

Laura Gorla

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EDUCATION

University of Milano-Bicocca

Ph.D. in Psychology, Linguistic and Cognitive Neuroscience

Milan, Italy

Nov 2020 – Present

- Supervisor: Prof. [Alessandra Santona, Ph.D.](#)
- Research interests: adoption, child well-being, parent-child relations, adolescence, child development and parenting.
- From January 2023, visiting scholar at the Sanford School of Public Policy, Center for Child and Family Policy of Duke University to work on the Parenting Across Cultures (PAC) and the Fast Track (FT) research projects.
Supervisor: [Jennifer Lansford, Ph.D.](#)

Centro Panta Rei Psychotherapy School

Specialization in Psychotherapy for families and individuals

Milan, Italy

Dec 2021 – Present

- Learning how to conduct psychotherapeutic interventions with families, children, adolescents and adults.

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Professional license as a developmental psychologist

Milan, Italy

Sep 2016 – Apr 2020

- MSc in Developmental Psychology and Protection Processes
- Graduation grade: 110 / 110
- Final Thesis *Maternal Representations in Oncological Pregnancy*, a research project in collaboration with three Italian hospitals focused on the relationship between cancer and maternal mental representations.

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Bachelor in Psychological Sciences

Milan, Italy

Sep 2013 – July 2016

- Graduation grade: 106 / 110
- Final Thesis *Social and Communicative Deficits of Children with the Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Therapeutic Play Intervention in Pre-schoolers*

EXPERIENCE

Trainee Psychotherapist

ASL, Agenzia Sanitaria Locale

Novara, Italy

Jun 2022 – Present

- Psychotherapy with adults patients
- Conducting psychological support groups for fathers

Counselor with Learning Disabilities

CSE- Centro Servizi Educativi Milano

Milan, Italy

Jun 2019 – July 2023

- School support and tutoring for children with Dyslexia, Dysorthographia, Dysgraphia and Dyscalculia
- Parenting Training activities
- Assessment of learning difficulties

Trainee psychologist in neuropsychology

Elice Onlus

Milan, Italy

Apr 2019 – Sep 2019

- Treatment and support of children with severe physical and cognitive disabilities
- Administration of WISC-IV and other cognitive tests

Trainee psychologist in international adoptions

CIAl Onlus - Centro Italiano Aiuti all'Infanzia

Milan, Italy

Oct 2018 – Apr 2019

- Selection and training of potential adoptive families, subsequent matching of child and family, post-adoption support and help
- Theatrical therapy on emotional regulation with adopted children

PUBLICATIONS

- Gorla, L.**, Rothenberg, W.A., Lansford, J.E. et al. (2023+) Adolescents' relationships with parents and romantic partners in eight countries. Under review.
- Gorla, L.**, Rothenberg, W.A., Lansford, J.E. et al. (2023+) Individualism, collectivism, and conformity in nine countries: relations with parenting and child adjustment. Under review.
- Gorla, L.**, Fusco, C., & Santona, A. (2023+) Openly communicate about adoption with children: the role of adoptive parents' attachment and reflective functioning. Under review.
- Santona, A., Lionetti, F., Tognasso, G., Fusco, C., Maccagnago, G., Barreca, D., & **Gorla, L.** (2023). Sensitivity and Attachment in an Italian Sample of Hikikomori Adolescents and Young Adults. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20 (12), 6148
- Santona, A., Vismara, L., **Gorla, L.**, Tognasso, G., Ambrosini, C., Luli, A., & Rollè, L. (2023). The Relationship between Attachment, Dyadic Adjustment, and Sexuality: A Comparison between Infertile Men and Women. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(4), 3020
- Tognasso, G., **Gorla, L.**, Ambrosini, C., Figurella, F., De Carli, P., Parolin, L., Sarracino, D. and Santona, A. (2022) Parenting Stress, Maternal Self-Efficacy and Confidence in Caretaking in a Sample of Mothers with Newborns (0-1 Month). *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2022; 19(15):9651
- Tognasso, G., Trombetta, T., **Gorla, L.**, Ramon, S., Santona, A. and Rolle, L. (2022) Romantic Attachment, Internalized Homonegativity, and Same-Sex Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration Among Lesbian Women in Italy. *Frontiers in Psychology* 13:870921
- Santona, A., Milesi, A., Tognasso, G., **Gorla, L.** and Parolin, L. Anxiety in Attachment and Sexual Relationships in Adolescence: A Moderated Mediation Model. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2022; 19(7):4181
- Santona, A., **Gorla, L.**, Tognasso, G. (2022) Psychological implications of the "Back to Origins" journey for intercountry adoptees. *Adoption and Fostering* 46 (1), 60-72
- Santona, A., Tognasso, G., Miscioscia, C.L., Russo, D., and **Gorla, L.** (2022) Talking about the birth family since the beginning: the communicative openness in the new adoptive family. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2022; 19(3):1203.
- Santona, A., Vecchi, A., **Gorla, L.**, and Tognasso, G. (2021) Parenthood desire in Italian homosexual couples. *Journal of Family Issues*, 2021; 43(4), 974–992

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

- Gorla, L.**, Fusco, C., and Santona, A. Adoption communicative openness with adolescents: the role of parents' reflective functioning and empathy *Symposium at 9th International Congress of Clinical and Health Psychology in Children and Adolescents*, Valencia, Spain, 22-24 November 2023, forthcoming
- Gorla, L.** Adolescents' Relationships with Parents and Romantic Partners: a study in eight countries *Poster at 9th International Congress of Clinical and Health Psychology in Children and Adolescents*, Valencia, Spain, 22-24 November 2023, forthcoming
- Gorla, L.** and Santona, A. Openly communicate about adoption within the family: an intervention proposal *Symposium at XXIII National Congress of Associazione Italiana Psicologia*, Firenze, Italy, 14-17 September 2023
- Gorla, L.**, Santona, A. and Tognasso, G. How adolescents perceive homosexuality: an overview of the Italian context. *Symposium at 8th International Congress of Clinical and Health Psychology in Children and Adolescents*, Elche, Spain, 16-19 November 2022

Gorla, L. Adoption as social parenthood: the social representations of adoptive families in the Italian context. *Poster at XXX National Congress of Associazione Italiana Psicologia*, Padova, Italy, 27-30 September 2022

Gorla, L., Santona, A. and Tognasso, G. Homonegativity and mentalization: an intervention to improve the adolescents' attitudes towards homosexuality. *Symposium at the XXX National Congress of Associazione Italiana Psicologia*, Padova, Italy, 27-30 September 2022

Santona, A., Tognasso, G., Beck, G., **Gorla, L.** and Miscioscia, C. Adoption outcomes. How the events experienced before adoption could affect the adaptation to new contexts. *Symposium at International Conference on Adoption Research 7 ICAR7*, July 2021, Milan, Italy

Tognasso, G., Santona, A., **Gorla, L.**, Sechi, C., and Trombetta. T. Minority stress, adult attachment and same-sex intimate partner violence in Italy. *Symposium at XXVII National Congress of Associazione Italiana Psicologia*, Lecce, Italy, 20-22 September 2021

Gorla, L., Santona, A., Chistolini, Raymondi, M., Tognasso, G. "Psychological implications of the "Back to the Origins" journey for adoptees". *Poster at XXII National Congress of Associazione italiana Psicologia*, Lecce, Italy, 20-22 September 2021

WORKING PAPERS

Gorla, L., Fusco, C., and Santona, A. (2023+) A retrospective study on adoptive parenthood in the first year after the adoption: the role of parental attachment and empathy on communicative openness.

Gorla, L., Rothenberg, W.A., Lansford, J.E., et al., (2023+) Childhood experiences, personality and environmental sensitivity in adolescence in eight countries.

Gorla, L., Lansford, J.E., et al. (2023+), Becoming a parent after the Fast Track Intervention: a longitudinal and developmental perspective.

SKILLS

Languages: Italian (Native), English (Fluent)

IT: SPSS, R, Jamovi, G*Power, Qualtrics, Mendeley Reference Manager, Microsoft Office