme of Psychology and the specialisation of your choice.*

For more information visit the stand 'Application & Admission' at the information market



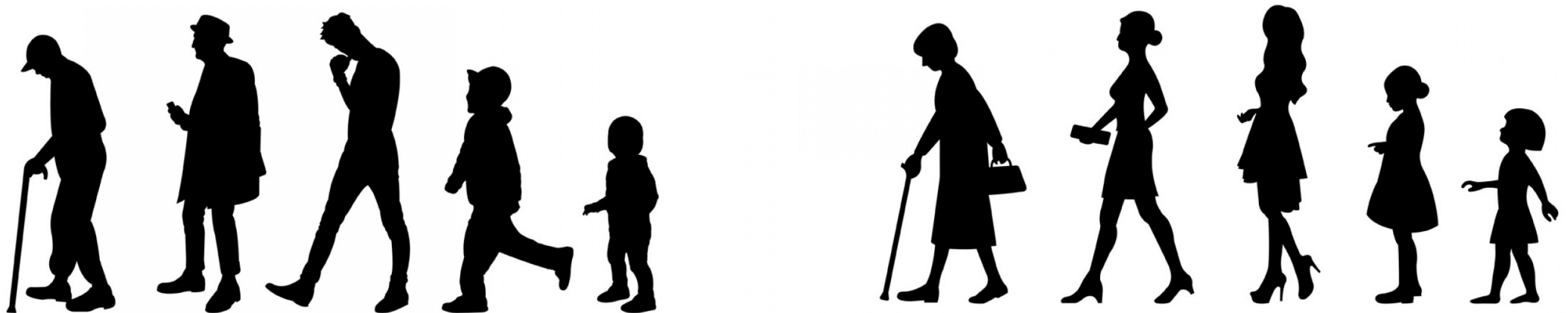
Hi! My name is Anna and I'm from England. I study Developmental Psychology here in Maastricht.

Follow me on Instagram and find out more about my study experiences and life in Maastricht.

 **extramile_anna**

Thank you for your attention!

Questions?



Help us improve by filling in a short survey



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