



Sujet de Mémoire M2 Sciences Cognitives 2024-2025  
Proposed by Cristina Galusca, lieu LIP-PC2S Université Grenoble Alpes

## **EN: The role of gesture in shaping children's social preferences and learning**

Social judgements shape our social world, and can lead to discrimination or conflict. Despite ample evidence that the language someone speaks and their accent drive social preferences, research to date has not addressed how the gestures that routinely accompany speech influence social evaluation. However, gestures are universal, and they show cross-cultural variation. In the proposed project, we will study gesture along with language to uncover the social preferences that result from the integration of multiple communicative cues. We will use a set of videos to test the role of gesture in social preferences, and social learning in 5-year-old children. More specifically, we will test how different combinations of gesture and language (both native, both foreign, or mismatched) affect social preferences and learning across development. This project is carried out in collaboration with the University of Applied Sciences in Potsdam, Germany. Thus, a working knowledge of English is a plus.

Tasks to be carried out during the internship:

- literature search and review
- video editing and stimuli preparation
- testing children in schools
- gesture annotation (ELAN), depending on the duration of the internship
- data analysis (ideally in R)
- communication with our German collaboration

The student will be supervised by Cristina Galusca from LIP-PC2S.  
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