

# FILOMENA ANELLI

## PERSONAL DETAILS

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Filomena Anelli

Born in Tricarico (Matera), 27 August 1983.

Italian citizenship

Address: Office - Communication Disciplines Department, Via Azzo Gardino, 23, 40122, Bologna, Italy.

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## EDUCATION

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- March 2008 – To present: Research fellow (1 year long) at the University of Bologna, Communication Disciplines Department, Bologna, Italy. Project “ROSSI – Emergence of communication in Robots through Sensorimotor and Social Interaction”.  
Tutor: Professor Roberto Nicoletti.
- November 2007 – May 2008: Training post-lauream at the “Centro Studi e Ricerche in Neuroscienze Cognitive”, Cesena, Italy.  
Tutor: Professor Elisabetta Làdavas.
- November 2007: Master Degree in Neuropsychology and Functional Rehabilitation in life-span (58/S), University of Bologna (Cesena), Italy.  
Title of the dissertation: “*The Role of the Somatosensory Cortex on Empathy for Pain. Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation studies*”.  
Final Mark: 110/110 cum laude.  
Supervisor: Professor Alessio Avenanti.
- November 2005: Bachelor’s Degree in Science of Behaviour and of Social Relations (L-24), University of Bologna (Cesena), Italy.  
Title of the dissertation: “*The neuropsychological deficit of encephalopathy acute resulting from wasp sting*”.  
Final Mark: 110/110 cum laude.  
Supervisor: Professor Elisabetta Làdavas.

July 2002: High School Diploma, Liceo Classico "E. Duni",  
Matera.  
Final Mark: 95/100.

## OTHER COURSES

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- February 7 – 9, 2008: Workshop DISCOS (Disorders and Coherence of the Embodied Self), Parma, Italy.
- April – May 2008: TOEFL Preparation Course, CLIRO (Centro Linguistico dei poli scientifico-didattici della Romagna) Cesena, Italy.
- May 30 – 31, 2008: Summer School "Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) in Cognition", University College of London, Institute of Child Health, London, England.
- June 16 – 22, 2008: Summer School "The Sense of Body", University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.
- September 18 – 20, 2008: XIV National Congress of AIP (Italian Association of Psychology), Experimental Psychology Session, University of Padua, Padua, Italy.
- September 29 – October 4, 2008: NWG Practical Course and Third International Conference on Transcranial Magnetic and Direct Current Stimulation (TMS/tDSC), University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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- English: good reading and writing skills, basic verbal skills, certificate of B2 level (QCER) and TOEFL- preparation.
- French: basic reading, writing and verbal skills.

## COMPUTER SKILLS

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- Office (Word, Excel, Power Point, Access, E mail and Internet).
- E-Prime and Ciro (preparation and running of experiments).
- SPSS and STATISTICA (statistical analysis).
- Photoshop.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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- Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (single pulse and repetitive).
- Registration of motor evoked potentials (MEP).
- Neuronavigation System.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- Anelli, F. & Avenanti, A., "The Role of the Somatosensory Cortex on Empathy for Pain. Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation studies".  
Poster presented at the Summer School "The Sense of Body", University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy, June 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- T. Ziemke, A. Borghi, F. Anelli, C. Gianelli, F. Binkovski, G. Buccino, V. Gallese, M. Huelse, M. Lee, R. Nicoletti, D. Parisi, L. Riggio, A. Tessari, E. Sahin ROSSI. Emergence of communication in Robots through Sensorimotor and Social Interaction.  
Poster presented at the "International Conference on Cognitive Systems (CogSys 2008)", University of Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

## ACADEMIC REFERENCES

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- **Alessio Avenanti**  
Position: Assistant Professor  
E-mail: [alessio.avenanti@unibo.it](mailto:alessio.avenanti@unibo.it)  
- Department of Psychology,  
University of Bologna "Alma Mater Studiorum",  
Viale Berti Pichat 5, 40127 Bologna, Italy  
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- Centro di Studi e Ricerche in Neuroscienze Cognitive,  
University of Bologna "Alma Mater Studiorum",  
Via Riccardo Brusi 20, 47023 Cesena, Italy  
Phone: (+39) 0547-338951
- **Roberto Nicoletti**  
Position: Full Professor  
E-mail: [roberto.nicoletti@unibo.it](mailto:roberto.nicoletti@unibo.it)  
- Department of Communication Disciplines,  
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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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My research is mainly focused on the understanding of how the brain represents the pain of others (empathy for pain) and of what kind of affordances influences the motor responses. These issues are approached by using behavioural and neurophysiological (TMS) methods in healthy subjects.

- **Empathy for Pain:**

empathy allows individuals to share bodily sensations such as pain. The empathic experience of others' pain relies upon both affective and sensory components of a complex neural network involved in pain perception (pain matrix). In a previous experiment, I've investigated the sensorimotor components of empathy for pain by exploring the modulation of the corticospinal system during pain observation. In particular, I've tested the modulatory role of the primary somatosensory cortex in the corticospinal mirror mapping of others' pain.

- **Perception, Action and Affordances:**

affordances are interesting because they pertain both perception and action.

Aim of current experiments is to better understand to what kind of affordances we automatically react. In particular, to examine a further object-response relation and to investigate the effects of an object's feature that cannot be fully visually detected, consistency, on motor responses during a categorization task. Indeed, consistency can be another example of micro-affordances and it should influences response times.

## RESEARCH GROUPS

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- EMCO (Embodied Cognition Lab) group of the University of Bologna.
- ROSSI (Emergence of communication in Robots through Sensorimotor and Social Interaction) European group.